



LAWMAKERS LEAD CALL FOR POLICY CHANGE

As many as 600 people took to the streets calling for the gov't to rethink its controversial policy on mainland drivers in the SAR

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THE BIGGEST COMPETITION

India will hold elections next month with around 900 million voters deciding whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi will retain power

P13

SABRINA HO INVITES OUTSIDER INTO THE FAMILY



P20



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Mar 2019

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA is defending its often-criticized rule in Tibet 60 years after the Dalai Lama fled into exile amid an abortive uprising against Chinese control, saying those who question its policies are merely showing their anti-Chinese bias. [More on p10](#)

MALAYSIA Six Egyptians and a Tunisian man believed to be linked to an African-based terror group have been detained and deported. One of the Egyptians and the Tunisian national are suspected members of Ansar Al-Sharia Al-Tunisia, which is based in North Africa and listed as a terrorist group by the United Nations.

NORTH KOREA Millions of voters, including leader Kim Jong Un, went to the polls to endorse a new lineup of roughly 700 members for the next session of the national legislature. [More on p12](#)



KAZAKHSTAN Serikzhan Bilash, a prominent activist campaigning for the release of ethnic Kazakhs, (pictured) was caught in a sweeping crackdown on Muslims in China has been arrested in the Kazakh city of Almaty, his wife and a lawyer said yesterday. Leila Adilzhan said head of the advocacy group Atajurt, called her yesterday morning from a policeman's phone saying he had been arrested and had been taken to Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. [More on p10](#)

[More on backpage](#)

AP PHOTO

GAMING | MASSACHUSETTS

MGM pitches Red Sox deal in Wynn's backyard

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BLOOMBERG



STUDY

Officials inflate growth with promotion in mind

P9 CHINA

GAMING | MASSACHUSETTS

MGM signs deal with Red Sox, just miles from Wynn's encore

AP PHOTO



U.S. baseball team the Boston Red Sox have announced a multi-year agreement with MGM Resorts International that will see the casino operator's logo placed around Fenway Park, the sports team's home. The deal sets out that MGM Resorts will be the official and exclusive resort casino of the sports team.

The five-year deal signed with Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut, expired in 2018, the Boston Herald reports, paving the way open for another casino operator to have its name plastered around the baseball park.

MGM recently opened a casino in Springfield, Massachusetts, and the nearby sponsorship agreement will grant the operator the chance to advertise to millions of Red Sox fans as it gears up for online sports betting.

Also in the vicinity is an under-construction luxury resort being developed by U.S. rival Wynn Resorts. The USD2.6-billion Encore Boston Harbor will be situated just a few miles away from the baseball park, in Everett.

The Boston Herald reported that a Wynn Resorts spokesperson declined to comment on whether it bid for the sponsorship deal.

"Combining the two iconic brands

of the Red Sox and MGM Resorts will create a new one-of-a-kind fan experience for baseball fans unique to not only New England and MGM Springfield but the rest of the country," said MGM Resorts chairman.

"This is such a natural partnership for our two brands, said Red Sox president Sam Kennedy, according to a press release. "MGM has set the standard in the hospitality and entertainment industry and their recent expansion into the Commonwealth makes them a clear partner. We are thrilled to

welcome them to the Red Sox family and look forward to a long collaboration."

Clyde Barrow of the University of Texas, who researches gambling policy, told the newspaper that the biggest differentiating factor was that MGM's Massachusetts resort is already open, while Encore is still under construction.

"The biggest factor is that MGM is open and Encore isn't. The second is that MGM has casinos across the U.S. and from the Sox's perspective, that means bigger bucks. MGM is well positioned for sports betting and will have a lead over Encore when they do open."

"Wynn as a company appeals to a different class of gamblers, quite literally," added Barrow. "Their marketing depends on whales that fly in from Macau and China. That's not to say they're not baseball fans, it's just a different clientele." **DB**

Carl Icahn boosts stake in Caesars by 50 percent

Apollo Global Management LLC and TPG Capital, the two private equity giants that controlled Caesars Entertainment Corp. for a decade, sold half their stake in the casino operator.

Apollo and TPG sold about 36.7 million shares of the Las Vegas-based company to a third party, according to a regulatory filing Friday. Hamlet Holdings, their holding company, now owns about 5.7 percent of the stock.

The news coincided with a filing by billionaire Carl Icahn, who reported that he boosted his stake by 50 percent to become Caesars' largest individual shareholder. Icahn said entities related to him purchased 38.9 million shares at around \$8.50 each, giving him a 15.5 percent stake.

Icahn, an investor known for bargain hunting and corporate activism, began actively acquiring shares earlier this year. On March 1, Caesars negotiated an agreement with Icahn that gave him three seats on the board. **DB/Bloomberg**

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

TOTAL DOG HEALTH: THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

Complete dog health is a combination of key elements including nutrition, supplementation, and preventatives. Not only do these key elements integral to your dog's overall health, but they also promote vitality, mental stability, and overall well-being. Secondary aspects of dog health include remedies and treatments. Remedies such as aromatherapy and herbalism can aid in easing symptoms of hundreds of conditions and treatments such as massage, acupuncture, and hydrotherapy can help dogs stay healthy physically and mentally.

Dog nutrition

Good dog nutrition is one of the best ways to avoid a number of common conditions such as constipation, diarrhoea, allergies, chronic skin conditions, frequent stomach upsets, bad breath, ear infections, hyperactivity, anxiousness, aggressiveness, and anxiety, to name a few. To avoid common dog conditions the best thing you can do for your dog is to avoid low-quality, low-nutrition, commercial dog food and buy high-quality products with a 40/50/10 ratio. This means, 40% meat, 50% veggies, and 10% carbohydrate. It is also important to avoid dog foods that use by-products as well

as preservatives such as BHT, BHA, and Ethoxyquin. Choose premium brand foods as they do not contain fillers, by-products or harmful chemical preservatives. They contain 100% natural and nutritious human-grade ingredients. Add bulking agents to the diet, such as bran, pumpkin, or methylcellulose, can help prevent constipation as well. In addition to feeding your dog a balanced, high-quality diet, you should:

- always provide fresh water
- keep them away from trash and bones
- avoid feeding them table scraps

Dog supplementation

Dog supplements can be a great benefit to your pet in the long-run. No matter how healthy a type of dog food may be, not all dog food contains all of the vitamins and minerals your dog needs. Antioxidants, in particular, are important for optimal dog health for several reasons. Antioxidants have healing properties, they assist the body's natural defense mechanism and in turn boost the immune system, and they decrease the effects of free radicals. The best dog supplements should contain vitamins A, C and E, and vitamins B, B1, B2, B3,

B5, B6 and B12.

Dog preventatives

Besides feeding your dog a balanced diet and supplements, exercise is one of the most important ways to help prevent a number of common conditions. Just a few common dog conditions include heart problems and obesity. Exercise can even prevent emotional problems. Exercise also promotes joint health, healthy bones, bone density, and even self confidence. Walking, running, fetching/catching, and swimming are all excellent exercises for dogs. Several 15 minute walks per day might be plenty for some dogs, such as pugs, while playing at the dog park for an hour or so with other dogs may be just what a large dog needs. No matter what size or breed your dog may be, some exercise is always better than no exercise at all.

Oral health

Oral health is one of the most neglected aspects of dog health. Unfortunately, when you neglect your dog's dental health, you open the door to a number of preventable health issues. In addition to the usual suspects such as bad breath gingivitis, and



periodontal disease, poor oral hygiene can lead to tonsillitis, pharyngitis (sore throat), kidney infections, and infections involving the heart valves. To ward off diseases related to poor oral health, brush your dog's teeth regularly and see your vet for regular check-ups and cleanings.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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BLOOMBERG



ILLEGAL DRIVERS

600 march against mutual license recognition scheme

Renato Marques

AS many as 600 people marched the streets of Macau on Saturday afternoon calling on the government and Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On to withdraw a scheme that grants mutual recognition of driver licenses between Macau and the mainland.

The New Macau Association was joined at the demonstration by the Macao Community Development Initiative, counting lawmakers Ng Kuok

Cheong and Au Kam San.

According to the organizers, about 600 people marched in the direction of the government's headquarters to deliver a petition to the CE. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) estimated that there were about 440 people at the peak of the demonstration.

In a statement to the media, the PSP noted that the demonstration ran in a peaceful and orderly manner and that the participants expressed their complaints.

The route started at Vasco

da Gama Garden and led to the government's headquarters, with the group of protestors bearing flags and banners calling on the CE to abandon the scheme.

The protestors cited fears of a rise in cases related to illegal drivers and an exponential growth in the number of drivers from the mainland permitted to drive in the region. They said that the scheme would contribute to more traffic concerns and more accidents that might endanger those living in Macau.

Speaking to TDM, New Macau-backed lawmaker Sulu Sou reaffirmed that drivers from the mainland should be subjected to a local driving examination in order to be able to drive in Macau.

The lawmaker called for restrictions to be implemented, using as an example the circulation of local vehicles in Hengqin Island, opened by mainland authorities for just for a few vehicles and subject to specific restrictions. In the same way, Sou believes that the driving licenses recog-

nition scheme should be gradually introduced in the same way that mainland authorities have dealt with Hengqin.

In agreement with Sou, lawmaker Ng argued that the system should not be reciprocal. He called for the agreement to grant the right to drive in the mainland to Macau locals, but that those from the mainland should only use public transportation when in Macau, as the region is too small to cope with the growing number of drivers and vehicles.

Consultation on alcohol age restriction expected in April

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has proposed that the minimum age for the purchase of alcohol be set at 18 years old, as announced at a press conference on Friday. The bill to be discussed proposes penalties for the sale or supply of alcohol to minors.

The relevant legislative consultation is expected to be carried out in the second half of this year, according to Lam Chong, head of the bureau's Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

During the consultation, the SSM will hear society's opinions on the definition of alcohol.

The practicalities of the bill are still awaiting discussion

by the relevant industry bodies and the public. These include requirements for the presentation of identification when buying alcohol.

The legislation proposal further suggests banning sales and advertising of alcohol to underage children.

According to a survey conducted in Macau, nearly 80 percent of middle school students interviewed had had experiences with alcohol. Eight percent have over-drunk and 1.6 percent said they had become drunk.

According to another survey conducted in 2016, the median age of initial alcohol consumption for Macau youth is 15.75 years

old, and 41 percent of respondents were drunk for the first time before age 15.

The youth interviewed also consumed alcohol on average 6.35 times per month, with some drinking as often as 40 times per month.

The youngest child who had consumed alcohol was 4 years old, according to the 2016 survey.

In most countries around the world, the legal age for alcohol purchase is between 16 and 21 years old.

The SSM said that the bureau has already studied the policies of other countries and regions regarding age limits for the purchase of alcohol. **JZ**

Commission finalizes ballot paper design for CE election

THE basic design of the ballot papers for the Chief Executive Election Committee member poll will remain mostly the same as the layout used in the 2014 election.

According to the Electoral Affairs Commission for the Chief Executive Election, it has finalized the basic ballot paper design to be used at the polls. Although the basic design will remain mostly the same, the paper will be different from that used in 2014.

On Saturday, the commission president Song Man Lei told reporters that the commission would streng-

then measures to prevent counterfeiting, and thus optimize the security of the ballot process, as cited in a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau.

Song said that the "commission paid great attention to protecting personal data."

The commission said that the optimization of ballot papers and electronic vote counting would ensure a smooth polling process for the Chief Executive Election Committee.

It pledged to balance fulfilling its obligations on the protection of personal data, and allowing people to campaign for nomi-

nations.

The Chief Executive Election Committee election, which will elect most of the committee's members, has been set for June 16.

The 400-member committee will subsequently elect a new Chief Executive.

According to the bureau, the meeting also discussed diversifying the communication and promotional channels used to explain the 2019 Chief Executive Election processes.

The commission also discussed issues, including a request for candidates for the committee to provide their contact information. **LV**

Overpass planned for Amizade roundabout

The Advisory Committee has supported the plan to build an overpass at Amizade roundabout. During a meeting on Friday, the committee discussed two plans for the overpass and decided to adopt the plan that proposed a four-month period for completion of the bridge. The director of the Transport Bureau, Lam Hin San said that the project, once it starts being implemented, will be completed in two construction phases. Lam also claimed that there were lots of difficulties in designing the overpass, including its height and ensuring the safety of drivers, especially motorbike drivers.

Casino smoking inspections double in first two months

In the first two months of 2019, the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau conducted a total of 428 casino inspections for illegal smoking. The figure is over double the number of inspections during the same period last year. In January and February, the SSM issued 1,032 prosecutions, 1,026 for illegal smoking and six for sales of non-compliant tobacco products. Of the illegal smoking prosecutions, 30 percent were regarding smoking in casinos and 16 percent were prosecuted in gardens. As of last Thursday, the SSM received 35 applications from casinos applying to set up 578 smoking lounges. Licensing has been approved for 460 of these lounges from 28 casinos.

Lisbon university awards Tam with honoris causa

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam was awarded with a doctor honoris causa by the University of Lisbon for his "commitment" to the development of Portuguese language teaching in the SAR. Director of the Institute of Education at the University of Lisbon Luís Miguel Carvalho highlighted the official's involvement in the reformation of the city's educational policies, according to reports. Carvalho described Tam as "a person particularly committed to the development of Portuguese language teaching and learning in Macau." The director also recalled Tam's initiative in creating a degree in Portuguese at the Macau Polytechnic Institute.

ARTS

Poetry bridges to take center stage at Script Road

Renato Marques

FOR the first time, The Script Road – Macau Literary Festival has chosen a central theme for this year's program – poetry – which kicks off this week. The organizers revealed the theme during yesterday's press conference and program launch. In its eighth year and under new leadership, the festival will run over ten days.

During the press conference at the Livraria Portuguesa, Program Director Carlos Morais José noted that this is the first time the festival has been run under a central theme. "Now that we have a theme we decided to start by poetry," he said, remarking on how poetry can work itself as a universal language, followed and used by everyday people independent of whichever communication code or language they use.

"Every person, even every small 'tribe', has its own poetry," he said, recalling that poetry is also a significant part of both Chinese and Portuguese culture, as well as in Portuguese-speaking countries. "Through poetry, we can create bridges. And not just any bridges, beautiful bridges."

During the event, poets from Portuguese-speaking countries, Macau and China will talk about their work, and provide perspectives on the current state of poetry production and the role of the art form in the contemporary world.

The festival also celebrates important milestones. This year Walt Whitman and Herman Melville's 200th birthdays will be celebrated, as well as Jorge de Sena and Sophia de Mello Breyner's 100th birthdays, and Macanese poet José dos Santos Ferreira's (Adé).

RENATO MARQUES



Carlos Morais José (left), Alice Kok (center) and Ricardo Pinto

A special programme on Adé has been prepared, to highlight the work of a man who did not let Macau's original dialect Patuá die and brought it to life in many forms, such as theatrical performances which persist today and have gained momentum in the last few years thanks to the group Dóci Papiçám di Macau, which is also celebrating its 25th anniversary.

"I would like to underline this event [held in collaboration with Dóci Papiçám di Macau] which allows a very rare opportunity [for the public] to listen to poetry recited in the Patuá dialect," said Morais José.

Previously, the director of the festival, Ricardo Pinto, had announced that among several book launches planned for this year was also a Macanese Patuá dictionary.

Another of this year's festival novelties is the use of different venues, namely Navy Yards 1 and 2 and the Wing Lok (Alegria) Cinema, among others.

Aside from several exhibitions and other events, the Navy Yards will be the stage for Macau-based theatre group "Rolling Puppets," who will present their puppet-theatre show "Drug," a renewed adaptation of Lu Xun's 1919 novel of the same name. The show will be performed over the last three days of the festival.

Another highlight is "Maritime Ode" by Pedro Lamares, a long poem that will be entirely recited during the festival.

The long poem is considered central to the work of Álvaro de Campos, one of the poet Fernando Pessoa's various heteronyms, and is seen as

a masterpiece of Portuguese poetry.

Moreover, a series of events will run on March 21 in celebration of World Poetry Day, with organizer Alice Kok saying the event will include multilingual activities such as poetry recital, music and dancing in the relaxed environment of Tak Chun Macau Art Garden.

Music will once again be part of the festival, featuring Salvador Sobral, Portugal's 2017 Eurovision Singing Contest winner, who on his first visit to Macau will perform at The Broadway Theatre, on March 17 from 9 p.m. Taiwanese band Wednesday & Bad to the Bone will close the festival, playing at the closing party at Live Music Association on March 24 from 10:30 p.m.

Young women less inclined than men to want children

LOCAL women between 26 and 35 years old have a lower inclination to want to have children than their male counterparts, according to a recent survey by the Macau Women's Association.

The association interviewed 1,309 local

women between 26 and 35 years old in January. Most of the respondents were married, with two children or fewer.

Most respondents felt that the lack of living space was primarily responsible for the decline in childbearing intentions, followed

by economic and personal factors such as high childrearing expenses, occupational demands, insufficient time for taking care of children and parenting problems.

The survey concluded that women's childbearing intentions were significantly lower

than those of men. Women believed they faced obstacles such as having insufficient time to live, increased social competition, a lack of parent-child facilities, concerns about having children, loss of freedom, among other factors.

The results also

showed 70 percent of respondents thought the government was providing insufficient support for families with children. Respondents thought the government should increase housing supply.

More than 65 percent of respondents believe that having two children is the most ideal situation.

Overall, childbearing intention is at a low to moderate level, the association concluded. **JZ**



HIP-HOP DANCE CREW JABBAWOCKEEZ'S SHOW PREMIERE A GREAT SUCCESS AT MGM COTAI

MGM COTAI presents a dance show like no other to Macau audiences, fulfilling its commitment to the community to help the city grow into a tourism and entertainment destination. Residents enjoy a 25% discount while tourists can get hold of very attractive packages

DEVELOPED to drive greater product diversification and bring more advanced and innovative forms of entertainment to Macau as it grows as a global tourist destination, MGM COTAI offers Asia's first dynamic theater and a spectacle to wow every guest who steps foot in the resort. Kicking off an extraordinary lineup of performance extravaganza and celebrating its legacy of artistry and entertainment, MGM is bringing Macau locals and tourists the world-famous Hip-Hop dance crew Jabbawockeez's first-ever Macau residency show this month. The show's premiere on March 2nd was already a huge success and received overwhelmingly positive response from the audience!

Billed as one of the world's most influential dance crews, the Jabbawockeez mesmerizes and entertains audiences with their energetic mix of various contemporary choreography to deliver a show tailored for the MGM Theater in MGM COTAI this month. Asia's first dynamic theater can seat up to 2,000 people in more than 10 different configurations. Its every detail has been carefully selected to ensure the greatest entertainment experience for all guests. Designed by Sceno Plus, a world leading performance arts and entertainment design firm, it is the world's first theater to offer 28 million pixel of viewing pleasure to its audience by utilizing a giant 900-square-metre 4K LED screen, which is the world's largest permanent indoor LED screen with the size of three tennis courts combined.

Part of the first wave of residency shows of innovative and unparalleled experiences in 2019, MGM is bringing the Jabbawockeez all the way from their current residency performing at MGM Grand Las Vegas. Working and

performing with the likes of Bruno Mars, Taylor Swift, Pharrell, Black Eyed Peas, Tiësto and more, they are best known for their signature plain white masks and synchronized dancing. Whenever they are performing anywhere in the world, their tickets are sold out in seconds! It is always difficult to get their tickets anywhere!

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME

The history of the dance crew started out in United States, specifically at Sacramento, California. Members Phil "Swagger Boy" Tayag, Kevin "KB" Brewer, and Joe "Punkee" Larot named themselves "Three Muskee." Paying tribute to 1970s San Francisco's "Medea Sirkas," they began to wear gloves and masks. Later on, Gary "Gee One" Kendall and Randy "DJ Wish One" BernaAAAAA, active dancers of "MindTricks" in San Francisco Bay Area became friends with "Three Muskee." After members Tayag, Brewer, and Larot moved to San Diego, the group evolved into Jabbawockeez.

The crew got its name from "Jabberwocky," a poem by Lewis Carroll about killing a creature named "the Jabberwock." In 2004, the original team had 7 members- Gary, Randy, Phil, Kevin, Joe, Ryan, and Chris. Additional members were added through auditions. Their style of dance is essentially popping and b-boying, synchronizing to a self-created instrument, "Beat-Kune-Do," inspired by Bruce Lee's martial art style.

A world-famous dance crew who first gained fame during their national television appearance on America's Got Talent in 2006 before winning the MTV Hip-Hop reality series, Randy Jackson Presents America's Best Dance Crew

(ABDC) in March 2008, Jabbawockeez is the most notable group to come out of the MTV reality series, synonymous with the show and universally recognized as America's true best dance crew. JABBAWOCKEEZ - true to yourself, gives the audience an up-close-and-personal performance with MGM Theater's state-of-the-art audio, visual and lighting technology.

DANCE LANGUAGE

With their core belief in dance being a universal language, the crew showcases their talent and skills strictly through dance, hiding their faces behind the mask to break through the barriers of race, gender and age.

They use their signature plain white masks and gloves to guide the audience's attention away from individual identities and towards a unified group. Known for their creativity, one-of-a-kind choreography, athleticism and intricate synchronization, each member brings a different technique and perspective to form the original style that makes the Jabbawockeez so distinct. Bringing dance to the forefront of entertainment, JABBAWOCKEEZ - true to yourself takes guests on a musical journey unlike any other.

Jabbawockeez performs throughout March, Wednesday through Sunday, in the intimate MGM Theater at MGM COTAI. Tickets to this highly anticipated show are priced at MOP388, MOP488, MOP588, and MOP988. To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao SAR, Macau residents may enjoy 25% off standard ticket price. Students can show their student ID and receive 30% off. M life member can also get 5%-20% off according to their card tier.



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Tickets are available for purchase at the concierge counter at Grande Praça, MGM MACAU, and the Box Office at MGM Theater, MGM COTAI, by phone at (853) 8802-3853 and online at tickets.mgm.mo

FORUM

MDT/China-Lusophone Brief via Macauhub

Putting Cape Verde on the map



VISITOR numbers to Cape Verde are continuing to grow year-on-year but there are fears that the focus on all-inclusive hotels restricts the development of local restaurants, cafes and other tourist sector businesses. The industry is the most important part of the economy, accounting for about a fifth of gross domestic product and has helped to transform Cape Verde into a middle-income country.

The country has many of the same attractions as other island destinations in the form of sun, sea and sand, but its location and climate give it warm weather year-round, while its political stability encourages foreign investment.

Although there are some hiking routes, far too little has been done to promote the stunning mountainous landscape of the island interiors. The varied sea life, including nesting turtles, offers another attraction. The windy conditions for large parts of the year can deter some, although this is an advantage for some sports. Flights take about five hours from much of western Europe and there is little jet lag because it lies in the same time zone as the U.K.

Macauhub reported in late February that the country's hotels hosted 765,000 visitors in 2018, with 4.9 million bed nights. These represent 6.8 percent and 7.4 percent increases respectively on the

same period in 2017. Bed nights are the standard industry measurement of accommodation volume and simply refer to the number of nights' accommodation per person.

The government hopes to boost visitor numbers above one million by 2020. The United Nations World Tourism Organization forecasts that the number of tourists visiting African countries will increase from 54 million in 2015 to 134 million by 2030 but there is certainly a lot of interest in Cape Verde specifically. Research by the Global Travel Search Index found that Cape Verde was the second most popular tourism destination search for Google users in 2017, behind Barcelona but ahead of Amsterdam.

More than 80 percent of all visitors come from Europe. More tourists come from the U.K. than anywhere else, with British visitors accounting for 30.2 percent of all bed nights, followed by Germany (12.1 percent), the Netherlands (11.2 percent), France (8.1 percent) and Portugal (7.4 percent).

It will be particularly interesting to see how well the country can target the Brazilian market. With a common language and flight times as short as four hours, Latin America's most populous country could prove an important source of visitors.

NEW HOTELS

Having attracted the attention of big international tour operators,

including Thomas Cook and TUI, the number of hotel rooms in the country nearly doubled in recent years, from 5,891 in 2010 to 11,435 in 2016.

In November 2018, Riu Hotels opened the 70-million-euro (MOP636 million) Riu Palace Boa Vista, its fifth hotel in the country and third on the island of Boa Vista. The five-star hotel has 505 rooms, giving Riu a total of 3,480 rooms in the country, with about 2,500 employees and 235,000 visitors a year.

"Cape Verde has been a unique experience. We faced all kinds of logistical and infrastructure challenges there, which we tackled using our accumulated experience and Cape Verde's own determination to develop its tourist industry," said Luis Riu, the chief executive of Riu Hotels. "We can now say that we have an excellent professional team, who more than make up for their lack of experience with their enthusiasm and appetite for learning."

Macau businessman David Chow is still keen to develop a tourist complex at Gamboa and the Islet of Santa Maria at a cost of USD250 million (MOP2.02 billion). It is to include a hotel, casino and convention center but although construction work is underway, progress on the venture has stalled since it was unveiled in 2015.

The mayor of Praia Óscar Santos announced in February that

an 85-million-euro hotel complex would be developed at Gamboa beach but said that it was not the same project as David Chow's scheme. It is being financed by Cape Verdean and British investors, although they have not been named.

DIVERSIFICATION

The industry could benefit from some accommodation diversification, as it is currently overly dependent on big hotel chains. A total of 89.3 percent of tourist bed nights were spent in hotels, with bed and breakfasts attracting 3 percent, tourist villages 2.9 percent and guest houses 2.6 percent. However, smaller establishments

are more likely to be locally-owned and so a higher proportion of the revenue they generate stays in the country. Most of the managers at the big hotels are Europeans.

Many hotel visitors stay on an all-inclusive basis and so spend relatively little money in shops, cafes and restaurants outside their hotels. Flights to the islands are expensive for independent tourists who do not want a package experience, partly because the holiday companies that fly tourists to the all-inclusive resorts are reluctant to supply visitors for independent hotels.

There is also some scope to spread visitors over a wider area, as the island of Sal attracted 55.1 percent of all bed nights and Boa Vista 36.3 percent in the first nine months of 2018.

The government has identified the cruise ship market as one of the best methods of achieving this. In August, the national port operator, Enapor, launched a tender for the contract to project manage the construction of São Vicente cruise terminal, including a tourist village with shops and restaurants.

The terminal, which will have two berths, is expected to cost 29 million euros to develop, of which the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' Fund for International Development will provide 16 million euros, with the Orio Fund of the Netherlands providing 10 million euros in donor support. The Cape Verdean government will contribute the remaining 3 million euros.

The government has changed the focus of its revenue raising activities. In January, it introduced an airport security fee of up to 3,400 escudos (MOP280) on visitors arriving by plane in January, but simultaneously lifted its short stay visa requirements on visitors from the European Economic Area, which comprises the 28 member states of the European Union, plus four other European states. Visitors to Cape Verde from the EEA no longer need visas for stays of up to 30 days.

It remains to be seen whether the changes will be revenue positive for government finances, but the big winners from the switch will be cruise ship visitors who will not be required to pay either fee.



OBSTACLES TO EXPANSION

One of the biggest shadows over the archipelago's tourism prospects in recent years was the fate of Cabo Verde Airlines. There was some doubt over the national carrier's ability to sustain its operations but its internal flight services have now been spun off. Given Cape Verde's location and the domination of the state-owned airline in connecting the islands to the rest of the world, its financial health is of huge concern.

A subsidiary of Icelandair Group, Loftleidir, announced at the end of February that it had bought a 51 percent stake in Cabo Verde Airlines via its offshoot Loftleidir Cabo Verde. Apart from operating services between European airports and the archipelago it hopes to develop the islands as a hub connecting different continents. The government of Cape Verde expects to sell its remaining 49 percent equity in the airline at a later date.

The government has tried to promote a positive environmental image, including by aiming to become one of the first countries in the world to rely on renewables for 100 percent of its power generation. As well as being environmentally sustainable, such an approach acts as a good tourist sector marketing strategy.

However, local NGOs have also complained about the build-up

of rubbish, particularly disused plastic, on the shores. The government has drawn up plans to ban single use plastic bags but a large proportion of the plastic on the country's beaches comes from other countries. There have also been reports in the country that sand has been removed from many beaches to sell to the construction industry.

There has been some concern over many years that international hotel chains were benefitting too much from the growing industry and the Cape Verdean government too little. At the same time, the industry places some strain on domestic power and water supplies. According to press reports in the country, only 58 percent of the population of Boa Vista has access to a modern toilet. Moreover, some hotel employees live in informal housing because travel times are too great for them to commute from their homes.

At the Forum de l'Investissement Hôtelier Africain conference in Marrakesh in February, one industry executive remarked that "economic stability and growth, combined with improved international links, could present a golden scenario," but warned "water supply, electricity distribution, internet connection and road networks remain the major constraints for further expansion of the sector."

HONG KONG

Central bank steps in to defend peg for first time since August

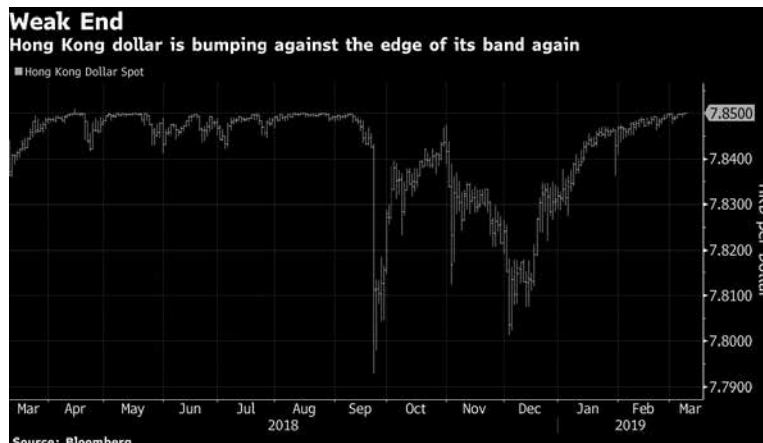
Tian Chen
& Katherine Greifeld

HONG Kong's de facto central bank bought the local dollar for the first time since August after the city's exchange rate fell to the weak end of its trading band against the greenback.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority bought HKD1.507 billion (USD192 million) of local currency during London and New York trading hours, it said in a statement Saturday.

The main reason for the currency's decline was a significant widening in the interest rate gap between the Hong Kong and U.S. dollars, HKMA Deputy Chief Executive Howard Lee said in the statement. He said it wouldn't be surprising if the Hong Kong dollar again weakened to the bottom of its trading band, and the HKMA "stands ready" to defend the currency.

Abundant liquidity in the currency market, weak demand for loans and a lack of large-scale initial public offerings in Hong Kong have also contributed to the rate gap, Lee said.



Lower interest rates relative to the greenback have made shorting the Hong Kong dollar a lucrative trade. The HKMA, which needs to buy the currency at 7.85 per dollar to defend the trading band, intervened last year for the first time since 2005 at the weak side of the band.

Continued purchases by the authority would tighten liquidity, which may drive up borrowing costs in the city. The HKMA's actions last year saw the aggregate balance, a measure of interbank liquidity, shrink by more than half. The balance stood at

HKD76.3 billion on Friday, and will decline to HKD74.8 billion after the intervention.

"Reserve levels have been built up significantly over the past decade and the HKMA still has an ample amount of reserves to defend the USD/HKD range for now," said Bipan Rai, head of North American foreign-exchange strategy at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. "It'll likely be tested a few times, which may see further intervention. But any talk of the peg giving way is an extreme long shot." **Bloomberg**

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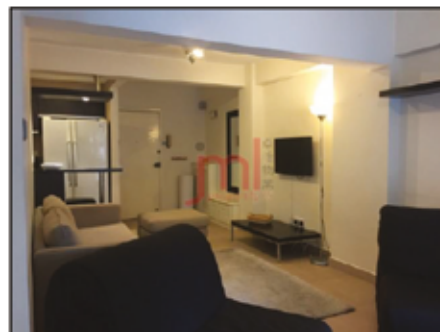


Vila Taipa

(Ref: 19010698)

800 sq.ft. HKD 12,500

Located the historical and popular area of Old Taipa, this bright cozy apartment has 2 bedrooms & 2 shower rooms with open kitchen/ living area. Built in balcony off the main bedroom with views to Taipa Village and Galaxy. Convenient for all types of transportation, within walking distance to Taipa Center and Cotai.



Apartment J, Nam Long

(Ref: 17110658)

720 sq.ft. HKD 12,300

Super one bedroom apartment with large L shape living / dining area. Small balcony but big enough to enjoy a meal for two. Galley style kitchen with large 90" oven and US style fridge/freezer. This unique modern property is located a stones throw from CuppaCoffee it's the perfect home for one or two people. Available from early March 2018



Camellia Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 17020639)

1,663 sq.ft. HKD 14,000

Lovely three bedroom apartment. All bedrooms are doubles, one with en suite shower room. Good layout with spacious living/dining area and small balcony. Modern kitchen with plenty of storage and large enough for second dining table. Simply furnished throughout with one car park included in the asking price.

FOR SALE



Taipa, Nam Long

(Ref: 18095561)

550 sq.ft. HKD 4.08 M

Rate: HKD 7,418

Fully renovated apartment with a bright street view situated on the edge of the popular Taipa Village. The original two bed layout has been converted into a large one bedroom configuration that can easily turn back into two. Great investment apartment.



Pacifica - Perfect Locality Taipa

(Ref: 19015575)

948 sq.ft. HKD 10.88 M

Rate: HKD 11,485

Rarely on the market this super apartment makes the most fabulous home, and in such a convenient location. Two double bedrooms with an ensuite bathroom off the master and shower room for the guest double and single bedrooms.



Taipa, Supreme Flower City

(Ref: 13105367)

2060 sq.ft. HKD 16.4 M

Rate: HKD 7,961

The large living spaces in Supreme are very popular with families thanks to the amount of natural light, the high ratio of usable area and the generous room sizes. This 4 bedroom / 2 bathroom apartment has recently been renovated.



Ocean Garden Elm Court

(Ref: 18105563)

1,610 sq.ft. HKD 11.88 M

Rate: HKD 7,378

A beautiful modern stylish apartment in the popular Ocean Garden complex in Taipa. A fabulous family or first time buyer home. Clubhouse facilities which include a gymnasium, outdoor pool, function rooms etc. can be used under a monthly membership.



Sea View Condo, Hellene Gardens

(Ref: 18085559)

1663 sq.ft. HKD 7.95 M

Rate: HKD 4,780

This lovely 3-bedroom apartment features two balconies with breathtaking views of the South China Sea and the beautiful green hillside, where you will awaken to stunning sunrises. Recently renovated, the apartment also features a luxuriously spacious open kitchen with white cabinets, bar counter and high quality, European appliances.



Hellene Gardens, Carnation Court B Unit, Mid Floor

(Ref: 19025577)

1,663 sq.ft. HKD 8.8 M

Rate: HKD 5,291

Super apartment with fabulous views. Three bedroom standard layout however the kitchen has been made larger by opening the store room and making it open plan. Tenanted until October this year. Viewings can be made in advance. Asking price including one parking space.



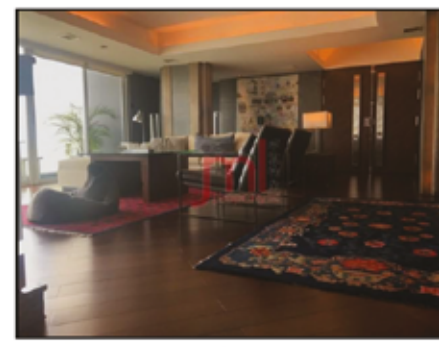
Sakura Court, Ocean Gardens, Taipa

(Ref: 19015576)

3,700 sq.ft. HKD 32 M

Rate: HKD 8,648

Popular residential building in Ocean Gardens with stunning views across the estuary to Macau mainland. This apartment has two car parks also for sale at an additional asking price HKD 1.5 million each.



Choi Long Meng Chui, Taipa

(Ref: 18045555)

3,398 sq.ft. HKD 17.8M

Rate: HKD 5,238

Fabulous apartment with stunning open views across to Macau. Originally four bedrooms converted to three bedrooms with three bathrooms, two en suite. State of the art open plan kitchen with entertainment counter and plenty of room for casual dining, built in appliances with a separate utility area. The open plan dining area at the back of the property has another balcony with a view of the original University of Macau. Two parking spaces (one covered and the other open).

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China's GDP growth pace was inflated for nine years, study finds

CHINA over-reported its economic growth between 2008 and 2016 by an average of 1.7 percentage points, according to a recent study by researchers at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Chicago.

The discrepancy came from local governments who are rewarded for meeting growth and investment targets, the authors say in a draft paper published by the Brookings Institution. The Beijing-based National Bureau of Statistics, knowing such manipulation well, has been adjusting the local numbers but hasn't done so sufficiently since 2008, authors Wei Chen, Xilu Chen, Chang-Tai Hsieh and Zheng Song wrote.

"Local statistics increasingly misrepresent the true numbers after 2008, but there was no corresponding change in the adjustment made by the NBS," they wrote. They instead use numbers such as tax revenue, satellite night lights, electricity consumption,

railway cargo flow, exports and imports - less likely to be fudged, to predict the actual gross domestic product of the world's second largest economy.

The revised numbers "indicate that the slowdown in Chinese growth since 2008 is more severe than suggested by the official statistics," they wrote.

China's NBS didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

China's GDP has long been criticized for either over- or under-estimating growth, or for smoothing out the fluctuations in real economic activities. Local authorities, eager to achieve economic growth goals so as to improve their own chances of promotion, used to report regional GDP figures that when summed would be more than 10 percent larger than the official national figure.

In recent years, the national authority has cracked down on fudging statistics by collecting data directly from firms, naming

and shaming officials as well as setting up a specific inspection arm. The head of the statistics bureau claimed last year that the problems were all in the past, and from 2019, it will start to compute GDP for the 31 domestic regions.

Tom Orlik, chief economist for Bloomberg Economics and author of "Understanding China's Economic Indicators" says he is "cautious" about the paper's conclusions.

The NBS has made "determined efforts" to squeeze out the impact of local exaggeration since the 1990s, and the argument that local officials have overstated investment is hard to square with the well-known narrative that China's capital spending rose too much, he wrote. The authors base their estimate of the "true" rate of GDP on tax revenue, but that may have reflected a larger services sector, and should not be taken as more accurate than other official indicators, according to Orlik. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Banks will finally stop using a piece of 1800s tech

IT has taken more than a century, but Japanese banks are finally parting ways with a piece of technology that hasn't felt cutting edge since the shogun reigned.

Hanko, the personal stamps required for even simple transactions in Japan since the 1800s, are getting phased out at some of the country's biggest financial institutions.

Lenders have begun allowing customers to transfer money or make payments with their smartphone or a tablet, instead of pressing wood to ink and paper like their ancestors. For millennials in Japan, one of the most tech-obsessed places on Earth, the change is long overdue.

"It's too much work to bring hanko and do the paperwork just to withdraw money at branches," said Tomoyuki Shiraishi, a 24-year-old construction worker in Kurashiki, western Japan.

After arriving late to the fintech revolution, Japanese banks are racing to catch up as they try to slash paperwork, boost efficiency and appeal to younger generations.

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc., the country's biggest lender, is a case in point. The bank has started offering accounts that don't require hanko or passbooks and is overhauling its branch network to replace rows of tellers with tablet computers and video booths.

The goal is to help customers adapt to digital platforms so they can eventually do more banking on their own devices. As many as 100 of

MUFG's 500-plus domestic outlets will convert to the new format by 2024. The Tokyo-based lender plans to halve the number of branches with traditional counters over the same period.

MUFG isn't alone. Resona Holdings Inc. last year started allowing customers to open accounts without hanko at about 600 branches. The shift to digital has support from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration, which has drafted a bill to make more government services available online.

Winning over Japan's bureaucracy hasn't been easy. It took MUFG two years to convince 450 local governments to begin processing tax payments electronically, said Takayuki Ogura, a director at the group's main banking unit.

In other areas of Japanese officialdom, hanko are firmly entrenched. Small businesses use them for many contracts, and they're still required for things like marriage and home ownership.

Parents often buy handcrafted hanko for their children when they come of age, and tourists take them home as souvenirs, said Keiichi Fukushima, a licensed carver and fourth-generation owner of a shop that sells the stamps in Tokyo's historic Ueno district. Hanko-making is a USD1.5 billion-a-year industry, said Fukushima, who is vice chairman of the national trade group.

"There are still lots of occasions where we need to use hanko in our lives," Fukushima said. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

JORDAN CHAN TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN



Hong Kong singer and actor Jordan Chan will perform at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena on April 6 for the "Jordan Chan Stop Angry Tour in Macao." Tickets go on sale March 8 at all Cotai Ticketing

box offices.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, Chan was responsible for the song arrangements, costume design and other key production elements of

the tour.

Fans can expect to hear hit tracks from all 15 of his albums released over the course of his career. His later recordings have incorporated a hip hop element which has won him new fans.

The concert will tour Shanghai, Wuhan, Tianjin, Beijing and other Chinese cities.

Chan began his career as a dancer, accompanying high-profile singers before starting to make his own records.

More recently, he has become a popular participant in several mainland variety shows, including "Where is Dad?", "Women's Romantic Travel" and "The Three Yards."

MGM CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY



MGM Cotai hosted a special first anniversary celebration last week with a carnival-themed party for all of its team members at the property's back-of-the-house area, as a token of appreciation for their

dedication throughout the year.

According to the gaming operator, its Board of Directors attended the celebration, making the occasion more special.

The celebration kicked off with a speech by Pansy Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, which was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony featuring a towering chocolate sculpture and birthday cake.

Ho said, "In the recently-announced 'Outline Development Plan for the Greater Bay Area' Macau will be developed into a base for exchange and cooperation where Chinese culture is mainstream and diverse cultures coexist."

"With art and entertainment being at the heart of our brand over the past 11 years, we have established ourselves as a leader in cultural tourism," she added.

60 years after Dalai Lama fled, Beijing defends Tibet policies

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA is defending its often-criticized rule in Tibet 60 years after the Dalai Lama fled into exile amid an abortive uprising against Chinese control, saying those who question its policies are merely showing their anti-Chinese bias.

The statements in official media came as Tibetans and their supporters marked the anniversary yesterday and called for greater international support. Despite decades of such calls, however, the Himalayan region appears no closer to gaining greater autonomy, particularly as China's global influence grows.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said in an editorial dated Saturday that economic growth, increases in lifespan and better education in the region refute the claims of critics that Tibetans suffer oppression from Beijing.

Yesterday, an editorial in the Communist Party-run Tibet Daily attacked the Dalai Lama, Tibet's traditional Buddhist leader, for what it said are his efforts to "sow chaos in Tibet."

His "separatist plots are doomed to total failure," the paper said.

The Dalai Lama has been living in the northern Indian town of Dharmasala since he fled from Tibet after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule. Beijing accuses him of seeking to separate Tibet from China, which he denies.

Tibet is enveloped in smothering layers of Chinese security



An exile Tibetan during the Tibetan Uprising Day in New Delhi yesterday

and many Tibetans abroad say the Himalayan region's resources are being exploited for Beijing's benefit while Tibet's language and unique Buddhist culture is gradually being destroyed.

In India's capital, New Delhi, at least 3,000 Tibetans marched about 3 kilometers through the center of the city carrying Tibetan and Indian flags. Invoking India's concerns over China's expansive power in Asia and beyond, the marchers shouted slogans including "Tibet's freedom is India's security" and "India-China friendship is a sham."

They also carried a portrait of the Dalai Lama while occasionally chanting slogans wishing him a long life and calling for freedom for Tibet.

"We have come here to remind

the new generation that China snatched our country [...] that's why we got together and started this movement," said one marcher, Sonam Yougyal, 52.

Hundreds of Tibetans and Taiwanese rallied in Taipei, the capital of the self-governing island democracy that China also claims as its territory.

Tashi Tsering, chair of the Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan, recalled what he called China's history of reneging on agreements to Tibetans and others.

"We should not trust the Communist Party of China whatever it says," he said.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, although many Tibetans say they were essentially independent for

most of that time. Communist troops took control of the region in 1950 after a brief military struggle.

Conditions in the region are difficult to independently ascertain because foreign travelers must get special permission to enter the region. Access is rarely given to foreign journalists, and the region is closed to foreigners entirely during sensitive anniversaries.

The Xinhua editorial did not directly mention yesterday's uprising anniversary, referring to the events of 1959 instead as the inauguration of "democratic reform" that saw the dismantlement of the Buddhist hierarchy and feudal structures.

"Sixty years since the epoch-making democratic reform in Ti-

bet, people in the plateau region have enjoyed unprecedented human rights in history," Xinhua said.

"Undeniable facts and figures" related to development "debunk the repeated lies and accusations that aim to smear Tibet's human rights with vile motives," it said. "Anyone without bias will recognize Tibet's tremendous progress in human rights."

China has refused to meet with the Dalai Lama [...] until they surrender their conditions for a greater degree of autonomy

China has refused to meet with the Dalai Lama or his representatives until they surrender their conditions for a greater degree of autonomy and submit to Beijing's authority unequivocally.

Last week, China's Communist Party chief in Tibet insisted that the Tibetan people feel more affection toward the government than to the Dalai Lama, who fled following the abortive uprising against Chinese.

The Dalai Lama hasn't done a "single good thing" for Tibet since he left, Tibet Party Secretary Wu Yingjie said during a meeting of China's ceremonial legislature.

Chinese rule in Tibet has grown harsher since anti-government protests in 2008 culminated in attacks on businesses and individuals of Han Chinese ethnicity, the country's ethnic majority. **AP**

Dake Kang, Beijing

A prominent activist campaigning for the release of ethnic Kazakhs caught in a sweeping crackdown on Muslims in China has been arrested in the Kazakh city of Almaty, his wife and a lawyer said yesterday.

Leila Adilzhan told The Associated Press by phone that her husband, Serikzhan Bilash, head of the advocacy group Atajurt, called her yesterday morning from a policeman's phone saying he had been arrested and had been taken to Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

"When he called me I was so shocked, I couldn't say a single word," Adilzhan said. "I'm afraid our government will give him to China."

Adilzhan said Atajurt's offices were also being

Kazakh activist campaigning against Chinese camps arrested

searched in a further sign Kazakhstan is cracking down on the group.

The detention of possibly more than a million Uighurs, Kazakhs and other ethnic minorities into Chinese internment camps has been a touchy issue in neighboring Kazakhstan, a Central Asian country of 18 million people. China is a major trading partner, and Kazakhstan's state-restricted media had generally avoided reporting on the camps.

Bilash's group, Atajurt, became prominent last year for supporting the relatives of those who had been detained. They provided financial support,



wrote letters to embassies and the United Nations, and taped hundreds of testimonies by relatives looking for their loved ones missing in China's far western region of Xinjiang.

In a video circulated online yesterday afternoon, Bilash said he had been accused of "inciting ethnic hatred" and was being held by Astana police.

Aiman Umarova, a lawyer advising Atajurt,

said she was on her way to Astana to represent Bilash in court and called the case "politically motivated."

"Bilash's arrest is connected with his actions against Chinese camps, and his support for Kazakh people and other Muslims in the camps," Umarova said. "Our government doesn't want to spoil relations between Kazakhstan and China."

The Kazakh Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A man answering a phone for a police handler said Bilash was being held "temporarily" before hanging up without further comment, accor-

ding to an audio recording provided by Bilash's wife.

Bilash had been facing increasing pressure from Kazakh authorities in the past few months. An Almaty court last month found Bilash guilty of illegally leading an unregistered organization and fined him USD656, though his wife said he was planning to appeal.

On Saturday, Bilash sent a video saying four strangers donning earpieces showed up to Atajurt offices and said he was concerned he was in danger. Yesterday morning morning, bloodstains were found at his downtown Almaty hotel room, said Atajurt member Tilek Niazbek.

Bilash has been appointed a lawyer by the state, his wife said. It is unclear what specific charges he faces or when he will appear in court. **AP**

Joe McDonald, Beijing

TARIFF WAR

Official affirms pledge to avoid devaluation for trade

CHINA'S central bank governor yesterday affirmed an official promise to avoid manipulating its currency to boost exports, an issue he said American and Chinese negotiators discussed in their latest talks aimed at ending a tariff war.

Yi Gang gave no indication the two sides reached agreements beyond previous commitments produced by meetings of the Group of 20 major economies. He spoke at a news conference during the annual meeting of China's ceremonial legislature.

"We stress that we will never use the exchange rate for competitive purposes, nor will we use it to boost China's exports," Yi said.

Yi took part in the latest talks in Washington aimed at ending a conflict over Beijing's technology ambitions that has prompted both sides to raise tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods. That has fueled fears it might depress slowing global economic growth.

U.S. complaints that Beijing manipulates the yuan's government-controlled exchange rate for a trade advantage have taken a backseat lately to frustration at its industrial policy. But American officials still are pressing China to allow the yuan to fluctuate more freely in response to market forces.

"We discussed that both sides should abide by the commitments made at previous G20 summits, such as refraining from competi-

ve devaluation and using exchange rates for competitive purposes," Yi said.

Negotiators also discussed "how to respect the right of each other's monetary authority in deciding its own monetary policy," said Yi. He said they discussed the importance of "the principle of a market-determined exchange rate regime."

U.S. and Chinese officials say the trade talks are making progress but no formal agreements or details of negotiations have been released.

The Trump administration is pressing Beijing to scale back plans for government-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technology. Negotiators also want the communist government to curb subsidies for state industry and to commit to ending cyber-spying to obtain trade secrets.

The Chinese central bank has widened the band within which the yuan is allowed to fluctuate against a dollar-dominated basket of currencies, but the maximum daily change is limited to 2 percent.

Beijing tries to keep the yuan at a "reasonable and balanced level,"

AP PHOTO



We stress that we will never use the exchange rate for competitive purposes, nor will we use it to boost China's exports

YI GANG
CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR

Yi said. He said regulators were moving "toward a more market-determined mechanism."

Yi, a former professor at Indiana University, was appointed governor of the People's Bank of China last March, succeeding Zhou Xiaochuan, one of China's most promi-

nent figures in global finance.

The yuan's value sank this year, coming close to breaking the symbolic level of seven per dollar before rebounding slightly to about 6.7 to the greenback.

"Our exchange rate is relatively stable. But at the same time, that

stability does not mean the exchange rate is fixed," said Yi.

Yi repeated official promises that China's stock and bond markets would open wider to global investors and its currency would trade more freely but gave no details or a timeline. **AP**

RELIGIOUS CRACKDOWN

Protest issued on US criticism of policies

CHINA has issued a protest over remarks the U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom made criticizing Beijing's policies toward Muslim and Tibetan Buddhist minorities and saying the country was "at war with faith."

The foreign ministry's office in Hong Kong said the speech Sam Brownback gave Friday "slandered" China's religious policies. It said it had registered its dissatisfaction Saturday with the U.S. Consulate in the semi-autonomous Chinese region, where the speech was given.

China's constitution and laws protect freedom of religion and critics should "cease their slander of China's policies on religion and the situation with freedom of faith and cease using religious issues to interfere in China's internal affairs," the office said in a statement.

U.S. officials and UN experts say China is believed to be holding 1 million Uighurs, Muslims and members of other majority Muslim ethnic groups in political education camps in Xinjiang. The U.S. and other governments have criticized the crackdown.

The Chinese government says those camps are vocational training centers designed to rid the region of extremism.

Brownback said President Donald Trump's administration is "deeply concerned and considered it a deliberate attempt by Beijing to redefine and control these Muslim minority groups, [their] identity, culture and faith."

He urged Beijing to grant free access to the camps to investigate claims of abuse of inmates.

More generally, Brownback said, China is "at war with faith."

"It's a war they will not win," he said. "The Chinese Communist Party must hear the cry of its people for religious freedom."

Brownback was expected to meet local religious leaders and religious studies students and instructors while in Hong Kong. The territory enjoys freedom of speech and religion far beyond that in mainland China, where the officially atheist government keeps tight control over any potential challenges to its authority.

Brownback, the former governor of Kansas, was due to travel to Taiwan for a regional meeting on religious freedom today.

In his speech, the Catholic conservative called on China to release Wang Yi and John Cao Sanqiang, detained pastors in the "underground" church that operates independently of official government agencies. **AP**

Minister promises 'all necessary measures' to defend companies

CHINA'S foreign minister promised "all necessary measures" to defend Chinese companies and citizens abroad amid legal clashes between tech giant Huawei and Washington.

Recent legal action against Chinese companies and individuals is "deliberate political suppression," said Wang Yi at a news conference.

Wang was responding to a question about Beijing's stance on Canada's arrest of a Huawei Technologies Ltd. executive on U.S. criminal charges and the company's lawsuit in an American court aimed at overturning restrictions on sales of its telecom equipment.

"Recent actions against specific Chinese enterprises and individuals are not

simply judicial cases, but deliberate political suppression," said Wang.

Beijing will take "all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises and citizens," he said.

"We also support companies and individuals using legal weapons to protect their rights and interests and not to be silent lambs."

China's government has demanded Canada release Huawei's chief financial officer. She is fighting U.S. efforts to extradite her to face charges of lying to banks about dealings with Iran.

Wang gave no details of what Beijing might do, but a Canadian former diplomat and a businessman have been arrested in China in what is wi-

dely seen as an effort to pressure Canada.

Authorities also have slowed imports of Canadian canola, an oilseed crop, by imposing more stringent inspections.

Meanwhile, Huawei faces charges including theft of trade secrets in a case in federal court in Seattle. The company pleaded not guilty this month.

Last week, Huawei announced it filed a lawsuit asking U.S. federal court to throw out a portion of this year's American military appropriations bill that bars the government from using its technology or dealing with contractors that do.

Huawei argues the measure improperly singles out the company for penalties without giving it a chance to defend itself. **AP**



ELECTIONS

North Korea goes to polls to rubber-stamp parliament lineup

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

MILLIONS of North Korean voters, including leader Kim Jong Un, went to the polls on yesterday to elect a new lineup of roughly 700 members for the next session of the national legislature, though the vote was more of an endorsement than a competitive contest.

Voters were presented with just one state-sanctioned candidate per seat and cast their ballots not to select but rather to show their approval or, at least theoretically, disapproval of that candidate.

The elections, last held in 2014, are for the entire Supreme People's Assembly, which on paper is the highest organ of power in North Korea. Its delegates come from all over the country and all walks of life. The candidates are selec-

ted by the ruling Korean Workers' Party and a couple of other smaller coalition parties that have seats in the assembly.

Kim, fresh off his trip to Hanoi for his second summit with President Donald Trump, is a member of the assembly, though his power rests in his complete control over the ruling party, government and military. State media showed footage of him casting his vote at a polling center at Pyongyang's Kim Chaek University of Technology.

As was the custom in the Soviet Union and other communist countries, turnout is generally reported at 99 percent or higher. Voting is generally regarded as a duty and responsibility. Simply staying at home is not an option.

"I'm very proud to be voting for the first time," said 19-year-old university student Kim Ju

Gyong, who cast her vote at the Pyongyang Primary School No. 4 polling station. "I feel happy to be a citizen and I want to do my best for the future of my country."

Under North Korean law, citizens can vote from the age of 17.

Voting begins at around 10 a.m. depending on the location and continues until late evening. Voters show election officials their ID cards to receive their ballot with the sole candidate's name on it, which they cast in a private booth. If they approve, they simply put the ballot in the box. If they don't approve, they cross the name out in put it in the same box.

But one official told The AP that basically never happens.

"No one votes against the candidate," said Jin Ki Chol, the chairman of an election committee supervising a polling station at a

cable factory in central Pyongyang.

Election days have a festive mood. Bands play music as voters wait in line, and there is group dancing for those who have already finished.

"The election will strikingly manifest the fixed will of our people to firmly trust and uphold to the last Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un despite storm and stress," the ruling party's official daily said in a commentary yesterday.

The number of deputies in the assembly is based on population — each represents from 30,000-35,000 people.

Officials at two polling stations visited by The AP said they were not sure of the exact number this year, or when the results would be announced. Five years ago, 687 deputies were elected and the results despite being a foregone con-

clusion were announced two days after the vote.

The elections are decidedly not intended to foster policy debates among the general populace or for the voters to change the nation's course from the bottom up.

But for the authorities, they provide a veneer of democracy and a means of monitoring the whereabouts and loyalties of citizens. Being chosen for the assembly is a big honor, so the elections are also an important means for the regime to reward up-and-coming cadres and replace incumbents who have already served their usefulness.

■ The candidates are selected by the ruling Korean Workers' Party and a couple of other smaller coalition parties have seats in the assembly

Like the elections, the legislature is quite different from what is normally seen in democracies.

The deputies to the assembly generally meet just once or sometimes twice a year, usually in March or April, to approve policies already hashed out by the ruling party, which is headed by Kim. A much smaller group — the presidium of the assembly — meets more often and is more closely involved in the actual functions of the government.

"As a deputy my main job is to take care of problems that come up with my constituents, like water problems or food," said Jo Kil Nyo, a candidate who was put up for reelection. "If I can't resolve something, I take it to the assembly." **AP**

WORLD RECORD

Japanese woman honored by Guinness as oldest person at 116

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

A 116-year-old Japanese woman who loves playing the board game Othello was honored Saturday as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records.

The global authority on records officially recognized Kane Tanaka in a ceremony at the nursing home where she lives in Fukuoka, in Japan's southwest. Her family and the mayor

were present to celebrate.

Tanaka was born Jan. 2, 1903, the seventh among eight children. She married Hideo Tanaka in 1922, and they had four children and adopted another child.

She is usually up by 6 a.m. and enjoys studying mathematics.

The previous oldest living person was another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, who died in July at age 117. The oldest person prior to

Miyako was also Japanese.

Japanese tend to exhibit longevity and dominate the oldest-person list. Although changing dietary habits mean obesity has been rising, it's still relatively rare in a nation whose culinary tradition focuses on fish, rice, vegetables and other food low in fat. Age is also traditionally respected here, meaning people stay active and feel useful into their 80s and beyond.

But Tanaka has a ways to go before she is the oldest person ever, an achievement of a French woman, Jeanne Louise Calment, who lived to 122 years, according to Guinness World Records.

Guinness said the world's oldest man is still under investigation after the man who had the honors, Masazo Nonaka, living on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, died in January at 113. **AP**



Upmanyu Trivedi, Abhijit Roy
Chowdhury & Bibhudatta Pradhan

ELECTIONS

India announces poll dates as Modi fights to retain power

INDIA will hold elections from April 11 to May 19 to decide whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi wins a second term as leader of the world's largest democracy.

Around 900 million voters will elect 543 lawmakers to the lower house of parliament, the chief election commissioner Sunil Arora said. Counting will take place on May 23 and results are likely to be announced that day.

Opinion polls show Modi, who secured biggest electoral victory in three decades in 2014, may win the most seats but fall short of majority.

The prime minister is battling a slide in popularity over rising concerns about lack of job creation and rural distress but analysts said India's decision to target terrorist camps in Pakistan could help the ruling party.

Meanwhile, the main opposition Congress party - led by Rahul Gandhi - is gaining lost ground and electoral momentum after snatching power from Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party in three key states in December.

"The current government and Narendra Modi has en-

AP PHOTO



gaged in presidential and charismatic politics, with a weaker performance on policies," said Neelanjan Sircar, assistant professor at the Ashoka University and visiting senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research. "This

election will tell us a lot about how Indians assess the trade off between Modi's charisma and the economic performance of the government."

DAUNTING LOGISTICS

Voting in India does not take

place on a single day. Because of the daunting logistics of overseeing the world's largest electorate - stretching from the Himalayas in the north to tropical jungles - the voting

is stretched out over several weeks.

Elections will take place in seven phases - April 11, 18, 23 and 29 and May 6, 12 and 19, Arora announced in a press conference in New Delhi yesterday.

Modi's Hindu nationalist BJP is counting on his welfare programs to win votes, including the provision of toilets, electricity connections and cooking gas for the poor as well as small business loans, annual income support for farmers and lower taxes for the middle-class. BJP leaders are also focusing on religious nationalism, including protection of cows - considered sacred by India's majority Hindu population.

Congress will pledge a one-time farm loan write off, minimum income guarantee to the poor and blame his government for alleged corruption in a defense contract.

Bloomberg

This election will tell us a lot about how Indians assess the trade off between Modi's charisma and the economic performance of the government.

NEELANJAN SIRCAR
VISITING SENIOR FELLOW AT THE
CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

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AVIATION TRAGEDY

No survivors on crashed Ethiopian Airlines flight: state TV

By Elias Meseret, Ethiopia

AN Ethiopian Airlines flight crashed shortly after takeoff from Ethiopia's capital yesterday, killing all 157 people thought to be on board, the airline and state broadcaster said, as anxious families rushed to airports in Addis Ababa and the destination, Nairobi.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash of the Boeing 737-8 MAX plane, which was new and had been delivered to the airline in November, records show.

The state-owned Ethiopian Airlines, widely considered the best-managed airline in Africa, calls itself Africa's largest carrier and has ambitions of becoming the gateway to the continent.

It said 149 passengers and eight crew members were thought to be on the plane that crashed six minutes after departing Addis Ababa on its way to Kenya's capital. The crash occurred around Bishoftu, or Debre Zeit, some 50 kilometers south of Addis Ababa, early yesterday afternoon (Macau time).

The airline later published a photo that appeared to show its CEO standing in the wreckage. Little of the plane could be seen in the freshly churned earth, under a blue sky.

"Tewolde Gebremariam, who is at the accident scene now, regrets to confirm that there are no survivors," the post on social media said. "He expresses his profound sympathy and condolences to the families and loved ones of pas-

AP PHOTO



sengers and crew who lost their lives in this tragic accident."

The plane had showed unstable vertical speed after takeoff, air traffic monitor Flightradar 24 said in a Twitter post. Visibility was clear.

State broadcaster EBC reported all passengers were dead and that they included 33 nationalities. An Ethiopian Airlines spokesman said 32 Kenyans and 17 Ethiopians were among the victims.

The Ethiopian prime minister's office offered its "deepest condolences" to families.

The Addis Ababa-Nairobi route links East Africa's two largest economic powers and is popular with tourists making their way

to safari and other destinations. Sunburned travelers and tour groups crowd the Addis Ababa airport's waiting areas, along with businessmen from China and elsewhere.

At the airport in Nairobi, worried families gathered.

"I came to the airport to receive my brother but I have been told there is a problem," Agnes Muilu said. "I just pray that he is safe or he was not on it."

"Why are they taking us round and round, it is all over the news that the plane crashed," said Edwin Ong'undi, who had been waiting for his sister. "All we are asking for is information to know about their fate."

Kenya's transport minister, Ja-

mes Macharia, told reporters that authorities had not yet received the passenger manifest. He said an emergency response had been set up for family and friends.

"My prayers go to all the families and associates of those on board," Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta said.

Records show that the plane was new. The Planespotters civil aviation database shows that the Boeing 737-8 MAX was delivered to Ethiopian Airlines in mid-November.

In a statement, Boeing said it was "deeply saddened" to hear of the crash and that a technical team was ready to provide assistance at the request of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board.

In October, another Boeing 737-8 MAX plunged into the Java Sea just minutes after taking off from Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, killing all 189 people on board the plane Lion Air flight. The cockpit data recorder showed that the jet's airspeed indicator had malfunctioned on its last four flights, though Lion Air initially claimed that problems with the aircraft had been fixed.

The last deadly crash of an Ethiopian Airlines passenger plane was in 2010, when the plane crashed minutes after takeoff from Beirut killing all 90 people on board.

149 passengers and eight crew members were thought to be on the plane that crashed six minutes after departing Addis Ababa

Yesterday's crash comes as the country's reformist prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, has vowed to open up the airline and other sectors to foreign investment in a major transformation of the state-centered economy.

Ethiopian Airlines has been expanding assertively, recently opening a route to Moscow and in January inaugurating a new passenger terminal in Addis Ababa to triple capacity.

Speaking at the inauguration, the prime minister challenged the airline to build a new "Airport City" terminal in Bishoftu — where yesterday's crash occurred. **AP**

UK official says EU playing games over Brexit

Gregory Katz, London

WITH tensions escalating, Britain's House of Commons leader said Saturday that European Union officials need to take seriously British proposals for ending the Brexit impasse before a crucial vote in Parliament.

Andrea Leadsom said EU leaders are wrongly accusing Britain of failing to put forward detailed proposals, while offering proposed solutions that Britain had rejected months ago because they would threaten ties to Northern Ireland.

She told BBC she finds it "extraordinary" that EU leaders are being so intransigent and said she is

asking herself what "games" the bloc is playing.

Leadsom said the EU is pushing Britain toward a "no-deal" Brexit that would, paradoxically, make it much harder to avoid a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland that both sides say they are trying to prevent.

Her harsh words and Britain's immediate rejection of a proposal offered Friday by top EU negotiator Michel Barnier signal exasperation as the days dwindle before a make or break vote tomorrow in Britain's Parliament on a deeply unpopular withdrawal plan.

The long promised "meaningful vote" on the 585-page withdrawal agree-

ment will signal whether Prime Minister Theresa May has managed to win over Parliament after a shocking loss by a 230-vote margin on the same proposal in January.

The chairman of Britain's Conservative Party Saturday urged Parliament to back the bill or risk seeing the entire Brexit process reversed.

Brandon Lewis warned recalcitrant lawmakers, including many in his own party, that if the government's withdrawal plan is voted down it is possible Britain will end up staying in the EU despite the 2016 referendum in favor of severing ties to the EU.

"We need to win that vote," he told BBC, stating

that a defeat for the withdrawal plan agreed after two years of negotiations would lead to a totally unpredictable situation.

"Nobody quite knows where we will end up — whether we end up with a hard Brexit with no deal [...] but there is also a risk with Parliament that we end up with no Brexit at all," he said.

If Parliament rejects the deal again, lawmakers will vote on whether to leave the EU without an agreement on March 29 — a prospect with little evident support in Parliament — or to ask the EU to delay Brexit beyond the scheduled departure date.

May has also warned that a second defeat to her bill

AP PHOTO

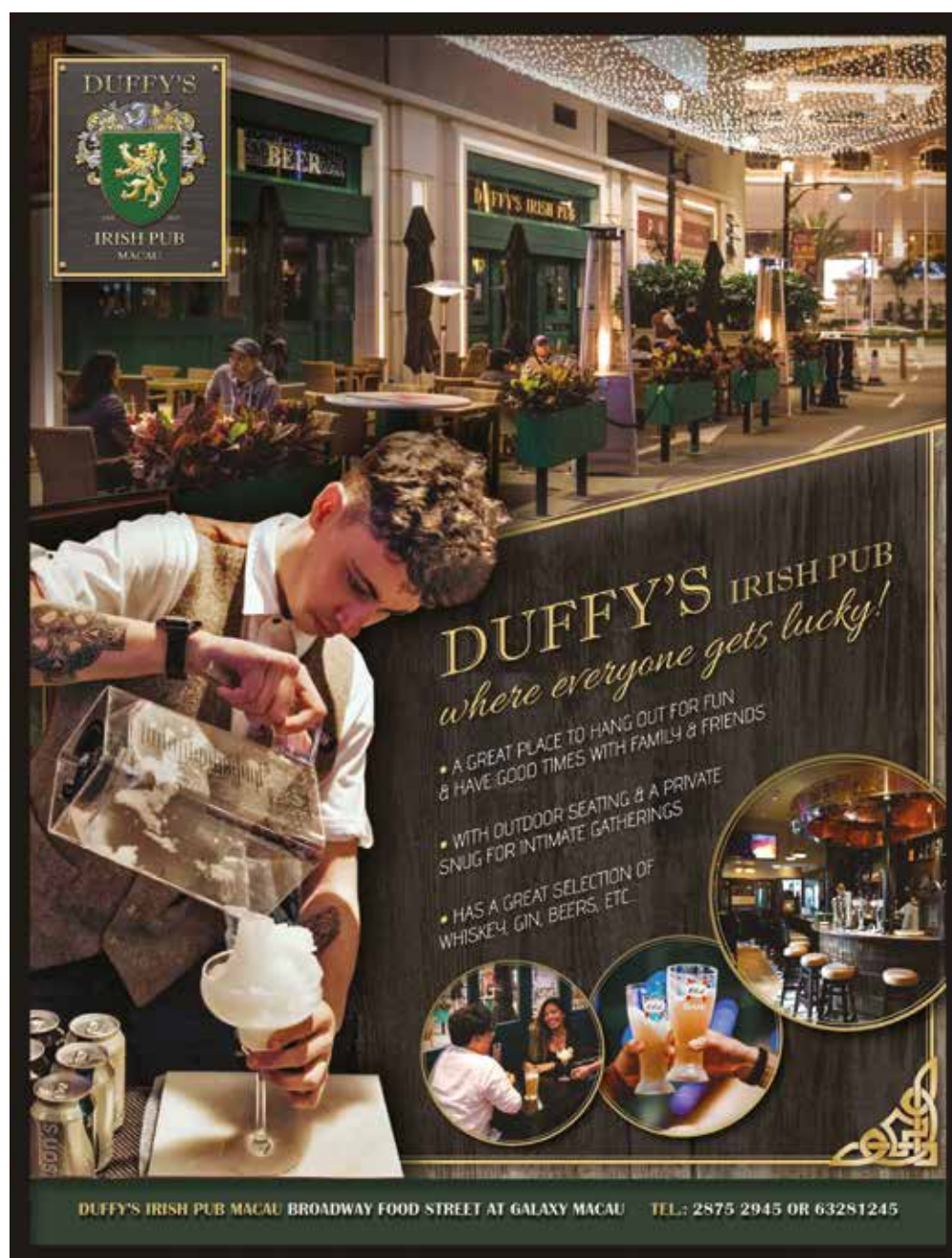


could thwart the Brexit process altogether.

But there is no sign of progress in the crisis talks. If anything, the tone in recent days has hardened. EU leaders are adamant in their refusal to make alterations to the legal do-

cument that would govern Britain's withdrawal from the 28-nation bloc.

EU leaders have rejected May's effort to cast them as inflexible, with Barnier saying he isn't interested in playing the "blame game." **AP**



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what's ON



CELEBRATING LIFE – JU MING LIVING WORLD SCULPTURE SELLING EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-11pm

UNTIL: April 7, 2019

VENUE: Rippling Gallery, Roaming Gallery, and Floating Gallery, MGM Cotai

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8806 8888

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS

TIME: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm daily

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park

ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

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

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

CALIFORNIA MAN LEARNS HE'S DYING FROM DOCTOR ON ROBOT VIDEO



Ernest Quintana's family knew he was dying of chronic lung disease when he was taken by ambulance to a hospital, unable to breathe.

But they were devastated when a robot machine rolled into his room in the intensive care unit that night and a doctor told the 78-year-old patient by video call he would likely die within days.

"If you're coming to tell us normal news, that's fine, but if you're coming to tell us there's no lung left and we want to put you on a morphine drip until you die, it should be done by a human being and not a machine," his daughter Catherine Quintana said last week.

Ernest Quintana (pictured) died last Tuesday, two days after being taken to the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center emergency department in Fremont.

Michelle Gaskill-Hames, senior vice president of Kaiser Permanente Greater Southern Alameda County, called the situation highly unusual and said officials "regret falling short" of the patient's expectations.

But the hospital also defended its use of telemedicine and said its policy is to have a nurse or doctor in the room at the time of remote consultations.

"The evening video tele-visit was a follow-up to earlier physician visits," Gaskill-Hames said in a written response. "It did not replace previous conversations with patient and family members and was not used in the delivery of the initial diagnosis."

Hospital officials say the technology doesn't replace in-person conversations with the patient and loved ones.

TV canal macau



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|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repêtição) |
| 13:30 | Telejornal RTPi (Diferido) |
| 15:00 | Água de Mar |
| 16:05 | Viver é Fácil |
| 16:30 | Grande Entrevista - Marta Temido |
| 17:30 | Ministério do Tempo |
| 18:30 | Contraponto (Repêtição) |
| 19:35 | Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 |
| 20:30 | Telejornal |
| 21:15 | TDM Desporto |
| 22:20 | Impostores Sr.1 |
| 23:15 | TDM News |
| 23:50 | Magazine Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019 |
| 00:25 | Telejornal (Repêtição) |
| 01:10 | RTPi Directo |

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: English (Chinese)

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



Mikhail Gorbachev

1985 GORBACHEV BECOMES SOVIET LEADER

There is a new man in charge at the Kremlin - Mikhail Gorbachev has taken over following the death of Konstantin Chernenko.

Chernenko, 73, died yesterday after a long illness - but his death was only announced to the Soviet people this morning. Sombre music preceded the news on radio and television and scheduled programmes were cancelled.

The speed of naming of his successor - at 54 the youngest man to take over as general secretary of the Soviet communist party - has taken people by surprise.

In another break with tradition, Mr Gorbachev has announced arms talks with the Americans in Geneva will go ahead tomorrow.

Chernenko lasted only 13 months in the top job. He was in poor health when he was appointed and his death was caused by heart failure brought on by problems with his lungs and liver.

He is the third Soviet leader to die in just over two years. Leonid Brezhnev died in 1982 after 18 years in power. He was 75. Yuri Andropov died 18 months later aged 69.

The British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will attend Chernenko's funeral on Wednesday - but the United States President Ronald Reagan will not be going.

The BBC's Moscow correspondent, Tim Sebastian, says Mr Gorbachev's appointment marks a dramatic change in leadership in Moscow.

He says Mr Gorbachev is a dynamic figure who has moved rapidly through the Soviet hierarchy.

"There seems little doubt the Gorbachev administration will look different. More outgoing, more approachable, more concerned with its public image," he reported.

"But its aims and its approach seem likely to be familiar. Despite his lively and flexible manner, Gorbachev is still a strict, orthodox Marxist in no sense has he shown himself to be a liberal."

Mr Gorbachev's acceptance speech gave a hint of the changes to come. He spoke of his desire to freeze the deployment of weapons and reduce the international nuclear weapons stockpiles.

Mrs Thatcher has already indicated her approval at his appointment. Following his recent visit to Britain, she said: "I like Mr Gorbachev. We can do business together."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mikhail Gorbachev radically changed the course of Soviet foreign policy, signing a number of agreements with the United States on nuclear disarmament.

He introduced a policy of openness or "glasnost" and he was also the architect of "perestroika" or deep political and economic reforms. But his reforms led to severe economic hardship at home. Growing nationalist movements spearheaded by the Baltic states led him to propose a loose federation of Soviet states.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

When was the last time you made a deposit into your karma account? Today it's time to do some good deeds and give yourself a nice sense of accomplishment.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Double-booked for a date? Make it a group event and have everyone join in! Asked for your honest feedback when you're afraid you'll hurt their feelings? Butter them up with the positive stuff before you lower the boom.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

It can be easy to let yourself take emotional cues from other people, but you must avoid doing that today. Just because everyone else finds something funny doesn't mean you necessarily should.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

It's time to sit still. Your life is lived too often on the go—drive-through meals, cell phone conversations while you're driving and surfing the web while you're watching TV are all great ways of multi-tasking.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There are a lot of facts, figures and dates simmering in your head right now, so it is no wonder that you might be feeling a bit rattled in terms of your everyday tasks. Get ready for a day of lost sunglasses, car keys, and cell phones!

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

As you grow and evolve as a person, it's only natural that your philosophies and opinions evolve, too. In other words, do not be afraid to reevaluate your values.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

If other people can't seem to keep up with you, it is in your best interest to stop what you're doing and wait for them to catch up to you. But don't worry—you won't feel stifled or held back by having to wait for them.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you're looking for a good way to spend the day, look no further than your mirror. It's time for some precious one-on-you time, so fill your day with the tasks, errands, and indulgences that you enjoy most.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Everyone's schedules might get a bit tangled up today. Other people will not be as organized as you will be, so get ready to work around other people's conflicts. It's a good thing you're in an extremely flexible phase right now.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Got a busy day planned? In order to conserve your energy, play things out in a smart way. Be cool, calm and collected. If you just bust out of the gate arms flailing, you will putter out long before you near the finish line.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you've been trying to finish a project but have been unable to find the free time you need for that last mile before the finish line, the universe has good news: You will find the time you need today!

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You are entering a phase of life in which you can more fully understand that sharing time and sharing vulnerabilities makes you a more fulfilled person.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
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CHINA

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----------------|
| Beijing | 2 | 16 | drizzle/clear |
| Harbin | -5 | 8 | cloudy |
| Tianjin | 3 | 15 | drizzle/cloudy |
| Urumqi | -5 | -1 | cloudy |
| Xi'an | 0 | 16 | cloudy/clear |
| Lhasa | -3 | 14 | clear |
| Chengdu | 9 | 19 | clear |
| Chongqing | 11 | 19 | cloudy |
| Kunming | 5 | 22 | clear |
| Nanjing | 7 | 17 | cloudy |
| Shanghai | 7 | 18 | cloudy/clear |
| Wuhan | 6 | 20 | clear |
| Hangzhou | 7 | 19 | clear |
| Taipei | 14 | 19 | cloudy |
| Guangzhou | 12 | 21 | cloudy |
| Hong Kong | 16 | 20 | cloudy |

WORLD

| | | | |
|-----------|---|----|-----------------------|
| Moscow | 1 | 5 | drizzle |
| Frankfurt | 3 | 9 | moderate rain/drizzle |
| Paris | 7 | 13 | drizzle |
| London | 4 | 12 | cloudy/clear |
| New York | 1 | 6 | moderate rain/cloudy |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Rabble; 5- Sum; 10- Backtalk; 14- Banned apple spray; 15- Trap; 16- Unattractive; 17- Han ___ was a "Star Wars" character; 18- Ruhr Valley city; 19- Cruel; 20- Throbs; 22- Reproductive cell; 24- Exam used to measure aptitude or intelligence; 25- Diminutive ending; 26- Put back on the payroll; 29- Innate; 33- Budget, in brand names; 34- Composer Ned; 35- Halloween shout; 36- Magician Henning; 37- Make a pass at; 38- Court org.; 39- Capp and Capone; 40- Pertaining to punishment; 41- Anatomical passages; 42- Unnecessary; 44- Small upright piano; 45- Got on; 46- London jail; 47- Spread out; 50- Aware; 54- Cat's weapon; 55- Beethoven dedicatee; 57- Fire; 58- Leeds's river; 59- Arranges in groups; 60- Yalies; 61- The back end of something; 62- Frozen rain; 63- Florida's Miami-___ County;

DOWN: 1- Grating sound; 2- Moises of baseball; 3- Drop; 4- Icing; 5- African fly; 6- Beginning; 7- Soviet news service; 8- ___ we there yet?; 9- Grow longer; 10- Warm season; 11- "A Death in the Family" author; 12- Narrow strip of wood; 13- New Year's word; 21- Russian airline, ___ flit; 23- Up and ___; 25- Register; 26- V-shaped fortification; 27- French school; 28- Residence; 29- Tiny amounts; 30- "Barnaby Jones" star; 31- ___ Dame; 32- Raise a glass to; 34- Washer cycle; 37- Irresponsible; 38- Used; 40- Agricultural implement; 41- NASDAQ debuts; 43- Sliding compartment of furniture; 44- Most reasonable; 46- Beau ___; 47- Skin marking, often due to injury; 48- Ballet movement; 49- ___ avis; 50- Father a foal; 51- Actor Lugosi; 52- Put down; 53- Word in a threat; 56- Chat room chuckle;

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday's solution | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | A | S | H | | C | A | R | P | | R | E | A |
| A | L | T | A | | A | L | A | I | | A | N | E |
| M | O | I | L | | S | O | T | S | | C | O | R |
| P | U | R | L | I | E | U | | A | B | I | L | I |
| W | O | R | D | S | | L | A | O | | | | |
| J | I | P | A | W | | T | A | I | L | G | A | T |
| S | E | E | Y | A | | E | O | N | S | | V | E |
| J | I | T | A | | N | E | A | R | E | S | T | |
| N | E | L | L | | D | R | A | T | | W | A | I |
| G | R | E | E | T | I | N | G | | T | E | P | E |
| M | A | R | G | | E | A | S | E | L | | | |
| E | T | H | I | C | | R | E | N | E | W | E | |
| A | L | E | N | E | | N | C | O | S | | T | W |
| T | I | E | G | S | | S | O | N | E | | Y | A |

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| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Emergency calls 999 | Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283 |
| Fire department 28 572 222 | Water Supply – Report 2822 0088 |
| PJ (Open line) 993 | Telephone – Report 1000 |
| PJ (Picket) 28 557 775 | Electricity – Report 28 339 922 |
| PSP 28 573 333 | Macau Daily Times 28 716 081 |
| Customs 28 559 944 | |
| S. J. Hospital 28 313 731 | |
| Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333 | |
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HKD 5,292 sq ft
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FOOTBALL | EPL

Man City beats Watford; Tottenham loses again

Mattias Karen, London

RAHEEM Sterling's second-half hat trick helped Manchester City build a four-point lead atop the English Premier League this weekend.

Tottenham's second-half collapse put Spurs in danger of not even finishing in the top four.

Man City upped the pressure on second-placed Liverpool by beating Watford 3-1 thanks to Sterling's goal spurt after the break. After the England winger benefited from a disputed offside decision to open the scoring, he completed his hat trick in just 13 more minutes at Etihad Stadium. That means Liverpool has to beat Burnley at home on Sunday to cut City's lead back to just one point, with another eight games remaining.

"The first half was difficult even for myself, it was hard to break them down," Sterling said. "But

in the second half things opened up and we got the luck in the first goal and then took our chances really well."

Tottenham was just two points behind City and still in the title race at the start of February, but finds itself in a tight scrap just to hold on to a Champions League spot after falling to a third loss in four games. Spurs were stunned at relegation-threatened Southampton 2-1 after wasting a first-half lead, meaning its grip on a top-four place is suddenly extremely fragile.

Tottenham is just three points ahead of fourth-placed Manchester United ahead of its game at Arsenal, with the Gunners just a further point back. Sixth-placed Chelsea, meanwhile, is five points behind Spurs with two games in hand.

Southampton's win meant the fight to avoid the last relegation spot also tightened. The gap between 13th place and 18th is just

six points after Cardiff, Newcastle and Brighton also earned crucial victories, while Fulham and Huddersfield both look doomed after losing again.

Last-placed Huddersfield lost at home to Bournemouth 2-0 and was 16 points from safety, while Fulham remained just three points ahead in 19th after losing at Leicester 3-1.

Sterling's opening goal was hotly disputed as he was initially flagged offside, but referee Paul Tierney overruled the decision after a three-minute discussion with his linesman. Sterling was in a clear offside position when Sergio Aguero played him through on goal but Tierney apparently ruled the goal should stand because defender Daryl Janmaat then tried to clear the ball, which deflected off Sterling and into the net.

"I don't know exactly what it was, but I was praying and hoping that they gave it to us, and



Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane (left) and Southampton's Jannik Vestergaard battle for the ball during the English Premier League football match

we were slightly fortunate," Sterling said.

There was nothing fortunate about the other two, though. The second goal was a simple tap-in from a yard out after City carved apart Watford's defense, with David Silva and Riyad Mahrez combining to tee up Sterling. The third was more impressive as Sterling collected a pass from Silva and went past two defenders before slotting the ball home.

Sterling was taken off shortly afterward, and Watford substitute Gerard Deulofeu pulled a goal back for the visitors just 17 seconds after going on, scoring

with his first touch after Troy Deeney flicked a long ball into the box.

Southampton scored twice in five second-half minutes to extend Tottenham's winless run to four games in the league.

Harry Kane put Tottenham ahead with his 200th career goal for club and country as Spurs dominated the first half, but Southampton turned it around after the break through quickfire goals from Yan Valery and James Ward-Prowse.

It left Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino accusing his players of being arrogant and complacent. **AP**

AD

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Wales' George North collects the ball during the match against Scotland, during their Six Nations rugby match at BT Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh

RUGBY | SIX NATIONS

Wales survives Scotland to set up Grand Slam shot

Foster Niumata

SCOTLAND on form offered to be merely a pothole in Wales' drive to Six Nations glory.

The thing about potholes though, is they can be bigger than expected.

Wales was cruising by halftime at Murrayfield this weekend, the 15-6 lead flattering the Scots, who were coming off two bumbling losses to Ireland and France.

Wales coach Warren Gatland said none of his team was "blowing" in the changing room, and all felt comfortable. He and his assistants urged the team to put on a show.

But a different Scotland came

out for the second half, and Wales had to survive an onslaught to prevail 18-11. Wales returns home to play defending champion Ireland for the Grand Slam next weekend in Cardiff, relieved to get out of Edinburgh still unbeaten after four rounds.

"Any team that's won a Grand Slam, and I think back even to last year with Ireland and that Johnny Sexton drop goal, you look back at certain games and know you've had a little bit of luck," said Gatland, on the verge of his third Grand Slam.

Scotland virtually owned the second half, playing with all of the ball, forcing penalties, and pinning Wales down. Grant Gilchrist was held up over the line, then Darcy Graham finished

a brilliant backs move, and Scotland trailed only 15-11 with 22 minutes to go and their crowd roaring them on.

The revived Scots, who have beaten Wales only once in 11 years, threatened an upset until each threat was ruined by errors; a spill or bad pass or turnover. Wales' renowned defense bent but didn't break, having to make 138 tackles in the second half after 66 in the first.

A compelling match finished with Scotland, frustrated and patched together, back in its 22 for the first time since the end of the first half, and Wales flyhalf-cum-fullback Gareth Anscombe kicking a second penalty to complete their record-extending 13th straight win.

Despite worries at home concerning an overhaul of its clubs, Wales next Saturday will be in Cardiff going for its first Grand Slam since 2012, and a first Six Nations crown since 2013.

Gatland said the club turmoil hasn't helped the team.

"Players are on the phone home, texting, going to meetings and talking to people in clubs. There's a lot of emotion involved," he said. "But they got on with the job and I'm proud of them for digging deep."

All of Wales' seven previous tries in the tournament came after halftime, but wing Josh Adams was over after just 13 minutes. Jonathan Davies gave him the overlap with a forward pass, and Adams shimmied past

Blair Kinghorn to score behind the posts.

Davies scored the second after a coolly composed 24-phase buildup that was reminiscent of Wales' match-turning 35-phase try against England two weeks ago. The buildup, dominated by the forwards, featured two big crashes into the defense by Davies' midfield partner Hadleigh Parkes.

Wales almost finished the half with more points, but an Anscombe penalty into the sun rebounded off the left post, Parkes regathered, and Adams knocked on to end the chance. That was Wales' first handling error of the half, at which point Scotland was game as usual but outclassed.

Then, suddenly, Wales became the punching bag in the second half.

Gilchrist was held up over the line by Parkes, and then a rolling maul drew in the Welsh defense, a Finn Russell inside pass to Byron McGuigan put the replacement wing in space, and replacement fullback Adam Hastings sent Graham diving into the right corner.

Scotland was alive and kicking with more than a quarter left, but the injury-hit backline was creaking, and they couldn't finish off the stubborn Welsh.

Balls were knocked on or passes dropped, soft penalties given up, and an 18-phase play finished with a turnover. Wales gratefully accepted each relief, and a 12th win over the Scots in their last 13 matchups.

"We're massively disappointed," captain Stuart McNally said. "We had chances to win and weren't accurate enough."

"We cost ourselves defensively in the first half, gave them a couple of soft tries. And we threw everything at them in the second half but couldn't bring them down."

Scotland has lost three in a row, and faces a daunting finale next weekend at Twickenham, where it hasn't won in 36 years. **AP**

BOXING

Golovkin to return in June after signing deal with DAZN

GENNADY Golovkin will return to the ring in June after signing a multiyear deal last week with DAZN, which gives him the possibility of a third fight with Canelo Alvarez.

No date or opponent was announced for the fight, which will be Golovkin's first since being edged by Alvarez last September in their second bout after they fought to a draw in the first one.

Alvarez already has an ex-

clusive deal with the sports streaming service and is set to meet Daniel Jacobs in a middleweight title unification match on May 4 in Las Vegas.

The deal calls for Golovkin to fight twice a year on DAZN for the next three years, giving the longtime middleweight champion from Kazakhstan plenty of opportunities to regain titles.

The biggest one would be through another bout with

Alvarez after their two close contests, which were both pay-per-view fights. When Alvarez signed his contract last year, which his promotional company said would pay him a minimum of USD365 million, DAZN executive chairman John Skipper said he hoped it would help attract other top fighters.

He finally got Golovkin, whom he called "a generational talent with international appeal."

DAZN has all the middleweight champions, with WBO champion Demetrius Andrade also fighting on DAZN. He called out Golovkin after defending his title in January, saying he would "destroy" Triple G.

GGG Promotions will do two cards per year on DAZN beginning in 2020. Golovkin and Skipper plan to discuss the deal next week at a press conference in the Los Angeles area. **AP**



Gennady Golovkin

opinion

Tax Matters

Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa



STAMP DUTY REFUND -
THE CASE OF THE PROMISSORY
AGREEMENTS FOR REAL ESTATE
TRANSACTIONS

Let us imagine the following scenario: an individual is interested in purchasing an apartment for sale in Macau. The real estate agency prepares the promissory agreement for the sale and purchase of said apartment, and the owner and the referred individual execute the agreement. The promissory buyer makes an advance payment to the owner, and pays the relevant stamp duty within the following 30 days, pursuant to the law. Afterwards, the individual finds another apartment for sale, the apartment of his dreams. The owner of the first apartment is very sympathetic to the situation of the promissory buyer, and they both decide to terminate the promissory agreement – the owner may keep either part or all of the advance payment or even none at all, because they may also have just found another individual interested in buying the apartment. The ex-promissory buyer, who is not a very rich person and, as mentioned, wants to buy another apartment, is now trying to obtain a refund on the stamp duty that he paid with respect to the first now cancelled purchase. He goes to the tax department and is informed that he will only be entitled to a refund if he obtains a court decision stating the invalidity or ineffectiveness of the promissory agreement. I beg your pardon? Right! Article 52(2) of the Stamp Duty Regulations (“SDR”) sets forth this requirement. The agreement between the promissory seller and the promissory buyer regarding the termination of the promissory agreement is not sufficient, a court decision is required. Does it make any sense? It doesn’t! So let’s elaborate a little on the reasoning behind this.

The Real Estate Transfer Tax and Gifts and Inheritance Tax Code (the “RETTGITC”, approved by Law 5/99/M, as of 17 Dec.), provided for the taxation of the sale and purchase promises only when the property was handed over (traditio) to the promissory buyer. It also contained three legal presumptions whereby the property was deemed handed over if (i) the price had been fully paid, (ii) the keys had been given, or (iii) the contractual position had been assigned. These presumptions were obviously rebuttable upon proof to the contrary. This code was revoked in 2001 by Law 8/2001 and the taxation of the operations provided therein shifted to the SDR. This law, and later Law 4/2011 – an amendment to the SDR – established the taxation of all real estate sale and purchase promises regardless of an actual traditio taking place.

It is difficult to understand and is also an unnecessary burden to all, courts included, that tax refunds of all non-accomplished real estate sales and purchases be subject to court decisions. Also, certain judges view the intention of resorting to court with the sole purpose of obtaining the stamp duty refund, i.e. if no actual conflict exists between the promissory buyer and the promissory seller, as the promissory buyer lacking procedural interest and consequently, rule on dismissing such court action. The result of this interpretation may well be that the promissory buyer has no other legal means of obtaining the refund of the stamp duty already paid for.

In my opinion, only two solutions are possible: either (i) to return to the previous legal system provided for in the revoked RETTGITC, with tax being levied only upon the actual transfer of real estate or when the transfer of real estate is legally presumed (for instance, when the traditio of the real estate – actual or deemed – accompanies the sale and purchase promise) or (ii) to cease requiring a court decision to refund the stamp duty, should such stamp duty continue to be levied on all sale and purchase promises – at least when traditio did not occur.

THE MIXED BLESSING FOR CYCLING
FROM POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis has praised cycling for the value it places on discipline, selflessness and courage but warned that the sport can become tainted by doping, dishonesty and corruption.

Francis met Saturday with European and African cycling federations during their annual assembly in Rome.

The Argentine Jesuit cited the team spirit of-

ten seen in cycling but warned that it can become distorted when profit and prestige take over. He cited “doping, dishonesty, disrespect for oneself and one’s opponents, and corruption.”

Francis, a known soccer fan, has long promoted sport as an example of solidarity to be nurtured, especially among the young.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Sabrina Ho reveals
Harvard student fiancée

THE eldest daughter of casino tycoon Stanley Ho’s fourth consort has announced her engagement to a 21-year-old Harvard student from the northern Chinese city of Harbin.

Sabrina Ho, daughter of Stanley and current lawmaker Angela Leong, announced her engagement to Thomas Xin on Friday via social media, posting a video of him proposing to her in September last year.

Xin, a student at Harvard University, made headlines in 2016 as just the second person from Harbin to be

admitted to the U.S. institution. It is not known what Xin is studying.

The 28-year-old Sabrina is chief executive of Poly Auction Macau and heads art and culture promotion firm Chiu Yeng Culture. She is also a strategic partner of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), having organized last year a financing campaign for female ‘cultural entrepreneurs’.

According to Chinese media reports, the announcement has caused a stir on social media with netizens

searching for information on Xin’s background.

Born and raised in the capital of Heilongjiang province, Xin attended Harbin No.3 Middle School before he was admitted to the elite U.S. college. In an interview with local media in 2016, Xin said he had read more than 200 books in English during high school on subjects such as history and economics. He also said that his parents often took him traveling with them and had offered him the freedom to choose whatever future interested him. **DB**

Hundreds of Catholic devotees
take part in procession



SEVERAL hundred Catholic devotees took part in a solemn procession yesterday that commenced from the Cathedral and finished at St. Augustine’s Church.

The two-day novena started on Saturday, which followed the form of the “Way of the Cross,” recalling the passion and death of Jesus.

The procession - Procession of the Passion of Our Lord, the God Jesus - is a local version of a global an-

nual religious celebration that can be traced back to at least the 18th century.

During the weekend, the procession was escorted through the narrow streets by guardians in magenta robes.

A number of traffic enforcers were deployed in the streets yesterday as devotees passed through a few of the city’s busy streets including Rua do Campo, Leal Senado and Avenida de Praia Grande, amongst others.

Macau’s Bishop Stephen

Lee was also seen taking part in the parade.

The annual procession takes place every first Saturday and Sunday of Lent, and it is participated by the Bishop of the Diocese of Macao, the clergy members Catholic devotees,

They are usually accompanied by the Public Security Police Force Music Band playing the funeral march as they walk through the streets.

The procession is one of the city’s biggest religious events. **LV**

| Station | Air quality | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Roadside | 25-45 Good | |
| High Density Residential Area | 20-40 Good | |
| Ambient | 20-40 Good | |

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN A 116-year-old Japanese woman who loves playing the board game Othello was honored this weekend as the world’s oldest living person by Guinness World Records. The global authority on records officially recognized Kane Tanaka (pictured) in a ceremony at the nursing home where she lives in Fukuoka. Her family and the mayor were present to celebrate.

UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt says he is looking for ways to help the children of British citizens who joined the Islamic State group in Syria. He spoke after the newborn son of 19-year-old Shamima Begum (pictured), who at age 15 ran away with two friends to join IS, died Friday in a refugee camp.



UNITED NATIONS The head of the U.N. women’s agency, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (third from right), is calling for the revolution in technology to be used to benefit the world’s poor, and especially women, who will not achieve gender equality without “the giant leap that 21st century innovations can bring.”



IRAN’s president is making his first official visit to Iraq this week as he faces mounting pressure from hardliners at home in the wake of the Trump administration’s unraveling of the nuclear deal. Hassan Rouhani’s trip – billed as “historic and noble” by his foreign minister – is meant to solidify ties between Shiite power Iran and Iraq’s Shiite led-government, a strong Tehran ally.