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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA For the better part of a decade, wealthy Chinese tourists have been on a feeding frenzy for luxury brands, casinos and cruise lines. Now there are doubts about how long the buffet will last. [More on p10](#)

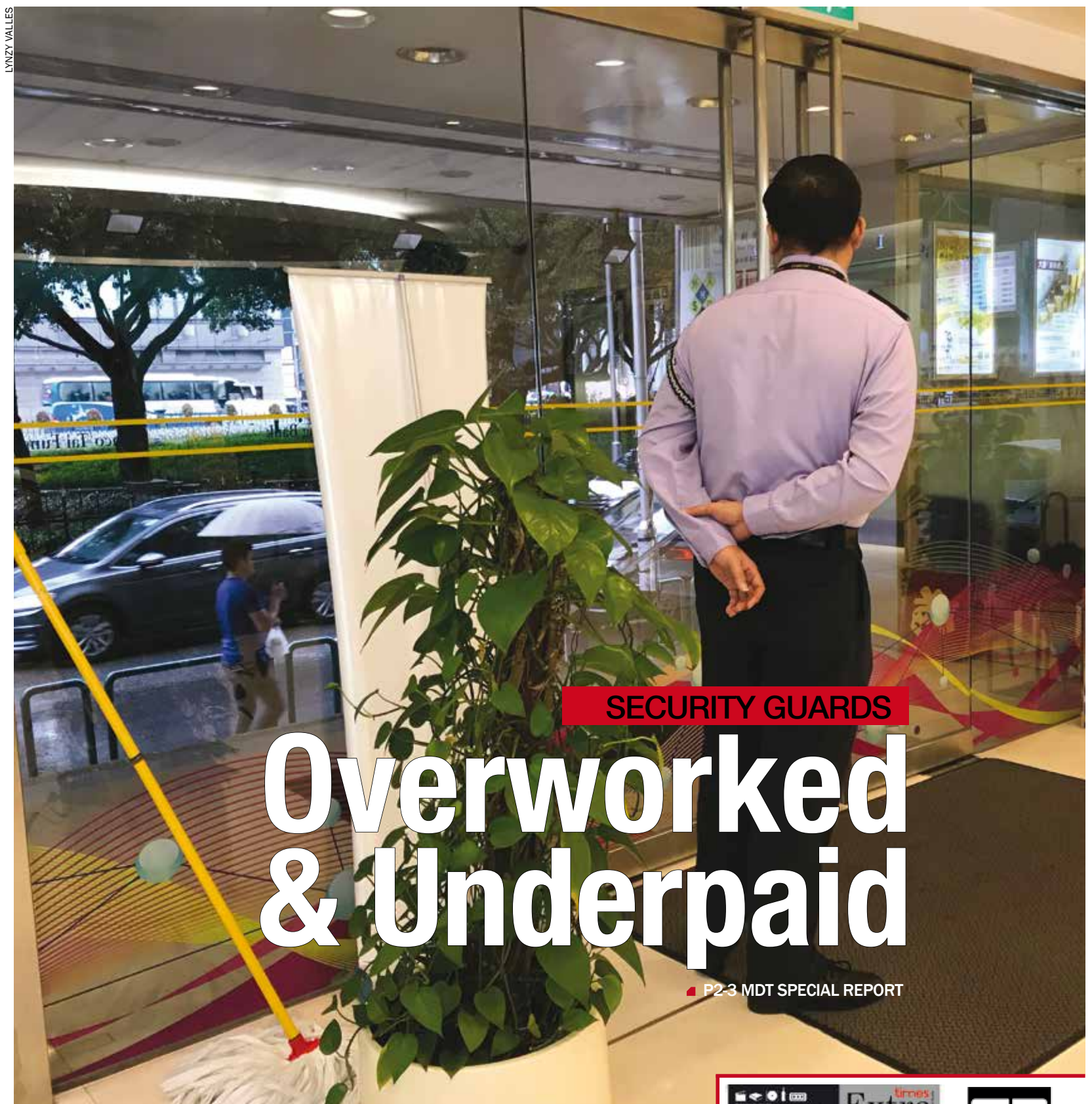


JAPAN Former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn's release from detention nearly four months after his arrest has gripped Japan, giving the public a rare glimpse into how the criminal justice system works. [More on p12](#)



SINGAPORE is transforming its infrastructure to fend off competition from the seas to the skies. The island-city plans to begin operating its fifth terminal at Changi Airport, Asia's second-busiest international aerodrome, by 2030 to cater to growing travel demand. [More on p12](#)

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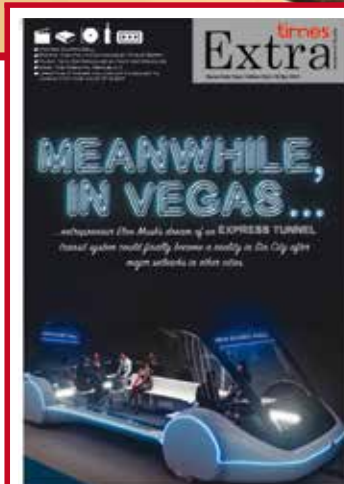
Overworked & Underpaid

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GREATER BAY

Brexit interests China as it seeks to bolster southern megapolis

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INSIDE

CityU career shows 1,800 job vacancies

Yesterday, City University of Macau organized an employment development fair, where more than 100 institutions were present offering over 1,800 job vacancies. Seventy percent of the companies are local Macau firms. One company from Shenzhen said that the overall quality of Macau's students is relatively high, but most of them choose to work with local businesses, making it difficult for non-local companies to recruit Macau students, according to a report by TDM. A local student majoring in human resources said that he would choose a Macau company and he expects the starting salary at his first job to be MOP20,000, according to the same report.

HKZMB airport center ready in March

The Airport Service Center at the Macau Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is expected to start operating soon after its completion in March. The Macau International Airport service center on the HKZMB is located at the Macau Artificial Island Passenger Clearance Building. The center will have a ticket purchasing counter, check-in services, as well as a connection between the HKZMB Macau Port and Macau International Airport. The facility is currently in the process of being renovated. The center's Express Link is said to provide passengers with diversified and convenient travel services to enhance the competitiveness and resources available at the airport in the Bay Area.

Zhuhai-Macau industrial zone derailed

The Zhuhai-Macau cross-boundary industrial zone could be changed into a Portuguese-speaking countries industrial zone following a new proposal, according to a report by TDM. The proposal was made by Zhang Mingxing, a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Zhang submitted the proposal in Beijing, having said that the Zhuhai-Macau industrial zone has already been derailed from its original desired function. Zhang suggested that using the zone for trade with Portuguese-speaking countries could help non-state-owned companies as well as small and medium import and export companies.

SPECIAL REPORT

Without legal protections, security

LYNZY VALLES



Disclaimer: This security guard was not interviewed in the course of this investigation

Lynzy Valles

THE absence of protections for non-resident workers in Macau has led to a number of complaints and outcries from employees – not only from those in household work, but also from the security sector.

The long working hours of security guards – some of which are allegedly forced to work up to 24 hours continuously – have caused many of them to file cases against their employers with the Labour Affairs Bureau.

According to data provided to the Times last quarter, the bureau had opened 33 cases involving a total of 59 staff in the sector. The complaints were mainly about overtime and weekly rest day compensation.

“During this period, all the complaints that were established were resolved through the bureau and were not required to be sent to the judiciary for trial,” the bureau said.

This week, the Times requested updated figures and asked whether progress had been made on the cases, but the DSAL did not reply by press time.

Chui Sai Peng's son appointed Youth Council member

CALVIN Tinlop Chui, son of Chui Sai Peng, has been appointed as a member of the Youth Council, according to an order signed by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam.

Calvin Chui is currently an intern lawyer, and also the president of the Macau Youth Summit.

His appointment has been effective since March 1 and will last until June 9, 2020.

The council is an ad-

visory body for government's youth affairs. The current chairman is Alexis Tam and the vice-chairman is Lou Pak Sang. There are another 32 members, including seven government representatives, 15 community members and 10 individual members.

Calvin Chui is taking over the position of Lei Iok Pui, who was involved in the case of alleged rape involving John Mo, former Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Macau. Mo was

acquitted of all rape charges last month at the Court of First Instance. Lei was also found not guilty of the crimes.

In January this year, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) said that Lei had resigned from his position.

Calvin Chui is currently a member of the Macau Lawyers Association. Previously, he was also a member of the Macao Basic Law Youth Ambassador Promotion Association. **JZ**

Mainland arrivals on package tours decrease

VISITORS on package tours dropped 4.6 percent year-on-year to 766,000 in January 2019, owing to an 8.4 percent decrease in the number of mainland visitors (591,000), according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

On the other hand, package tour visitors from Korea (66,000), Hong Kong (16,000) and Taiwan (56,000) increased by 31.7 percent, 17.5 percent and 14.2 percent respectively.

Outbound residents using the services of travel agencies rose by 7.5 percent year-on-year to 130,000 in January 2019.

Among them, residents travelling under their own arrangements expanded by 22.5 percent to 93,000, with those visiting mainland China totaling 43,000 (45.8 percent of total), a surge of 37.2 percent year-on-year. Meanwhile, residents travelling on package tours decreased by 18 percent to 36,000.

Guests coming from mainland China (896,000) and South Korea (54,000) increased by 9.5 percent and 4.1 percent respectively year-on-year, while those from Hong Kong (96,000) and Taiwan (38,000) dropped by 5.8 percent and 5.6 percent respectively. **LV**

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guards must accept the unacceptable

The majority of the security guards are allegedly working shifts longer than the normal eight hours, with many of them working up to 16 hours per day.

Although they voluntarily do so, these workers were said to have signed waivers, agreeing to work overtime without being paid the standard 50 percent premium on the hourly wage as compensation.

An industry insider explained, "the normal hours for security guards is 12 hours per shift, this is normal [in Macau]."

However, this statement does not reflect what is written in the SAR's labor laws.

The statutory maximum regarding working hours is eight per day, 48 hours per week – in all sectors.

The law also states that non-resident workers are entitled to 10 days of mandatory holidays and a minimum annual leave of six working days after one year of service.

However, many security guards experience otherwise.

A security employee, who asked not to be identified due to the sensitivity of the case, said, "I didn't have any days off for about five or six years, but now I do."

The employee, who has been in the industry for 14 years, said that their conditions are considered better nowadays compared to several years ago, when security companies were not compensating them for extra working hours.

"It was a lot harder before. I used to work 16.5 hours [daily] for 10 years and we were asked to sign a waiver," the non-resident added.

■ [Recruitment] agencies are the biggest cancer in Macau.

MIGUEL QUENTAL
LAWYER

The non-resident works 14 hours per day – six of which are paid some 15 percent more than his hourly wage.

According to the employee, the basic salary is around MOP5,500 per month, with an additional MOP500 monthly allowance.

Lawyer and labor law expert Miguel Quental is aware of the cases and affirmed the statement, saying that there are some 1,000 cases regarding similar matters pending in the court.

Quental disclosed that there have been many cases of guards working 24 hours continuously on many days.

"The problem is that the law does not have a limit on voluntary work. If you want to work voluntarily, the law does not have any limits," he explained. "A limit should exist."

"What happens most of the time [...] is that non-resident workers are forced to sign a declaration that they want to work overtime, on rest days and mandatory holidays. Even if they don't want to, they must sign it or else they'll be fired."

Since most would rather stay and work in the region, these workers have no choice but to sign the waivers, particularly during visa renewal processes – a move that makes it difficult for them to defend themselves in court.

When asked whether this is a consequence of the city's lack of protections for migrant workers, Quental said that,

regrettably, these matters are considered a "big deal," yet something that cannot be controlled.

Another security employee lamented that some companies provide no pay slips at the end of every month.

"It is suspicious, because where then can we compute our salaries with overtime?" he asked.

■ There have been many cases of security guards working 24 hours continuously

The worker, who also asked not to be identified, said that he had worked 36 hours continuously due to a lack of manpower at his firm, and gone a year without a rest day.

Meanwhile, recruitment agencies also play a significant part in these workers' labor concerns.

Some are required to pay up to three months' worth of their salary to these agencies to get a job.

"The agencies are the biggest cancer in Macau," Quental said.

"This is a big problem that nobody cares about and this is something very serious. These guys are paying MOP20,000 to have a job."

The labor law expert mentioned that the government was aware that these companies paid their employees within nine days once terminated, or when a contract would end.

However, most of these employees would be given air tickets for the next day and were unable to collect their pending salaries.

These conditions are still considered "better" compared to the conditions in 2003 to 2006.

The Times contacted two security firms to confirm the statements, however one gave no official reply by press time, and the other refused to comment.

Migrant groups have been calling for a review of the city's labor law policies, particularly for a standard contract with clean definitions of labor standards to be implemented in the SAR.



MOP5.3 million in agarwood seized by customs

EARLIER this week, the Gongbei customs authority and the Macao Customs Service cracked down on a cross-border agarwood smuggling operation. The two authorities seized 27.7 kg of agarwood in total, worth MOP5.3 million.

The case was described one of the largest smuggling operations of endangered species in both regions. Six suspects were detained.

According to the suspects, their group had organized the supply of agarwood in Singapore and other places, and commissioned a Macau trading company to declare the importation of agarwood into Macau. The group would then organize to have personnel bypass customs and smuggle the wood into mainland China for sale.

In May 14, 2013, the Macao Customs Service announced the seizure

of over 1,800 kg of agarwood, worth between MOP71 million and MOP218 million.

The seizure was the biggest of its kind for smuggled agarwood in Macau.

Two mainlanders, found to be illegal immigrants, were detained upon the seizure of the agarwood.

In 2013, the Macao Customs Service seized 200 kg of agarwood with an estimated market

value of about HKD23 million. Four individuals, consisting of one Macau resident and three mainlanders, were detained for smuggling.

The precious wood was famously involved in the high-profile corruption case of former Public Prosecutor General Ho Chio Meng.

In the trial it was revealed that Ho had ordered confiscated agarwood from the Customs Service diverted for his

own collection. It emerged that the former top prosecutor had ordered several members of government staff to move the agarwood between the storage facilities of the Customs Service, the Public Prosecutions Office and his own private accommodation, where it was used as decorative items.

The pieces of agarwood took center stage in his trial as a symbol of the personal gain granted

by the abuse of power.

Agarwood is often named "the wood of gods" or "liquid gold" in relation to the essential oil that can be extracted from it, which has a market value higher than gold. The wood and the tree's resin are highly valued not only for their uses as traditional herbal medicine, but also for their aromatic fragrance, which is used in incense and perfume. **JZ**

Plastic bag tax ready for AL discussion in April

THE government expects to deliver a single-use plastic bag levy bill to the Legislative Assembly (AL) next month.

The Chief Executive Council will complete discussion of the bill in April. The bill will then be submitted to the AL, according to Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan, who revealed the information in a meeting with the advisory council of the central district. However, the Secretary did not disclose the specific value of the levy.

A single-use plastic shopping bag charge has been talked about in Macau for over a decade.

Last year, more than 4,700 local residents signed a petition to the government, urging for faster legislation on the single-use plastic bag levy.

The Macao Consumer Council conducted a survey on the topic in 2011, with 70 percent of

respondents supporting a charge for single-use plastic bags.

In 2016, the Environmental Protection Bureau's public consultation showed that a levy bill is widely supported.

Previously, the local government revealed that it expected the charge for a single-use shopping bag would be 50 cents or 1 pataca.

Besides researching a charge for single-use plastic bags, the SAR government is also studying a ban on the import of non-degradable plastic bags.

According to statistics, on average, each Macau resident uses 2.2 single-use plastic bags on a daily basis.

In July 2009, Hong Kong implemented its plastic shopping bag levy scheme.

Mainland China has had a plastic shopping bag levy scheme in place since 2008. **JZ**

GAMING

Analysts raise 2019 growth

Daniel Beitler

ANALYSTS are raising forecasts for Macau gross gaming revenue in 2019, citing strong signs of favorable macroeconomic conditions for growth in the mass market segment.

Morgan Stanley analyst Thomas Allen writes that the firm is now expecting revenue to grow by 1 percent in 2019, up from his prior forecast of a 2 percent contraction. The improvement will be fueled by mass market growth of 7 percent, expects Allen, significantly higher than his earlier forecast of 2 percent. The mass market segment will find support from accelerated visitation growth following the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, as well as analyst predictions for the Chinese yuan to appreciate against the U.S. dollar over the course of 2019.

Macau gross gaming revenue for the first two months of 2019 amounted to MOP50.31 billion, a 0.5 percent contraction from the same period in the previous year.

JP Morgan analysts DS Kim and Sean Zhuang say they expect the minor contraction in the first two

months to extend into March and April, writing, "for the first time in three years, we forecast industry EBITDA to print negative growth both quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year in the first quarter to second quarter of 2019, driven not only by [expected] anaemic GGR momentum, but also by relatively soft margins."

The analysts predict that there won't be any near-term positive gains in gross gaming revenue, asserting that the growth comparison of March and April was "very tough given [an] unfavorable calendar year-on-year."

The analysts are holding their previous -1 percent growth forecast for 2019, adding that the

Data shows manpower demand on the up again

THE number of full-time employees in the gaming sector (excluding junket operators) increased 1.1 percent year-on-year to 57,246 in the fourth quarter of last year, according to the latest information from the Statistics and Census Service, with the number of croupiers rising at the same rate to reach 24,719.

In December 2018, average earnings (excluding bonuses) of full-time employees in the gaming sector were MOP23,740, up by 3.5 percent year-on-year, with the average earnings of dealers increasing 3 percent to MOP20,450.

Some 1,700 new employees were hired in the fourth quarter, about 14.4 percent more than in the same quarter of 2017, according to the data. The employee recruitment rate (3 percent) and the job vacancy rate (2.3 percent) rose by 0.3 percentage points and 1.5 percentage points respectively year-on-year. According to the DSEC, these indicators reflect an increase in demand for manpower in the gaming sector.

Accordingly, there were 1,321 job vacancies in total at the end of the fourth quarter of 2018, up by 861 year-on-year. Slightly over half of the vacancies were for clerk positions, including 445 vacancies for croupiers. **DB**

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expectations on mass confidence

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economic sector should see a healthier year in 2020. By segment, JP Morgan expects 5 percent growth in mass and a 7 percent decline in

VIP this year.

Credit Suisse is also betting on the mass segment to fuel growth this year. It projects earnings drivers to take ef-

fect in the second half of the year, citing liquidity relaxation in China, stronger passenger flow via the HKZMB and a lack of new property

supply until 2020.

The brokerage firm projects Sands China and MGM China will gain in the VIP market at the expense of Wynn Macau and Galaxy Entertainment.

The latest data shows that Galaxy and Wynn still dominate in Macau's VIP sector, with shares of 27.6 percent and 20 percent of the pie respectively. Sands China and Melco Resorts & Entertainment each control around 15 percent, while SJM and MGM trail at 14.6 percent and 7.2 percent respectively.

Credit Suisse also expects MGM China to see its mass market share increase. The gaming operator currently has the smallest share of the mass market segment, at just 8.4 percent, behind Wynn Macau at 12.8 percent.

Morgan Stanley's Allen writes that Las Vegas Sands remains his preferred operator and that analysts are wrong in assuming it will lose market share in Macau. Accounting for both VIP and mass, Sands China ties with Galaxy at 23.1 percent of the pie.

MGM China announces pay rise

Gaming concessionaire MGM China Holdings Ltd has announced a salary increase for all non-management employees. The rise, which represents an increase between 3.8 to 7.1 percent, will be effective from March 18. That will translate to MOP600 per month extra for all employees earning up to MOP16,000, while those earning above that amount will be entitled to a standard increase of 2.5 percent. Chief Executive Officer Grant Bowie told the press that the company "continues to invest in nurturing our team, to develop their skills and in providing opportunities for them to build a successful career and contribute to the growth of our Macau community."

2,000 expected at Sports Day for disabled

The Sports Bureau is expecting 2,000 attendees at this year's Macao Sports Day for the Disabled, the bureau said during a press conference yesterday. The sports day will be held at the Olympic Center Stadium on April 14. Eight recreational and sports activities, including rowing and badminton, will be available for participants on site. In its 17th iteration this year, the budget of the sports day is MOP300,000.

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ILLEGAL DRIVERS

New Macau calls for withdrawal of mutual license recognition

Renato Marques

THE New Macau Association (ANM) is urging Chief Executive Chui Sai On to make use of his power to withdraw a scheme that grants “mutual recognition” of driver licenses between Macau and the mainland.

Although the cause is not new, it has gained renewed strength after a recent traffic accident leading to the death of a 22-year-old woman last Friday afternoon, with the crash involving a suspected illegal driver.

To address the concerns, the association is calling for a street march tomorrow, initially gathering at 3 p.m. at Vasco da Gama Garden and then marching in the direction of the government headquarters, where representatives will deliver a petition addressed to the CE with the withdrawal request.

As the elected lawmaker representing the association,

Sulu Sou spoke at yesterday’s press conference to launch the event. “We don’t want to focus too much on particular and individual cases. The accident might have been the starting point [for this demonstration] but the problem is far larger than that,” he said, adding that he had already addressed the topic in written enquiries to the government.

At the same time, ANM President Icy Kam noted that the CE “can withdraw the authorization at any time and let society have more deliberation first.” This perspective complements Sou’s proposed “two-speed” system, with Sou saying, “maybe China can recognize Macau’s drivers licenses first while we discuss the issue of reciprocity through a widespread public consultation.”

For the association, the mutual recognition of drivers licenses would “just create more problems” in a system they say

already suffers from several issues, such as a lack of law enforcement, lack of deterrence and abuse of the special drivers license system in force since 1984.

According to the ANM, “there have been numerous serious traffic accidents in recent years caused by illegal drivers,” citing statistics which show that in 2017, the police intercepted 1,243 cars for inspection and found a total of 73 cases of illegal drivers - a ratio described by Sou as “not low at all.”

On top of this acknowledgment, Sou says that both the police and the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) are apparently having difficulties properly investigating these types of cases, adding that there are voices in society that even claim they avoid targeting big corporations. This situation, if true, might indicate the statistics are far from reflecting the real situation.

When addressing deterrence factors, Sou noted that in 2017, 154 employers were punished for employing unauthorized foreign drivers, resulting in the cancellation of only nine permits for importing manpower from four employers.

In most cases, fines ranging from MOP5,000 to MOP10,000 were issued, a punishment considered “too lenient” for such a “serious matter.”

Sou noted that the law has provisions for an employer to be banned from hiring foreign labor for six months to two years, but is rarely enforced.

On what he calls the abuse of special drivers licenses, as established by the Decree Law no. 67/84/M, mainland China drivers with mainland drivers licenses are allowed to request a special driving permit if it is requested by a company with representation in Macau. According to Sou, this law is being abused, with many spe-

cial permit holders currently employed and illegally driving casino shuttle-buses. The topic was also addressed several times in the previous legislature of the Legislative Assembly, but has been taken off the priorities list, as the government has not yet proposed a review.

The ANM is seriously concerned with the implementation of the mutual recognition scheme. “Even before the scheme is signed and implemented, illegal drivers from the mainland who have a different culture and driving style, have become a potential threat to Macau’s traffic, as a result of legal loopholes and a lack of enforcement. If the scheme is indeed implemented, more than 300 million mainlanders can drive in Macau without taking an examination, greatly expanding the base for illegal drivers,” Sou said. Law enforcement has already found it difficult with a smaller number of cases, and it will only get worse with more.

The association said it does not have an estimate on how many people will join tomorrow’s demonstration, but said it hopes that people will come together on the topic, calling on other organizations and associations with concerns to join forces.

Federation of Transportation suggests higher fines

Renato Marques

THE Macao Federation of Transportation (AGERTM), an association part of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), yesterday visited the Traffic Department of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) to call for stricter law enforcement on illegal drivers.

The group, which included lawmakers Ella Lei and Leong Sun Iok, met with police authorities to call for more law enforcement in order to tackle the proliferation of illegal drivers operating in Macau.

Among the group’s complaints were the fact that the punishment for such infringement is “too light” and that only a small number of cases are reported.

Both the president of AGERTM and lawmaker Lei spoke to the media addressing such concerns. Lei noted that according to official statistics, the number of cases reported have been growing, considering the works of the authorities not sufficient to deter illegal drivers.

According to the lawmaker, in 2017 there

were 73 cases, a number that grew to 78 in the following year. In just the first two months of this year, the police have already recorded 19 cases of illegal drivers.

The lawmaker also recalled that the government promised to establish a permanent inspection mechanism to deal with the problem.

A representative of the local drivers said that the illegal and unqualified drivers lack knowledge about local roads and traffic rules, which endangers the public’s personal safety and

“harms the livelihood of local professional drivers.”

The representative added that, if in the past most of the problems occurred with only heavy-vehicles and the transport of goods, now the problem is widespread enough to affect all kinds of vehicles and in both goods and passenger transportation.

Following yesterday’s visit to the PSP, the group is planning a meeting with DSAL officials, an entity responsible for investigating and punishing employers who hire illegal workers.



EU, Brexit of interest to China as it seeks to bolster Greater Bay project

CHINESE researchers are watching the U.K.'s impending exit from the European Union to see what kind of arrangements are put into place to allow regions with separate economic and regulatory policies to have an integrated financial market.

The future of the U.K. as a European financial services hub after Brexit is of interest as China seeks to develop a cross-border economic union of Hong Kong, Macau, and cities in Guangdong province, according to Xing Yujing, the head of the People's Bank of China's Shenzhen Central sub-branch.

The Greater Bay Area is a conurbation of 70 million people and is intended by the central government in Beijing to become a high-tech megalopolis rivaling California's Silicon Valley. A blueprint for that goal was released last month, though it said little about how to enable business and financial flows across such a complex region.

The vision "faces great challenges in addressing the enormous differences among the three customs systems, three currencies and three types of financial system," - realizing the vision requires the smooth flow of goods, services, people and capital, Xing said.

The U.K.'s financial role in Europe was built on being part of the same jurisdiction - the European Union. How that sector survives once the U.K. leaves the EU is relevant for China's thinking about the Greater Bay

BLOOMBERG



The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge

Area, according to Xing, given that China wants Hong Kong's role as a financial hub to continue within the new structure.

Over the longer-term, Europe is an effective example with regard to the flow of people and services, as the Schengen area streamlines exchanges between non-euro and euro area nations. The EU's passporting

mechanism that allows financial services firms registered in one EU country to provide services in any other nation is also good reference, and research on building that mechanism should get started, Xing said.

By referencing the European Union's existing methods of integrating multiple countries through the "three freedoms"

principle for the movement of people, goods and capital, the PBOC is signaling the scale of ambition for the Bay Area - though China is unlikely to soften the hard borders that exist between the three jurisdictions any time soon.

China's currency is also protected by capital controls, but Xing and her fellow researchers fou-

nd that a more market-oriented and free exchange rate can benefit regional growth in the long run, despite creating short-term pressures for the economy.

A certain degree of autonomy on financial innovation is needed in the region, such as a quota within which capital can flow freely across borders, the research suggested. **Bloomberg**

Zhuhai to pay for and build SSM's Hengqin health center

THE Zhuhai government will fund and build a health center for the Macau Health Bureau (SSM) in Hengqin, according to SSM deputy director Cheang Seng Ip.

During a TDM radio program, Cheang revealed that the SSM is currently discussing with the Hengqin government the establishment of an SSM health center in Hengqin.

Despite the fact that Zhuhai will pay for the construction, the center will be free for use for Macau residents.

According to Cheang, this center will occupy an area of 10,000 square feet and will mainly serve Macau residents who live in Hengqin.

Regarding the quality of the SSM Hengqin health center, Cheang claimed that the SSM has already submitted the requirements to Zhuhai, such as barrier-free access facilities.

The center is expected to be completed within two to three years at the earliest. The launch of the center's construction will be fully arranged by Zhuhai.

Currently, Hengqin has approximately 4,000 properties purchased by Macau residents, with 300 Macau residents also holding a Hengqin residence permit, as reported by Cheang.

The SSM deputy director claimed that Zhuhai's healthcare insurance is the most advanced

across the entirety of China.

Furthermore, the SSM is discussing with the relevant mainland authorities how to let Macau people with Zhuhai residence permits purchase medical insurance in Zhuhai and access local medical services.

The local government will only decide how many people to send to the Hengqin health center after obtaining further information about the number of Macau residents who are also permanent residents in Zhuhai.

Meanwhile, the mayor of Zhuhai, Yao Yisheng, said that his city will carry out a study on the use of Macau healthcare coupons in Zhuhai. **JZ**

Macau ignored for high-speed train plan, say CPPCC members

THREE Macau members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference submitted a joint proposal at the 13th CPPCC in Beijing, calling on China to include Macau in the mainland's high-speed train network.

Chong Sio Kin, Wan Nang Hon and Leonel Alvaro Alves expressed that Macau, as a central city in the Greater Bay Area, may have been ignored in the development of the mainland's high-speed train network.

The three members urged the Central Government and Guangdong province to speed up the planning of the Guangzhou-Zhongshan-Zhuhai-Macau high-speed train, and to

list the plan as a key project for GBA development.

The three members also proposed a high-speed train route between Macau and Zhuhai, and connecting the line with Jiangmen, Maoming and Zhanjiang.

During the 13th CPPCC earlier this week, the mayor of Zhuhai, Yao Yisheng, said that Zhuhai will try to include itself in the relevant GBA plans, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau high-speed train, as well as the extension of the Guangzhou metro to Zhuhai and Macau.

However, as of today, neither mainland China or Macau have revealed any plans to connect Macau to China's high-speed train network. **JZ**

ENERGY

Beijing hopes to sustain solar growth with new plan

CHINA'S plans to loosen its solar subsidy policy will keep growth of the world's largest market intact, according to the head of JinkoSolar Holding Co., which is increasing production capacity by as much as 20 percent this year.

Installations will probably maintain at about 40 gigawatts, close to the levels last year, Chen Kangping, chief executive officer of the world's largest panel maker, said in an interview in Beijing. China's main industry group said last month the country is planning more supportive policies, which include resuming quotas for some utility-scale projects.

The views from Chen suggest a brighter outlook for global solar companies reeling from Beijing's abrupt decision in the middle of 2018 to halt approvals for some projects and reduce subsidies as part of efforts to curb overcapacity. The move caused China's solar additions to tumble last



year from a record 53 gigawatts in 2017 and spurred predictions in January installations may fall a second year.

"The changes would reflect a maturing of China's solar policy as regulators take more factors into consideration," Chen said Wednesday on the sidelines of the nation's annual parliamentary meeting. "It

will help to stabilize the industry and market development."

With the new plan, China Photovoltaic Industry Association said installations could climb in 2019 from 44 gigawatts last year. Citigroup Inc. forecast capacity additions of 42 gigawatts, with a potential for a rise to 50 gigawatts.

JinkoSolar will raise panel

capacity by 10 to 20 percent this year from 10.8 gigawatts last year. Expansion will be in products with more advanced technology and command higher prices, according to Chen. The supplier will be "cautious" with the rampups, weighing that against sales growth, with output already fully booked for the first half of the year, he said. **Bloomberg**

China oil use seen peaking in 2025

THE country that's driven global oil demand since the turn of the century may hit the brakes sooner than expected as travelers shift toward electric cars or even forgo the open road in favor of trains.

China's oil consumption will peak in 2025, five to eight years earlier than market consensus, according to Morgan Stanley analysts including Andy Meng.

The reversal will be driven by a transportation model unique to China: While most countries moving up the economic ladder show continued growth in oil demand from increased driving, mass-adoption of electric vehicles and high-speed rail in China will drastically reduce gasoline use, the bank said.

If the theory plays out, it could signal a huge shift for the oil market, which has relied on China for more than a third of global demand growth since 1999. An expanding body of research is painting a bleak future for oil, as rapid adoption of electric vehicles could mean global demand peaks by the 2030s, a prospect that's likely to worry energy executives and investors.

Some of the industry's top prognosticators expect the country's oil demand to keep growing for years, albeit at a slower pace. The International Energy Agency sees China crude consumption expanding through 2040, while the nation's largest energy producer China National Petroleum Corp. has forecast that gasoline use will peak five years before oil demand does in 2030. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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ANALYSIS

OECD spares the world's most popular scapegoat

FORECAST cutting resembles a business model these days.

Another day, another venerable firm or institution reduces projections for economic growth. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is the latest to jump on the bandwagon, citing trade tussles, China's downdraft and Brexit.

On the face of it, the overall picture isn't dire. The OECD clipped its world-growth forecast to 3.3 percent from 3.5 percent, not that different from the 3.5 percent the International Monetary Fund ended up with after its January revisions.

But do forecasters, in general, have the right emphasis once you get past the top line? Does the West get too much attention, relative to Asia?

The OECD says the situation in Europe is especially distressing and activity needs a boost, especially from fiscal policy. Hard to argue with the underlying idea that a jolt would be helpful. It does beg the question why the European Central Bank has waited so long to signal more easing – in words, if not in practice.

We aren't expecting spectacular performance in Europe. Slu-

BLOOMBERG



gishness has seemed the order of the day for a while. I haven't heard many proclaim the continent is the future, in the same way they gush about China and Asia.

That brings us to China, which is having a rough patch relative to the decades after its economy

opened up in the late 1970s. The OECD acknowledges the potential for a paradigm shift in a blog post, but doesn't dwell much upon it.

"China has significantly contributed to global growth for the past two decades, so that any sharper deceleration than

expected would cascade to the rest of the world. Countries in East Asia, commodity exporters and Japan would be particularly hard hit by a sharp slowdown in Chinese demand growth. Reduced demand in China would also affect global confidence adding significantly to these cos-

ts, particularly in the advanced economies."

It's hard for me to see a downturn in Europe packing the same punch, though much of the press conference by OECD Chief Economist Laurence Boone was devoted to it. Granted, the outfit is based in Paris, so the neighborhood's ills are bound to be foremost in the minds of people showing up.

The silver lining is that China is doing something about its malaise. In words and deeds, Beijing is hitting both fiscal and monetary buttons pretty quickly. As I've written previously, what stands out in the global slowdown is that central banks in China and India are among the first to respond.

Europe does have attributes absent in China and swathes of the developing world. There's democracy, rule of law and relatively transparent systems and processes. That doesn't mean the euro zone is equipped to deal nimbly with swings in the economic cycle, which seem to come faster and faster. It's also possible China's downturn isn't so dire in the overall scheme of things; it just seems bigger here in Asia.

With headaches coming from both sides, it might be up to the Fed and the U.S. to save the world. Plus ça change! **Bloomberg**

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Chinese tourism boom that propped up luxury brands is faltering

Cécile Daurat, Matt Townsend & Kim Bhasin

FOR the better part of a decade, wealthy Chinese tourists have been on a feeding frenzy for luxury brands, casinos and cruise lines. Now there are doubts about how long the buffet will last.

From Tokyo's glitzy Ginza shopping district to Hong Kong, Macau and New York's Fifth Avenue, there are noticeable cracks in what has been the very bankable strategy of catering to throngs of newly affluent Chinese traveling the world. Explanations vary from China's slowing economy to the government's push to spur spending at home and fluctuations in currency values. Whatever the reason, the result is increasing worry across the globe.

"Luxury brands have gained a lot of traction and growth out of China, but the bloom is off the rose," said Pam Danziger, president of Unity Marketing Inc. in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which researches affluent shoppers. "You can't blame them because that's where the easy money was."

Over the past few months, executives have been hounded by questions about high-end Chinese shoppers, who Bain & Co. says generated a third of global luxury sales in 2017 - mostly outside China's border. French luxury giants L'Oréal SA and LVMH have tried to ease concerns, saying travel sales remain robust. Meanwhile, jeweler Tiffany & Co.; Capri Holdings Ltd., the owner of Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo; and Coach parent Tapestry Inc. said spending by Chinese tourists in cities including New York and Hong Kong has weakened.

Cruise line operators are grappling with this, too. Many poured resources into catering to the Chinese traveler over the past few years only to have demand disappoint. In early 2017, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. unveiled a ship "built for China" that included bigger rooms specifically designed for extended families. But the effort was a flop and the company is now spending \$50 million to revamp the ship for Alaskan cruises.

Casinos are feeling the pressure, particularly in Macau, the world's largest gambling hub, which includes properties from Las Vegas Sands Corp. and MGM Resorts International. Chinese daily visitors from the mainland are still streaming in, spurred by the opening of a bridge linking to mainland China



and Hong Kong. But the high rollers who have traditionally propped up casino receipts are staying away from the baccarat tables in the former Portuguese colony.

Many poured resources into catering to the Chinese traveler over the past few years only to have demand disappoint

WEALTHY WANDERERS

The Chinese tourists made a perfect target for luxury brands. Thanks to their homeland's rapid economic growth, they are newly wealthy, full of aspiration and hungry to display their elevated status. Timing also made them invaluable, with their conspicuous consumption taking off just after the financial crisis. As a result, China became the world's biggest spender in international tourism in 2012, according to data from the World Tourism Organization, a United Nations agency.

In Tokyo, they have been a

ubiquitous sight, with shoppers filling up empty suitcases with high-end cosmetics in duty-free airport shops, and tour groups flooding into jewelry stores. Marketing around the Chinese New Year has become the norm, with even the U.S. catching on to the opportunity. SeaWorld San Diego and the Chicago Symphony took part this year. In Las Vegas, the Bellagio put a giant pig in its lobby in honor of the Year of the Pig, and Caesars sent a dragon parade through its Forum Shops mall.

But China's leaders would like more of those purchases made at home, and they're taking actions to support that now that the country's economic growth has slowed. The government reduced taxes on imported goods to encourage its citizens, the world's highest-spending duty-free shoppers, to buy domestically. It's also cracking down on daigou - a gray market of surrogate shoppers who buy products like designer handbags overseas for customers in mainland China. It's a cohort that accounted for an estimated \$6 billion in sales in 2016, according to Bain.

POLICY CHANGES

Those efforts might be starting to work, given that companies like Capri said its business in China is still growing but struggling in Japan and South Korea because of fewer Chinese tourists. The Chinese have also

long been savvy at arbitraging between currency fluctuations and taxes to determine which location is the most attractive to buy the latest handbags, fashion and perfume - a task often handled by daigou.

Shoppers such as Jessica Yang, a 35-year-old lawyer in Beijing, are reconsidering options.

"I buy most of my luxury goods when I travel overseas or at duty-free stores at airport," Yang said. "If the price is not significantly higher in China, I would also consider buying at a domestic counter."

Tiffany has been particularly hampered by the slowdown. Last quarter, executives singled out lower spending by tourists, particularly from China, to its flagship store in New York, as a reason for missing analysts' estimates. Now it's shifting advertising dollars to other nationalities as a hedge.

"It's something that we have to deal with," Tiffany Chief Executive Officer Alessandro Bogliolo said in a November interview. "In the luxury business, tourism is an important part."

INROADS IN CHINA

Many North American luxury labels consider themselves underexposed to the Chinese market, especially compared with European peers who are faring better. Most are now making inroads in mainland China, mitigating the effects

from shifts in tourism. The big handbag labels Coach, Kate Spade and Kors all see China's domestic market as key to their future and are opening stores there.

L'Oréal CEO Jean-Paul Agon, anticipating questions from analysts on an earnings call last month, was adamant: "We saw no slowdown in China." Overall the rate of growth in global luxury is expected to remain unabated, even amid macroeconomic uncertainties like the ongoing trade dispute with the U.S., according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

That's why any sign of volatility in the mighty growth engine is cause for concerns. In Tokyo, a sudden drop in sales at high-end department stores in January triggered alarm bells, coming after Chinese visitors to Japan more than doubled since 2014. Sales rebounded in February at Takashimaya Co. and J Front Retailing Co., which oversees one of the newest luxury shopping complexes in the heart of Ginza. Still, retailers like Isetan Mitsukoshi and Sogo & Seibu said sales were relatively flat from a year earlier during the week of the Chinese New Year holiday.

"This shows you can't depend upon Chinese tourism as the drivers of your business," said Danziger, the luxury analyst. "It's a dangerous place to be." **Bloomberg**

Huawei sues to challenge US security law

Joe McDonald, Shenzhen

CHINESE tech giant Huawei is challenging a U.S. law that labels the company a security risk and would limit its access to the American market for telecom equipment.

Huawei Technologies Ltd.'s lawsuit, announced yesterday, asks a federal court to reject as unconstitutional a portion of this year's U.S. military appropriations act that bars the government and its contractors from using Huawei equipment.

It comes as the biggest global maker of network equipment fights a U.S. campaign to persuade allies to shun Huawei. That effort threatens to block access to major markets as phone carriers prepare to invest billions of dollars in next-generation, 5G networks.

The complaint, filed in Plano, Texas, the headquarters of Huawei's U.S. operations, cites the framers of the U.S. Constitution, including Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, in ar-



Huawei rotating chairman Guo Ping during a press conference yesterday

guing that the law in question violates the constitutional separation of powers, denies due process and amounts to a "Bill of Attainder" that singles out a specific entity for adverse treatment.

It says the law causes the company "concrete and particularized injury, and imminent future injury" and subjects it to a "burden that is severe, permanent and inescapable" that amounts to a corporate "death penalty."

Huawei is at the center of U.S.-Chinese tensions over technology competition and cyber-spying. The

company has spent years trying to put to rest accusations it facilitates Chinese spying or is controlled by the ruling Communist Party.

Increasingly, both sides appear to be resorting to courts to press their cases.

"We are compelled to take this legal action as a proper and last resort," the company's rotating chairman, Guo Ping, said at a news conference. Guo said the ban would limit competition, slowing the rollout of fifth-generation communications and raising consumer prices.

Huawei has pleaded not guilty to U.S. trade-theft charges after a federal court in Seattle unsealed a 10-count indictment in January against two of its units, Huawei Device Co. and Huawei Device USA. The charges include conspiracy to steal trade secrets, attempted theft of trade secrets, wire fraud and obstruction of justice.

The company's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, is fighting extradition to the U.S. after she was arrested in Vancouver, Canada on Dec. 1. U.S. prosecutors have filed charges accusing Meng, who is the daughter of Huawei's founder, of lying to banks about dealings with Iran.

Huawei denies any wrongdoing. At a routine briefing yesterday, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman noted that the Chinese government has also objected to the law.

"We believe that it is perfectly proper and fully understandable for companies to defend their legitimate rights and interests through legal means," Lu Kang said. He said he had no information about

whether China would join Huawei in the lawsuit.

Huawei has about 40 percent of the global market for network gear. Its U.S. sales evaporated after a congressional panel in 2012 cited the company and a Chinese competitor, ZTE Corp., as security risks and told phone carriers to avoid dealing with them.

U.S. authorities "have hacked our servers and stolen our emails" but have presented no evidence to support their security claims, Guo said. He complained Washington was "sparing no effort to smear" the company.

Huawei says the new law would shrink its potential U.S. market further by prohibiting the government from buying the Chinese vendor's technology and from buying goods or services from or giving grants or loans to companies or other third parties that do. The United States accounts for 20 to 25 percent of the global market for computer and telecom technology.

Huawei says the U.S. law it is protesting improperly has Congress play the role of a court.

The ban is "based on numerous false, unproven and untested propositions," said Song Liuping, the company's chief legal officer, at the news conference. "Huawei has an excellent security record and program. No contrary evidence has been offered." **AP**

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THE VENETIAN
MACAO

Japan stunned by Ghosn's release, critics hope for change

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

FORMER Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn's release from detention nearly four months after his arrest has gripped Japan, giving the public a rare glimpse into how the criminal justice system works.

Ghosn was recuperating yesterday, his lawyer said, after leaving the Tokyo Detention Center the evening before, just in time for his 65th birthday on Saturday. His trial on charges of financial misconduct is sure to draw attention as one of the biggest court cases in the history of corporate Japan.

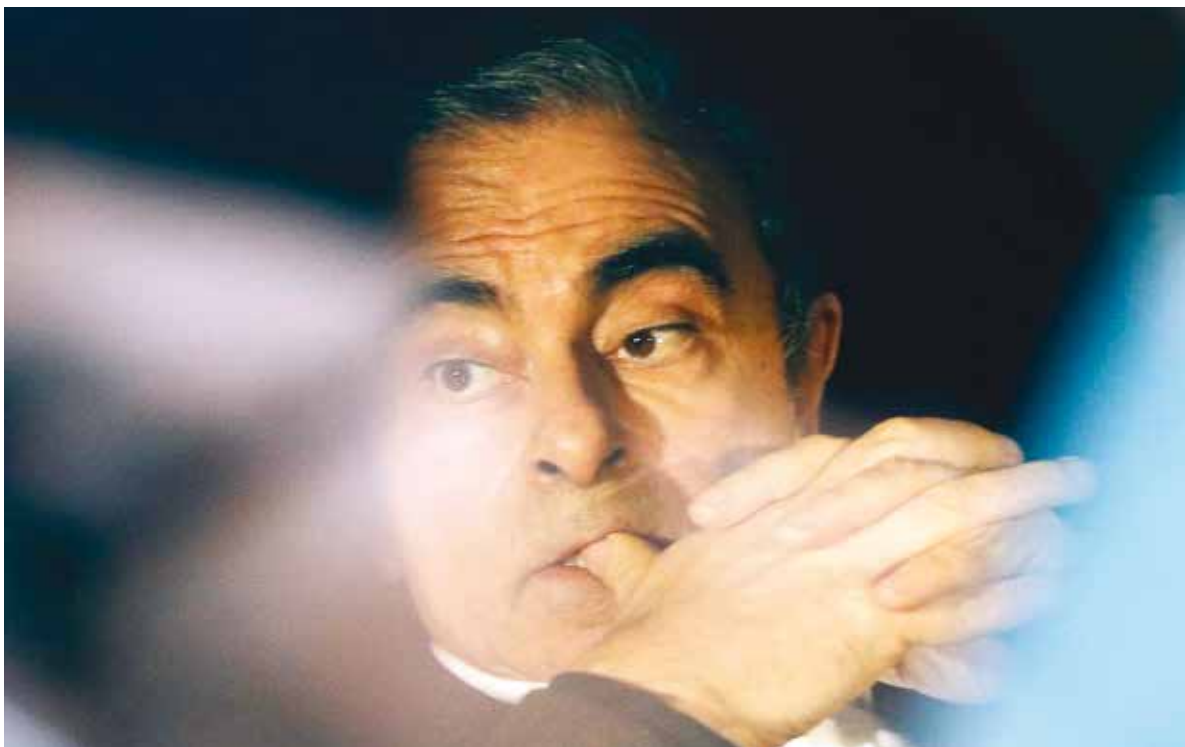
Japan's relatively low crime rate means high-profile cases like Ghosn's are uncommon.

The front pages of all major newspapers carried photos yesterday of Ghosn after he left the detention center, his identity obscured by a surgical mask, blue cap and laborer's clothes.

Broadcasters showed stacks of Japanese currency about the size of a small bed to demonstrate what his bail of USD8.9 million would have looked like. The payment was made electronically but the full amount was required, unlike bail systems like in the U.S. where a portion is offered as surety and the full amount is forfeited only if the defendant fails to appear.

While Westerners wondered why the concept of "presumed innocent" doesn't seem to apply in Japan, many here were shocked his release came so soon.

AP PHOTO



"An exceptional case of quick release," said a headline in the newspaper Yomiuri.

Suspects in Japan are usually not released from detention until all documents from both sides are readied for a trial because prosecutors worry that they might tamper with evidence or flee. The court rejected two earlier requests by Ghosn for bail.

Theoretically, suspects in Japan are presumed innocent until proven guilty. But the complexity of a case can determine the length of pretrial detention. And long detentions mean suspects practically serve time before they are

found guilty.

Seiho Cho, a defense lawyer, says his clients wonder why they aren't getting released as quickly as Ghosn was. Ghosn's legal team offered special conditions, such as a surveillance camera, to win his release.

Bail should be granted without such stringent restrictions, Cho said.

"What we have now is totally wrong," he said. "We hope this will have a positive effect on future cases."

Ghosn, who headed the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Motors alliance, has been charged with

falsifying financial reports, under-reporting his income and breach of trust in having Nissan shoulder investment losses and make payments to a Saudi businessman. He says he is innocent, that the income allegedly under-reported was never paid or decided, that Nissan never suffered the investment losses and the payments were legitimate business expenses.

The business daily Nikkei said Ghosn's case highlights inequities human-rights advocates have long criticized as unfair, such as extended detentions and interrogations without a lawyer present.

"Japanese-style justice shaken," the headline said.

There have been several cases in which suspects signed false confessions after harsh questioning during months-long detentions, but were later exonerated by DNA tests or other evidence.

Lawyer Yuichi Kaido welcomed the international scrutiny prompted by Ghosn's case.

■ Nikkei said Ghosn's case highlights inequities human rights advocates have long criticized as unfair

"I realize there is the view that we can't give special treatment to Mr. Ghosn or that Japan has its own way of doing things," he said, but "the case of Carlos Ghosn has highlighted how outdated this system is."

Ghosn has hired a star defense lawyer, Junichiro Hironaka. Nicknamed "the Razor," he has won rare acquittals in a nation where the conviction rate is 99 percent.

Hironaka said the lawyer most responsible for securing Ghosn's release was Takashi Takano, who studied at Southern Methodist University's law school in Dallas.

"We hope this can serve as a way to end the 'hostage justice system,'" Hironaka told reporters yesterday, using the term often used by critics to refer to long detentions typical in Japan.

"The world is watching." **AP**

Singapore to lure air, sea traffic with infrastructure push

AP PHOTO



Saket Sundria
& Kyunghee Park

SINGAPORE is transforming its infrastructure to fend off competition from the seas to the skies.

The island-city plans to begin operating its fifth terminal at Changi Airport, Asia's second-busiest international aerodrome, by 2030 to cater to growing travel demand, Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Transport Lam Pin Min said in parliament yesterday. A new shopping and retail attraction named Jewel, housing the world's tallest indoor waterfall, will open next month at Changi.

Singapore has been in-

vesting to expand its airport, port and overall transport infrastructure as a swelling middle class in the Asia Pacific region allows an increasing number of people to fly and more trade crosses its borders. Air-passenger traffic in the region is expected to more than double in the next two decades, the International Air Transport Association said.

Jewel Changi Airport will offer early check-ins, dining options as well as retail therapy for travelers and shoppers alike when it is open to the public in mid-April. Walking trails, canopy mazes and slides at the top level of the facility will open later this year. Changi is also re-vamping existing terminals to allow it to handle more passengers and increase automation for its baggage system.

Changi Airport handled a record 65.6 million pas-

sengers last year, 5.5 percent more than in 2017.

Where ships are concerned, Singapore expects to begin operating a new port in the western part of the island in 2021 when the first phase of construction is completed. The government is moving the port facilities to Tuas from its current prime location in a waterfront area near the central business district to free up space for development.

Singapore is also preparing to provide liquefied natural gas as fuel to vessels at its port by 2020, Minister Lam said. That's when shipping companies will be required to meet more stringent global rules set by the International Maritime Organization to cut sulfur emissions, mostly through the use of cleaner fuel or by installing exhaust-cleaning equipment on board vessels. **Bloomberg**

North Korea airs documentary glorifying Kim's summit with Trump

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

NORTH Korea's state TV has aired a documentary glorifying leader Kim Jong Un's recent visit to Vietnam that omitted the failed nuclear negotiations with President Donald Trump.

The footage's release this week came amid reports that North Korea is restoring some facilities at its long-range rocket launch site that it dismantled last year as part of disarmament steps.

North Korean documentaries are typically propaganda venerating Kim, the subject of a strong personality cult among the North's 25 million people. Some observers say omitting the status of the nuclear talks also shows the North hopes to continue negotiations, while also not letting North Korean people know of any diplomatic failures that could damage Kim's leadership.

The documentary shows a smiling Kim talking with Trump while walking together inside a Hanoi hotel last week.



It shows Kim waving from a black limousine when it passed through a Hanoi street lined with residents waving North Korean and Vietnamese flags. The footage also shows Kim visiting the North Korean Embassy where some embassy officials and their family members skipped and wept with emotions

before they took a group photo with the backdrop of a huge picture of Kim's late father and grandfather.

The documentary called the Kim-Trump summit "yet another meaningful incident on the issue of world peace." It cited Kim as saying North Korea and the U.S. must put an end

to their decades-long animosity and confrontation. But the documentary didn't mention about the lack of an agreement following the Kim-Trump summit.

The Hanoi summit broke down due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea. Washington and Pyongyang

blame each other for the talks' breakdown, but both sides still leave the door open for future negotiations.

Earlier Tuesday, two U.S.-based websites specializing in North Korea studies cited commercial satellite imagery as indicating that North Korea is rebuilding some structures at its northwestern rocket launch facility. South Korea's spy service gave a similar assessment to lawmakers in Seoul in a closed-door briefing.

"I would be very, very disappointed in Chairman Kim," Trump said when reporters asked him about reports of new work at the North's launch site. "I don't think I will be" disappointed, Trump said, "but we'll see what happens."

The Kim-Trump meeting in Hanoi is their second summit, since they met for the first time in Singapore last June. After the first summit, Kim pledged to work toward "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" without providing a roadmap or a timetable for his disarmament steps. **AP**

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Michael Liedtke, San Francisco

SOCIAL MEDIA

Zuckerberg promises a privacy friendly Facebook, sort of

FACEBOOK, which grew into a colossus by vacuuming up your information in every possible way and using it to target ads back at you, now says its future lies in privacy-oriented messaging that Facebook itself can't read.

Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder and CEO, announced the shift yesterday (Macau time) in a blog post apparently intended to blunt both criticism of the company's data handling and potential antitrust action. Going forward, he said, Facebook will emphasize giving people ways to communicate in truly private fashion, with their intimate thoughts and pictures shielded by encryption in ways that Facebook itself can't read.

But Zuckerberg didn't suggest any changes to Facebook's core newsfeed-and-groups-based service, or to Instagram's social network, currently the fastest growing part of the company. Facebook pulls in gargantuan profits by selling ads targeted using the information it amasses on its users and others they know.

"All indications are that Facebook and Instagram will continue growing and be increasingly important," Zuckerberg said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Critics aren't convinced Zuckerberg is committed to meaningful change.

"This does nothing to address the ad targeting and information collection about individuals," said Jen King, director of consumer privacy at Stanford Law School's Center for Internet and Society. "It's great for your relationship with other people. It doesn't do anything for your relationship with Facebook itself."

Facebook's new orientation follows a rocky two-year battering over revelations about its leaky privacy controls. That included the sharing of personal information from as many as 87 million users with a political data-mining firm that worked for the 2016 Trump campaign.

Since the 2016 election, Facebook has also taken flak for the way Russian agents used its service to target U.S. voters with divisive messages and being a conduit for political misinformation. Zuckerberg faced two days of congressional interrogation over these and other subjects last April; he acknowledged and apologized for Facebook's privacy breakdowns in the past.

Since then, Facebook has suffered other privacy lapses that have amplified the calls for regulations that would hold companies more accountable when they improperly expose their users' information.

As part of his effort to make amends, Zuckerberg plans to stitch together its Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram mes-

AP PHOTO



saging services so users will be able to contact each other across all of the apps.

The multiyear plan calls for all of these apps to be encrypted so no one but senders and recipients can see the contents of messages. WhatsApp already has that security feature, but Facebook's other messaging apps don't.

Zuckerberg likened it to being able to be in a living room behind a closed front door, and not having to worry about anyone eavesdropping. Meanwhile, Facebook and the Instagram photo app would still operate more like a town square where people can openly share whatever they want.

While Zuckerberg positions the messaging integration as a privacy move, Facebook also sees commercial opportunity in the shift. "If you think about your life, you probably spend more time communicating pri-

vately than publicly," he told the AP. "The overall opportunity here is a lot larger than what we have built in terms of Facebook and Instagram."

Critics have raised another possible motive — the threat of antitrust crackdowns. Integration could make it much more difficult, if not impossible, to later separate out and spin off Instagram and WhatsApp as separate companies.

"I see that as the goal of this entire thing," said Blake Reid, a University of Colorado law professor who specializes in technology and policy. He said Facebook could tell antitrust authorities that WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook Messenger are tied so tightly together that it couldn't unwind them.

Combining the three services also lets Facebook build more complete data profiles on all of its users. Already, businesses can already target Facebook

and Instagram users with the same ad campaign, and ads are likely coming to WhatsApp eventually.

■ Critics aren't convinced Zuckerberg is committed to meaningful change

And users are more likely to stay within Facebook's properties if they can easily message their friends across different services, rather than having to switch between Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram. That could help Facebook compete with messaging services from Apple, Google and others.

As part of the process, Zucker-

berg said Facebook will meet with privacy experts, law enforcement officials concerned about the new encryption making it impossible to uncover illegal activity being discussed on the messaging service and government officials.

Creating more ways for Facebook's more than 2 billion users to keep things private could undermine the company's business model, which depends on the ability to learn about the things people like and then sell ads tied to those interests.

In his interview with the AP, Zuckerberg said he isn't currently worried about denting Facebook's profits with the increased emphasis on privacy.

"How this affects the business down the line, we'll see," Zuckerberg said. "But if we do a good job in serving the need that people have, then there will certainly be an opportunity" to make even more money. **AP**

BORDER SURVEILLANCE

Report: US government kept tabs on journalists, 'instigators'

THE U.S. government ran an operation to screen journalists, activists and others while investigating last year's migrant caravan from Mexico, a San Diego TV station reported yesterday (Macau time), citing leaked documents.

Dossiers that included photos from their passports or social media accounts, date of birth and other details were kept in a database and some freelance journalists had alerts placed on their passports and were flagged for secondary screenings at customs points, the station KNSD-TV said.

One freelance photojournalist was denied entry to Mexico for reasons that were never stated, the station reported.

The documents, in the form of dossiers and screenshots, were provided to NBC 7 Investigates by a Homeland Security source on the condition of anonymity, the station reported. Those listed as warranting secondary screening included 10 journalis-



ts — seven of them U.S. citizens — a U.S. attorney and 47 people from various countries labeled as organizers, instigators or "unknown," the station said.

The intelligence-gathering efforts were done under the umbrella of "Operation Secure Line," which was designed to monitor the caravan of thousands of people who began

making their way north from Central America late last year to seek asylum in the United States, the source told the TV station.

A Customs and Border Protection statement sent to The Associated Press said the extra security followed a breach of a border wall in San Diego on Nov. 25 in a violent confron-

tation between caravan members and border agents. The confrontation closed the nation's busiest border crossing for five hours on Thanksgiving weekend.

Such "criminal events [...] involving assaults on law enforcement and a risk to public safety, are routinely monitored and investigated by authorities," the statement said.

"It is protocol following these incidents to collect evidence that might be needed for future legal actions and to determine if the event was orchestrated."

The statement didn't address specifics of why journalists would be on the list to have their passports flagged.

The American Civil Liberties Union condemned the operation.

"This is an outrageous violation of the First Amendment," attorney Esha Bhandari said. "The government cannot use the pretext of the border to target activists critical of its policies, lawyers providing legal repre-

sentation, or journalists simply doing their jobs."

The documents, dated Jan. 9, are titled "San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch: Migrant Caravan FY-2019, Suspected Organizers, Coordinators, Instigators and Media." The source said the material was used by agents from the CBP and other agencies, including some San Diego FBI agents.

Two freelance photojournalists confirmed to the station that the information in their dossiers was accurate. Both were pulled in for secondary questioning at border crossings and one, Kitra Cahana, eventually was stopped in Mexico, denied entry and had to fly back to the U.S. They were not told why they were targeted.

One dossier was on Nicole Ramos, the refugee director and attorney for Al Otro Lado, a law center for migrants and refugees in Tijuana, Mexico. It included details such as the kind of car she drives and her mother's name, KNSD-TV reported.

"The document appears to prove what we have assumed for some time, which is that we are on a law enforcement list designed to retaliate against human rights defenders who work with asylum seekers and who are critical of CBP practices that violate the rights of asylum seekers," Ramos told the station by email. AP

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TV canal macau

FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:50	Zig Zag
16:20	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:25	Arquitectarte
17:55	Ministério do Tempo
18:50	TDM Talk Show (Repetição)
19:25	Livros com João Guedes (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Sinais de Vida
22:00	Contentor 13
22:30	Motel Bates Sr.1
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga Europa 2018/2019
00:10	Incógnito
01:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:20	RTPi Directo

SATURDAY

10:30	Zig Zag
10:50	Os Ursos Boonie e o Fantástico Outono
11:20	Beo and Peno Sr.2
11:30	Chai Chai
11:50	Visita Guiada Sr.2
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	Festival da Canção 2019 - 2ª Semifinal
16:00	Por Onde Andou Carmen Miranda?
16:45	Janela Indiscreta
17:40	Hora dos Portugueses
18:50	Joker
19:35	O Mundo da Dança Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Os Condenados
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Cá Por Casa Sr.2
00:55	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:40	RTPi Directo

Offbeat

FIREFIGHTER SUES, SAYS HE GREW BEARD AS BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN

A New Jersey firefighter has filed a civil rights lawsuit alleging that he is being forced to shave a beard he says he grew for religious reasons.

NJ.com reports that Atlantic City firefighter Alexander Smith says in his lawsuit he began growing out his beard in December as a born-again Christian. He says the department is threatening to suspend him without pay.

Fire department guidelines prohibit beards and goatees, saying facial hair can affect the seal of the breathing mask firefighters wear while battling fires.

Smith requested an accommodation for the beard Jan. 3, but the city denied his request Feb. 15, citing “overwhelming safety concerns.”

Smith works as an air mask technician and says he has never had to enter a burning building or wear a mask in his role.

He says in the lawsuit when he does respond to a fire, it’s for the purpose of refilling air bottles.

Smith is suing the city, Fire Chief Scott Evans and Deputy Chief Thomas Culleny Jr. for violating his religious freedoms and violating the state Civil Rights Act.

He is seeking an injunction to prevent the department from any adverse employment actions and damages to be determined at trial.

His attorney has filed a temporary restraining order while the lawsuit is pending. A judge has not issued a ruling on the order, and Smith is allowed to work with the beard for the time being.

cinema

CINETEATRO

06 - 13 Mar



CAPTAIN MARVEL
ROOM 1
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 pm
Director: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck
Starring: Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 124min



HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U
ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Christopher Landon
Starring: Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Phi Vu
Language: Chinese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 100min

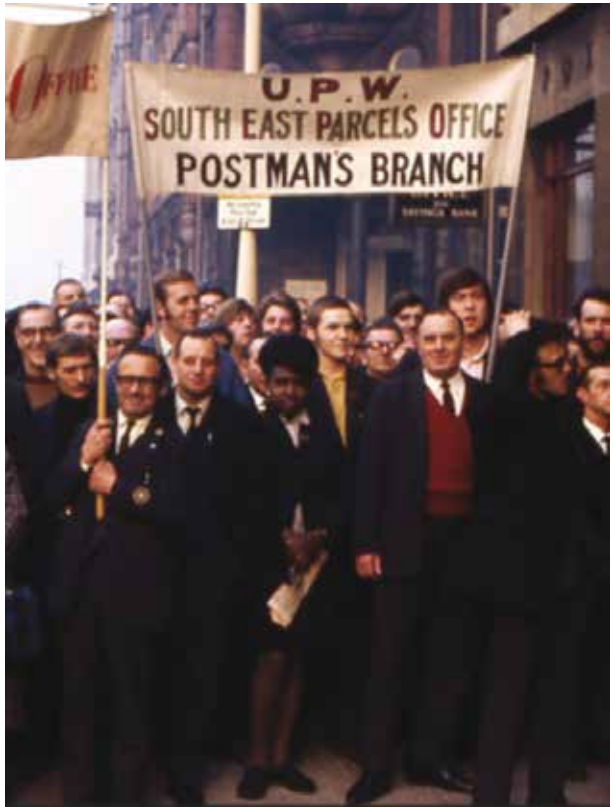


THE WANDERING EARTH
ROOM 2
7:15pm
ROOM 3
2:30pm
Director: Frant Gwo
Starring: Chuxiao Qu, Jing Wu, Guangjie Li
Language: Chinese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 123min



DRAGON BALL SUPER BROLY
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



1971 POST STRIKE ENDS WITH PAY DEAL

British postal workers have gone back to work today after seven weeks on strike.

The 200,000 postmen and women voted by 14-1 yesterday in favour of a deal hammered out after more than 13 hours of talks at the Department of Employment on Friday.

They had been demanding a 13% pay rise - but they have settled for a complex package which will award them wage increases after an inquiry into the efficiency of Post Office staff and management.

Strikers are disappointed because they are being asked to return to work without even the 8% rise offered when the walk-out began on 20 January.

The strike has cost the average postal worker about £150 in lost earnings over the seven weeks. It has cost the Post Office an estimated £25m in lost revenue.

Post union general secretary Tom Jackson had urged his members to return to work saying it would be unable to make any more “hardship payments” to the 30-40,000 members who had no income at all.

At a rally in Hyde Park on Friday, Mr Jackson was jeered when he announced the terms of the deal. Members called “Sell out” and “Hey, hey, Tommy J, how about our £3 pay?”

Under the terms of the deal, the outcome of an agreed independent investigation would be binding on the Post Office and the union.

Mr Jackson hopes any pay increase will be backdated to January.

But the deal represents a defeat for Mr Jackson who had set his face against arbitration.

He said: “If we had had more money, the strike would have gone on. Facing the reality, this is the best way out of a bad position.”

Postal services have resumed today but it is expected to take some time before the backlog is cleared.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Post union submitted a claim for a minimum £3 a week rise or 15-20% on 30 October 1970. If implemented, it was estimated it would have cost the Post Office £50m.

Management made an offer of 8% on 14 January. Members walked out on 20 January at the beginning of the first national post strike. Some post offices opened for a few hours each week to allow pensions and other benefits to be paid.

By the time the deal was announced on 4 March, the workers had reduced their claim to 13% while the management offer was increased to 9% with conditions attached.

Decimal currency was introduced on 15 February, so when postal services resumed the minimum rate for first-class was set at 3p (equivalent to 7.2d) compared with 5d prior to the strike.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

In your time, you have accomplished some nearly impossible tasks—so if today you can't quite swing a home run, do not beat yourself up about it. You have done all that you can for now.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

The hardest part of making cool things happen in your life isn't the part where you think them up...it's the part where you actually have to build them into something real!

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Entering some sort of competition today? If you are worried about being outsmarted, you shouldn't be! You are in an extremely vibrant phase of mental ability right now...

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Like juice shooting out of a grapefruit half, your creativity is refreshing, bright and a little bit startling today. Get yourself out into the world and you will gain inspiration from typical, mundane objects.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you spend some quiet time sorting through recent events, you will begin to notice a pattern. Someone is going down a negative path—but you don't have to follow him or her!

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Is money on your mind? If it isn't, it should be. Things might be moving beyond your control, and you are in danger of getting lazy about keeping track of expenses. A little money here, a little money there...

Taurus

April 20-May 20

During the day, double-check all your emails for typos or sloppy phrasing and do not forget to say 'please' and 'thank you' whenever you can. Leaving a positive impression is the best type of finishing detail of all.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Take your ego out of the equation and let other people in on the fun. Now that your ideas have established a foothold in the real world, there may be some criticism. You have nothing to worry about.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

A quick note or phone call (full of your usual charm, of course) should calm any stormy waters and lay the groundwork for future commitments—that could lead to an infusion of cash in your bank account.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's perfectly okay to ask for the attention you deserve, and you are well within your rights to find out why they aren't giving it to you. The bottom line is that if you wish things were different.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Everyday items and common conversations will take on a heavier meaning today. You are entering a phase of life in which you'll possess a great deal of mental discernment;

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

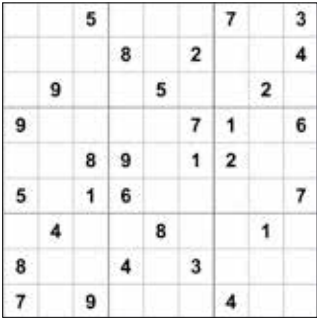
The events around you today will have a life of their own, and trying to shape them into a better form is going to be a big waste of your time -- so don't even try. Do not worry about being labeled a quitter.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

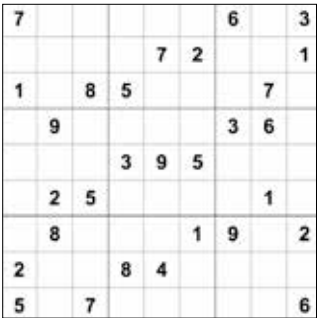


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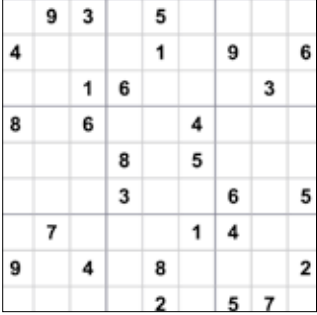
Easy



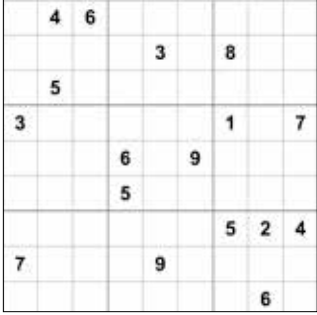
Easy+



Medium



Hard



WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
--	-----	-----	-----------

CHINA

Beijing	-1	13	clear/cloudy
Harbin	-6	12	clear
Tianjin	5	16	clear
Urumqi	-4	3	cloudy
Xi'an	5	13	overcast
Lhasa	-2	11	clear
Chengdu	7	11	drizzle
Chongqing	9	13	drizzle
Kunming	7	21	clear
Nanjing	2	12	cloudy/overcast
Shanghai	5	12	cloudy/overcast
Wuhan	7	11	overcast/drizzle
Hangzhou	4	14	clear/cloudy
Taipei	12	18	moderaterain
Guangzhou	13	16	heavyrain
Hong Kong	16	19	heavyrain

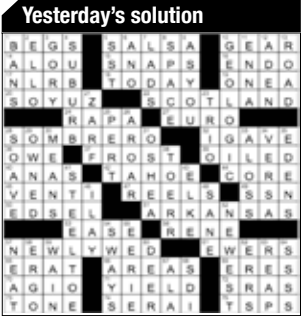
WORLD

Moscow	-3	6	flurry/drizzle
Frankfurt	6	13	drizzle
Paris	8	15	drizzle
London	6	13	cloudy/clear
New York	-7	1	flurry/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Scarf; 5- Complain; 9- Peruses; 14- Utah ski resort; 15- Jai ___; 16- Slippery as ___; 17- Drudge; 18- Tipplers; 19- Jazzy Chick; 20- Haunt; 22- Competence; 24- Language elements; 26- Philosopher ___-tzu; 27- Pledge; 30- Follow very closely; 35- I'm outta here!; 36- Many millennia; 37- Desires; 38- Call ___ day; 39- Most proximate; 42- Deteriorate; 43- 1994 Jodie Foster film; 45- Darn!; 46- Ralph of "The Waltons"; 48- Salutation; 50- Conical shelters; 51- Pendulum's path; 52- Painter's stand; 54- Person of great influence; 58- Continued a subscription; 62- Moral precept of conduct; 63- Take it easy; 65- Defense grp. since 1949; 66- Coeur d'___; 67- Sgts., e.g.; 68- ___ the night before Christmas...; 69- Model Cheryl; 70- Unit of loudness; 71- Bush alma mater;

DOWN: 1- Coarsely ground corn; 2- Moises of baseball; 3- Swizzle; 4- Corridor; 5- Barracks; 6- For all to hear; 7- Pied Piper follower; 8- Famous tower's city; 9- Pertaining to skin color; 10- Science of winemaking; 11- Ethereal; Prefix; 12- Insect-repelling chemical; 13- Kill; 21- Dubuque native; 23- Seventh heaven; 25- Where junk may be held; 27- Of Thee ___; 28- Unit just above a yard; 29- Norman Vincent ___; 31- Work without ___; 32- High home; 33- Govt. security; 34- ___ Park, Colo.; 36- Bring home; 40- Proclamation; 41- Twixt's partner; 44- Inclination; 47- Sufficiently; 49- Vestiges; 50- African fly; 53- Illegal firing; 54- Flesh; 55- King of the Huns; 56- Clarified butter; 57- Sea eagles; 59- Toddler's glassful; 60- List-shortening abbr.; 61- Prescribed amount; 64- Prefix with friendly;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

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

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

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Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

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HKD 7,378 sq ft
Three Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18105563

Taipa, Supreme Flower City
Macau
2060 sq ft / HKD 16.4 M
HKD 7,961 sq ft
Four Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 13105367

Sea View Condo, Hellene Garden
Macau
1,663 sq ft / HKD 8.8M
HKD 5,291 sq ft
Three Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18085559

Va Fat, Taipa Village
Taipa
638 sq ft / HKD 4.48 M
HKD 7,021 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 17085533

Taipa, Nam Long
Taipa
550 sq ft / HKD 4.08 M
HKD 7,418 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18095561

Coloane Village
Coloane
664 sq ft / HKD 4.25 M
HKD 6,404 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 16095490



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opinion

IF MARK CUBAN CAN RUN FOR PRESIDENT, WHO ELSE?

Tim Dahlberg, AP Sports Columnist

Mark Cuban is talking once again about running for president and this time no one is laughing — at least publicly — at the thought.

After all, if a billionaire reality TV star can be elected to the highest office in the land, what's to prevent a fellow billionaire and reality show star — and NBA team owner — from running the table in the electoral college himself?

Quite a bit, actually, if the owner of the Dallas Mavericks runs as an independent like he says he might. Presidents since the mid-1850s have been either Republicans or Democrats, and political pros say the idea of anyone winning as an independent is far-fetched, at best.

But the independent label appeals to Cuban, who believes President Donald Trump won in 2016 mostly because he wasn't a lifetime politician.

Jim Bunning was a Hall of Fame pitcher for the Phillies before he became a U.S. senator from Kentucky. George H.W. Bush was captain of the Yale baseball team, and Gerald Ford was a center on the Michigan football team in the 1930s. Ronald Reagan was a sports announcer early in his career and played The Gipper in the football movie "Knute Rockne, All American."

But what about sports figures of today, who might have name recognition but little else working in their favor. Could any of them find their way to the White House for something other than a title celebration?

Stranger things have happened, so let's look at a few team owners — and possible future owners — who might have Oval Office aspirations:

CUBAN: Unlike many potential candidates, the Mavs owner has some experience in going up against Trump. In 2012, the two billionaires got into a Twitter exchange over donations to help victims of Superstorm Sandy and Cuban said he would donate USD1 million to charity if Trump would shave his head. When Trump responded with insults, Cuban hit right back, saying he needed to do better. "This reminds me of when I used to pick on you when we were kids in Kenya," Cuban tweeted at Trump, who was at the time challenging Pre-

sident Barack Obama's birthplace.

JERRY JONES: He owns both America's team and Roger Goodell, which by itself makes Jones an attractive candidate. But he'll have to run on his record, and in the NFL it hasn't been great in recent years for Jones, whose Cowboys have won only three playoff games in the last 20 years. Still, imagine the parties in the Rose Garden should he be elected.

STEVE BALLMER: With a net worth of \$41 billion, the former Microsoft chief could solve a lot of the country's problems by himself. He's already started by founding USAFacts, which tracks data on the federal, state and local level to help politicians better understand financial issues in government. The only problem Ballmer can't seem to figure out is how to get the Clippers in the NBA Finals.

BILL FOLEY: He's the owner other owners love to hate. All Foley did was put the first major pro franchise in Las Vegas, then watch as his Golden Knights stormed into the Stanley Cup final in their first year of existence. After that, fixing the national debt shouldn't be a problem.

ROBERT KRAFT: Six Super Bowl rings, two trips to a massage parlor in Florida. As long as the video never surfaces, Kraft still has a shot at the biggest ring of them all.

LEBRON JAMES: The greatest player of his generation turns 35 in December, so he'll be eligible to run next year. James is socially active and not afraid to take a stand on issues, and by now he's got to be looking for a new challenge after a season of dragging his underachieving Lakers teammates up and down the court. But he's already the King, which might spark a bit of a constitutional crisis come inauguration day.

MANNY PACQUIAO: OK, he can't be the president of the United States, but like James he's made enough money to own a major sports team. And the sky is the limit in his native Philippines, where Pacquiao already serves as a senator while continuing his boxing career. President Duterte himself suggested at Pacquiao's 40th birthday party in December that the boxer might succeed him as president. And, unlike any of the others, Pacquiao actually has a chance.

SUPER RUGBY

Pressure at top and bottom of standings

Steve McMorran, Wellington

THE three leading teams in Super Rugby face challenging derby matches in the fourth round as interest focuses closely on the top and bottom of the standings.

The defending champion Crusaders, who are unbeaten after three rounds, face the winless Chiefs in New Zealand, and the Melbourne Rebels, who have two wins from two games, face the Canberra-based Brumbies for the second time this season.

In South Africa, the conference-leading Sharks (2-1) are at home in Durban to the Pretoria-based Bulls, who have the same record but are two bonus points behind on the ladder.

The Sharks made a bright start to the season with convincing wins over the Sunwolves and Auckland-based Blues, then faltered in an unexpected home loss last weekend to the Cape Town-based Stormers. The Bulls blitzed the Stormers in the opening round but lost in Buenos Aires to the Jaguares before rebounding with a convincing third-round win over the Johannesburg-based Lions.

The match between the Sharks and Bulls tomorrow shapes as the best of the fourth round, allowing one team to snatch the early initiative in the South African conference.

Bulls coach Pote Human hopes his team can recover the form it showed against the Stormers in round one.

"We didn't play well the next weekend in Argentina but delivered a much better effort last weekend, so I am confident we will be up for this one as well," he said. "The local derbies cer-



Sunwolves flanker Shuhei Matsushashi scores the opening try during the Super Rugby match between the Sunwolves and the Chiefs last week

tainly bring out the best in our teams so this will be a physical, hard-fought affair again."

The Sharks were outplayed up front by the Stormers last week and will need to improve in that area to beat the Bulls, who have a strong and physical pack.

"We're not happy with our performance as a pack against the Stormers," Sharks prop Juan Schoeman said. "We are looking to up the ante up front, especially at set piece as well as in the loose phases and even in the breakdown."

"The Stormers definitely brought it physically and they had the upper hand but that is in the past. Our focus is on the Bulls."

Matches between the Rebels and Brumbies are usually keenly anticipated but the anticipation of Friday's match has been dulled a little by the fact they met only three weeks ago when the Rebels won 34-27.

The Crusaders' clash with the Chiefs is also less enticing because the Crusaders are 3-0 and the Chiefs 0-3. The Chiefs look unlikely to break their winless streak this weekend after last weekend's shambolic loss at home to the Sunwolves,

which gave the Japan-based club its first ever win in New Zealand.

Chiefs coach Colin Cooper said he had been working hard to ensure there were not recriminations among players over the team's poor start to the season.

"[There's] been bit of finger pointing and soul searching and we're in a hole basically," he said. "It's uncomfortable, it's disappointing. So we got to look at how we can get out of that."

The poor starts to the season by the Chiefs and Blues focus attention on the bottom of the table, where they and the Queensland Reds are the only teams without a win so far.

After losses to the Crusaders, Sharks and Jaguares, the Blues desperately need to beat the Sunwolves in Tokyo tomorrow to put their season back on track. But the Auckland-based team, which has the largest player catchment of any New Zealand franchise, seem locked in the same rut that has seen it miss the playoffs in each of the last eight years.

The Reds, meanwhile, will be aiming to end a nine-match losing streak to archrival New South Wales. AP

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DEATH AND OTHER
WAYS TO MOTIVATE

Take a Master of Business Administration course, any under-graduate business degree or work-place leadership seminar and you will come across many theories on how to motivate employees.

Some presenters won't get around to explaining what employees are to be motivated to do because that's assumed to be understood. We all presume to want motivated employees because a motivated employee is supposed to be a good employee. Good, nice; words so imprecise as to be meaningless. And motivating employees just to be motivated is also meaningless.

Enter Adam Grant, a super-efficient and prolific academic at the University of Pennsylvania who as an organizational psychologist studies these things. As most psychologists, he works in his field partially to better understand himself.

He is the epitome of the motivated employee. He knows this because he can feel the drive from within and knows the quality of his work life experiences. The rest of us know it because of his outputs: the speed with which he completed his PhD, the vast number of peer-reviewed publications, the students trailing him who are never refused assistance.

His own motivator is helping people, and the rewards from doing so drive him to productivity and efficiency in a positive cycle of continuous reinforcement. Acknowledging that we are all driven differently, his gifts are in researching how employers can encourage their staff to be productive, and how employees can be satisfied in their jobs and careers. It is that link between processes and traits within the individual (such as the need to help) and the external (like productivity or efficiency) that he works with.

There is the usual list of motivators to help staff work hard, stay and be pleasant – good pay, a career path, managers that remove obstacles, empowerment, recognition, achievable goals – but there are some more quirky ones like service to others and giving at work. Think about how much better we are at taking care of the health of our pets than ourselves. There are those who wouldn't bother with a flu shot but can be encouraged if it's to protect the young or the elderly around them. A focus on others and reframing a task as helpful to someone else have been proven to be highly effective motivators, especially when there is feedback which says the worker is making a valuable contribution.

We can all draw upon incredible internal resources if we feel good about what we do.

Another unusual topic of interest to Grant in work-motivation is how our attitude towards death impacts us. Not a just carpe diem-type response of just doing it before time runs out, Grant's study with Duke University academic, Kimberly A. Wade-Benzoni, contemplates how different workers react to death awareness whether in response to personal crises, traumatic events, the aging process or via exposure to death through the very nature of their jobs, such as police, doctors, para-medics, and war correspondents.

In this view, there are two basic responses: death anxiety and death reflection. Death anxiety is an emotional experience of fear, anxiety and dread, and it triggers self-preservation. In the workplace, the immediate emotional stress can cause absenteeism, lateness and quitting, particularly when the event is work-related. Death reflection is more cognitive and longer-term where people think about the meaning of life and their place within it. It often results in caring behaviours, or even a career change or more volunteer work, depending on the value of work in their lives and their ability to shape it.

Not many employers are prepared to help staff who are dealing directly or vicariously with death events. Even fewer know how to encourage reflection and drive caring responses that might improve well-being and safety.

THE BUZZ MICHAEL COHEN SOUGHT TRUMP
PARDON, ATTORNEY SAYS

Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former lawyer, "directed his attorney" to explore a potential presidential pardon last year with Trump's legal team. That's according to a statement by Lanny Davis, Cohen's current attorney.

Davis' statement appears to contradict Cohen's public testimony before the House Oversight Committee last week. Cohen said under oath he never asked for, and would not

accept, a pardon from Trump.

Davis said yesterday that his client was "open to the ongoing 'dangling' of a possible pardon" after the FBI raided his home and hotel room in April. He said Cohen "directed his attorney" to explore a pardon.

The development was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Cohen was Trump's longtime personal lawyer and fixer.

Seoul sees increased vehicle movement at N. Korea's ICBM center

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

SOUTH Korea's military said yesterday it is carefully monitoring North Korean nuclear and missile facilities after the country's spy agency told lawmakers that new activity was detected at a research center where the North is believed to build long-range missiles targeting the U.S. mainland.

Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo said the U.S. and South Korean militaries are closely coordinating intelligence over the developments at the North's missile research center in Sanumdong on the outskirts of the capital, Pyongyang, and also at a separate long-range rocket site. She did not elaborate on what the developments were.

A lawmaker who attended a closed-door intelligence briefing told The Associated Press that National Intelligence Service director Suh Hoon said his agency had monitored increased vehicle movement at the Sanumdong facility. Suh said in the briefing earlier this week that vehicles were transporting supplies, but avoided specific answers when lawmakers pressed him on what they were for, the lawmaker said. The lawmaker requested



This satellite image shows the launch tower at the Sohae Satellite Launch Facility in Tongchang-ri, North Korea

anonymity because the information was sensitive.

Suh also told lawmakers that North Korea is restoring facilities at a rocket launch site in Tongchang-ri that it partially dismantled last year as part of disarmament steps, an assessment supported by private U.S. reports based on satellite imagery. While the NIS believes North Korea has not produced plutonium for nuclear weapons in months, signs of uranium use have been seen at an enrichment facility at North Korea's main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, the lawmaker said. The International Atomic Energy Agency provided a similar estimation in a recent report.

The revelations follow the collapse of talks in Vietnam last week between North Korean leader Kim Jong

Un and President Donald Trump over what the Americans said were excessive North Korean demands for sanctions relief in exchange for a limited offer to partially shutter the Yongbyon site.

It wasn't immediately clear how the findings might affect nuclear negotiations. The United States and North Korea accused each other of causing the breakdown of the talks in Vietnam, but both sides left the door open for future negotiations.

Some analysts said North Korea is apparently trying to convey displeasure over the summit's failure by creating an impression that it could resume missile or rocket tests. That would put pressure on Washington and Seoul, which has acted as a mediator, to make a deal, they said. AP

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



FRANCE Cardinal Philippe Barbarin said he will offer his resignation to Pope Francis, after a court found him guilty of failing to report allegations of sexual abuse of minors by a priest. The Lyon court's surprise decision was seen by alleged victims as a victory for child protection and a strong signal to the Catholic Church.



EU The European Central Bank took unexpectedly quick action to support a slowing economy, joining the U.S. Federal Reserve and Chinese leadership in their attempts to counter worries about global growth. The central bank for the eurozone pushed back the earliest date for an increase in interest rates from current record lows.



US The bull market for U.S. stocks turns 10 years old this weekend, which puts it way past senior citizen status for a market run. It's got the scars to prove it. Since rising from the rubble of the financial crisis in 2009, this bull market has faced several near-death experiences.



INTERNET After building a social network that turned into a surveillance system, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg says he's shifting his company's focus to messaging services designed to serve as fortresses of privacy. More on p14

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Dusan Vranic



Sacred land. The Karaite Jewish community, a tiny religious sect, is emerging as a major impediment for a controversial plan to connect modern Jerusalem and its historic Old City with a cable car network. The Karaite are concerned that the cable car will desecrate its ancient cemetery.