



MARCH LOOKING STRONG BY THE IDES

Based on the first 10 days of the month, analysts predict March will be the strongest of the year to date for gross gaming revenue

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FINE PRODUCERS IMPRESSED BY MACAU CURIOSITY

■ P4 GASTRONOMY



ALEXIS CAUTIOUS ON USE OF HEALTH COUPONS IN ZHUHAI

Secretary Alexis Tam expressed concern over the use of Macau's healthcare coupons in Zhuhai

■ P6 GREATER BAY

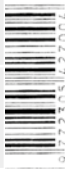


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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



CHINA The European Parliament plans to add its voice to growing concerns in the Western world about alleged security threats posed by Chinese telecommunications companies such as Huawei Technologies Co. and ZTE Corp. [More on p11](#)

CHINA A Chinese navy fighter jet crashed during a training mission yesterday in Hainan, killing both pilots, the navy said. The crash took place in Ledong county in the mountainous and heavily forested tropical province and the cause was under investigation, the navy said on its official Twitter-like Weibo microblog.

AP PHOTO



IRELAND Aviation authorities have suspended all variants of Boeing 737 Max aircraft into and out of Ireland's airspace as European aviation regulators respond to recent crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia. [More on p9,14](#)

AP PHOTO



AUSTRALIA The most senior Catholic convicted of child sex abuse will be sentenced to prison today in a landmark case that has polarized observers. Some described the prosecution as proof the church is no longer above the law, while others suspect Cardinal George Pell has been made a scapegoat for the church's sins. [More on p12](#)

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RENATO MARQUES

BUSINESS VISAS FOR SALE FROM 18K

Hole in the border

■ P3 EXCLUSIVE



AP PHOTO



NIGHT RUN COMPETITION

750 steps to climb The Parisian Eiffel Tower

■ P5

Councilors of the Portuguese Communities plead tarnished reputation

Renato Marques

THE case that pits Councilors of the Portuguese Communities José Pereira Coutinho, Rita Santos and Armando de Jesus against the director of San Wa Ou newspaper, Lam Chong, for defamation has finally reached the trial stage with the first session being held on Monday.

The case is connected to an article from 2017, when the newspaper published an opinion column accusing the councilors of being involved in a scheme designed to help local Chinese residents to obtain Portuguese nationality and respective travel documents in exchange for a payment of RMB18,000 each.

The councilors are demanding compensation of about MOP168,000 for damage to their reputation.

Only one of the councilors, Armando de Jesus, was heard in the court session on Monday. According to public broadcaster TDM, the councilor said he felt publicly shamed by the column and his reputation had been tarnished. Arman-

do de Jesus also said he was aware of a similar effect on councilor Pereira Coutinho who, as a lawmaker, would present his testimony only in writing.

In court Armando de Jesus denied all the accusations. He noted that the opinion article of San Wa Ou newspaper had claimed the councilors had been paid to help the people, but instead they merely provided assistance in getting their queue ticket number, and it was not paid.

Armando de Jesus also revealed in court that the Council did recommend in some more complex cases the hiring of lawyer services, but argued that there was no relation between the council and such professionals and he was not aware of the fees charged by them.

The first session was in fact shorter than expected due to the absence of Rita Santos, who is reportedly out of the region. This led the judges to schedule a new audience for March 27.

As for the director of the publication, he chose to remain silent, not paying testimony during the session.



Rita Santos (left) and José Pereira Coutinho

ILLEGAL DRIVERS

AGERTM meets labor officials, proposes higher penalties

Renato Marques

As promised during last week's visit to the Public Security Police Force's (PSP) Traffic Department, the Macao Federation of Transportation (AGERTM) met with representatives of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) yesterday to continue calling for stricter law enforcement on illegal drivers.

After the meeting, the group, represented by several of its members, spoke to the media on the proposed changes that they wish to see enforced.

According to the spokesperson of the AGERTM, Lau Vai Keong, who is also a member of the Transport Advisory Committee, the Federation proposed to increase the fines on employers in cases where illegal drivers were hired, which had been proposed last Thursday



Lau Vai Keong

during a meeting with police authorities. Also, as proposed by the New Macau Association (ANM) in a letter to the Chief Executive delivered last Saturday after a demonstration, there would be enforcement of and a limit to the foreign workers' quota for rule violations.

Lau told the media, "we propose a law amendment on the penalties because the

[current] fines of [a maximum] MOP10,000 are not enough to deter the illegal practices. We also propose that when there is a violation [of the law], the government should limit the importing [quota] of the perpetrators."

Adding to such amendments, Lau also added that the Federation has requested from the DSAL the publication of all statistics regarding

law enforcement on this matter as well as cases found on a regular basis so that society can be continuously aware of the situation.

Lau also noted that as the Bureau informed, the DSAL is currently "following up on the case and re-examining policies regarding cross-boundary work," but he could not disclose if the Bureau accepted the proposal to increase the fines and to what extent. Nonetheless, Lau said that a relevant update could be expected due to the "severity of the situation."

Commenting on the possibility of criminalizing the act, Lau noted that the Federation believes "that enforcing it as an administrative infraction should be more effective and have a more immediate effect, as, if it turns into a crime, the judicial procedures will be long-lasting."

Sulu Sou debate proposal on over-tourism goes to Assembly

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) admitted a proposal by the lawmaker Sulu Sou that aims to bring to the plenary a debate addressed recently by several lawmakers either in written enquiries to the government or during the period before the agenda.

Sou aims to see discussed, as a matter of public interest, the negative influences of over-tourism on the lives of residents, claiming that the lack of measures from the government on the topic is compromising the central government's plan of creating in Macau a 'World Center of Tourism and Leisure'.

In Sou's opinion, the excessive number of tourists as well as the unregulated and unplanned growth of the sector is in fact contrary to the conditions needed for leisure. He reinforces this idea by arguing that such a 'World Center' requires a reduced number of mainland tourists when compared to those arriving from other international destinations.

The lawmaker wants to discuss a plan to "set a ceiling on the total number of tourists" that can visit Macau in order to increase the quality of the experience achieved by those that do visit, starting by fighting the so-called "zero-cost tours." **RM**

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Times

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Taobao shops will set up firm, process business visa, no questions asked

Mainland visitors are acquiring business visas from Taobao shops that grant them frequent access to Macau

Staff reporter

MAINLAND visitors are acquiring business visas from Taobao shops that grant them frequent access to Macau and Hong Kong, the Times has learned. Visitors can be listed as owners of ready-made companies and obtain these travel permits for tens of thousands of patacas.

As the Macau SAR continues to break its record of tourist arrivals and the registration of new companies in the nearby cities of Zhuhai and Shenzhen continues to rise, some Taobao stores are seeing their business grow too.

One reason for their growth is a newly-discovered phenomenon whereby mainland residents can purchase a Business Visit Endorsement (Shangwu) from a non-governmental authority.

Shangwu is applicable to any mainland resident aged above 18 years who wish to make business trips to either Macau or Hong Kong as individuals. The business visa is good for both single and multiple journeys to Macau or Hong Kong, with its validity from three months up to one year, and each stay lasting no more than seven days.

Normally, to obtain a Shangwu via legal means, mainland residents must apply to China's public security bureau for authorization. Mainland-registered companies can send staff members to the SARs, sole traders who conduct business activities in the SARs can apply, and mainland residents who operate specific vehicles between mainland and the SARs are also entitled to apply.

Despite the mainland government having outlined a list of criteria for mainland residents to apply for the Shangwu endorsement, 'travel agencies' have discovered a back door for those who wish to visit Macau and Hong Kong, repeatedly and without the need for multiple tourist visas, for a period of one year or more.

The Times contacted the Public Security Police Force, which oversees immigration, to enquire if the authority can confirm whether all business visitors to Macau are actually carrying out business activities during their stay. No response was received by press time.

Searching "Hong Kong and Macau Shangwu Endorsement" on Taobao, the Times found at least five stores selling the bu-

siness visa service. On average, these Taobao shops charge RMB15,000 (MOP18,000) for one Shangwu endorsement to either Macau or Hong Kong. A joint package for both SARs is priced at RMB27,000 (MOP32,500).

However, a mainland resident applying legally for a Shangwu endorsement would pay as little as RMB15 (MOP18) and RMB80 (MOP96) for a single-entry and a multiple-entry endorsement respectively, if the person applied as an individual at the Guangdong police authority.

Searching on Taobao, the Times investigated one "four-hearts" shop called "Shenzhen Yi Xing Dian", offering "one-year multiple entry Hong Kong and Macau Shangwu endorsement" for just RMB10. A Taobao shop with a "hearts" score usually means that the vendor is has recently joined and has not established a reputation on the platform.

No description of the service is provided in the products descrip-

tion section. Instead, in the description space, a WeChat number is listed, accompanied by the sentence "[contact] for further details." This shop is located in Shenzhen.

A Zhuhai-based shop named "li7688198149" also sells the service. Under its product description, this shop lists phrases such as "successful application guaranteed", "full refund if no success", "professional guarantee 365 days of validity", "welcome cooperation from the same industry" and "full agent maintenance service."

According to the shop, "customers only need to provide an ID card to apply immediately." After providing a copy of their ID card, customers are asked to wait for an approval, followed by completing the necessary photo and finger print registration at the immigration bureau offices in Guangdong. Then they would only need to wait for their Shangwu endorsement to be issued.

However, according to official information obtained on the Guangdong immigration authority's website, a Shangwu endorsement applicant must submit documents such as business operation registration proof, or social security proof, or a Guangdong-issued driving permit, depending on which category the applicant belongs to.

Though the Shangwu endorsement is charged differently for Hong Kong and Macau, service procedures and requirements for both Shangwu endorsements are the same.

Another shop, named Shenzhen Yu An Lv You Zhuan Ying Dian charges RMB27,000 for processing the endorsements for Hong Kong and Macau together.

A fourth store charges RMB18,000 for each individual endorsement, while a fifth, called "eyoo888" - which recorded 131 sales in the last 30 days - offers five sets to its customers, who can choose either to use their passports or travel cards when applying for the visa. The passport option reportedly only works for the Hong Kong Shangwu endorsement application.

This shop, based in Hong Kong, also reminds customers that there will be "no refunds to [customers] providing fake documents and police will be informed."

"I already got the visa," one buyer writes in a review of "eyoo888". "I am a professional Daigou [and] I go to Hong Kong at least five times a week." A Daigou, usually an overseas Chinese, is a person who buys products and services for other people and ships them to other places, mostly mainland China.

"My Hukou [place of residence] is Shenzhen. Every time I have to apply for [a tourist visa] it is not just a little bit troublesome," another customer writes, "now, I don't need my travel card."

A third customer complained about their failed application through this shop. "It was not issued. The money was not fully refunded, and the [shop] did not care about the company [the shop helped to] register," the buyer writes.

"I [applied for a] one-year multiple entry. Honestly, I was not confident in the beginning. However, the shop's staff took me to Gongbei to enter Macau, took me to casinos and then to the outer harbor ferry terminal to Hong Kong. It was really considerate," another buyer writes.

During the course of the investigation, the Times contacted several shops, one of which explained that when a customer is not qualified for the Shangwu endorsement, the shop will use the customer's identity to register a new company in Guangdong province, or the shop will use the customer's identity to change the owner of a pre-existing registered company.

Once the customer is identified as the owner of a mainland company, then the customer is eligible to apply for the visa.





GAMING

First 10 days of March show signs of renewed growth

Daniel Beittler

GAMING analysts estimate that Macau's gross gaming revenue over the first 10 days of March averaged about MOP860 million indicating that, should the daily run rate hold stable for the rest of the month, the casino enclave is on track to record 2 to 3 percent year-on-year growth.

But they warn that the first 10 days of the month may not be reflective of casino vitality across March. In month-to-

date terms, the daily run rate is tracking about 5 percent lower than February's average daily rate, and it is worth noting that the rate may be inflated by the inclusion of two weekends in the period.

Based on this period, full-month gaming revenue in the region is expected to reach MOP26.5 billion, about 2.5 percent higher than the MOP25.95 billion seen in March 2018. If correct, March would outperform both January and February to become the highest grossing

month of the year to date.

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

Gaming analysts appear to agree on a growth prediction for March that ranges between a minor contraction and up to a 5 percent expansion.

Sanford C. Bernstein predicts that gross gaming revenue for the month will come in virtually unchanged from

a year earlier, ranging from -1 percent to +1 percent. Nomura said it expected revenue growth to range between 0 and 5 percent year-on-year.

Meanwhile, Citigroup noted that Sands China, Wynn Macau and Galaxy Entertainment Group had each gained market share at the expense of their rivals. The brokerage holds its March gross gaming revenue estimate unchanged at MOP26.5 billion, implying a slightly subdued daily run rate of about MOP850 million for the rest of the month.

New residential mortgages soar 20pct

NEW residential mortgage loans (RMLs) approved by local banks increased by 20.2 percent month-to-month to MOP4.4 billion, according to data provided by the Monetary Authority of Macao.

New RMLs to residents, accounting for 98 percent of the total, rose by 21.4 percent to MOP4.3 billion, while the non-resident component decreased by 20 percent to MOP88.4 million.

The monthly average of new RMLs approved between November 2018 and January 2019 was MOP3.9 billion, up by 9.8 percent from the previous period.

New RMLs collateralized by uncompleted units (i.e. equitable mortgages) rose by 10.8 percent month-to-month to MOP1.3 billion; of which, the equitable mortgages extended to residents accounted for 97.1 percent of the total.

As at end-January 2019, the outstanding value of RMLs was MOP217.9 billion, slightly up by 1 percent from a month earlier or 14.9 percent from a year ago.

Meanwhile, new commercial real estate loans (CRELs) rose 3.8 percent month-to-month to MOP5.8 billion.

Within this total, new CRELs to residents, which occupied 99.7 percent of the total, increased by 4.5 percent to MOP5.7 billion.

On the other hand, new CRELs to non-residents dropped 67 percent to MOP17 million. The monthly average of new CRELs approved between November 2018 and January 2019 was MOP4.7 billion, up by 22.2 percent. **LV**

GASTRONOMY

Italian wine, vinegar producers commend Macau's mature market

Daniel Beittler

THE level of gastronomic sophistication in Macau and Hong Kong is among the highest across Asia, according to several Italian wine and vinegar producers who visited Macau last month to showcase their products.

Hailing from Verona, Modena and Sicily, the premium food and beverage producers brought a slice of Italian fine dining to a wine-pairing event at the Mandarin Oriental Macau, organized by regional distributor Cottage Vineyards.

A consequence of the centuries-old Portuguese community in Macau, the wine market in this special administrative region is dominated by producers from the Atlantic-facing European country. But that is not a hindrance for the Italian producers who, approaching food and beverage operators in Macau only recently, say that they have discovered a mature and curious public.

Sicilian wine producer Loredana Vivera who, after a prior visit to the Macau SAR last year is becoming increasingly

familiar with local gastronomy, says that the popularity of her wines is the reason she keeps making the 7,500-kilometer trip from the Vivera Etna Winery in volcanic Catania to the Pearl River Delta.

Meanwhile, compatriot Giovanni Bertani of the Tenuta Santa Maria vineyard in Verona, which can trace its history back almost 500 years, said the local wine consumption market is ripe for more international brands.

"I don't think the presence of Portuguese wine

in Macau is a problem for [Italian] producers as it matures the market," said Bertani, finding agreement from Vivera. "Where there is wine culture, there is curiosity, and the market demands diversification."

"Of course, Macau and Hong Kong are probably the most sophisticated markets in the greater China region, and I see a big change from people buying labels – meaning regions – to buying producers and looking for specific styles and philosophies," he told the Times. "That's really

rewarding for boutique producers like us."

It is quite the commendation when prestigious Italian wine producers describe Macau's gastronomy scene as sophisticated. But it is not just Italian wines that are finding their way into Macau gastronomy. Traditional balsamic vinegar producer Acetaia Villa San Donnino, based just outside the historic town of Modena, also sent a representative to last month's event. Protected by generations of tradition, the producer makes premium vinegar

up to a quarter-century old, although a rotational barrel cycle means that a part of their product is in fact far older.

"We have noticed that people in Macau really appreciate our balsamic vinegar," said Francesca Ori, a vinegar sommelier from Acetaia Villa San Donnino. "Here in Macau and Hong Kong, there are very good customers who are able to appreciate our products. That's why we want to promote our product in places like this and we feel proud when we see them [in restaurants]."

THE Parisian Macao is set to stage its second Light The Night Run charity vertical race at its Eiffel Tower replica on April 13 at 7 p.m. as part of a wellness and fitness fun weekend. To be held for two days, the event will incorporate health-oriented activities, education, music and cuisine.

Light The Night Run invites professional athletes and fitness enthusiasts to climb 750 steps to the tower's observation deck on the 37th floor, where the race will end.

The event is aiming to attract 600 contestants for the Full Run, which is the activity that involves running around The Venetian Macao and The Parisian Macao twice before tackling the ascent.

Another activity is the Tower Fun Run – which only incorporates the tower climb.

Last year, the Full Run booked out in the first two days with over 530 contestants registering to take part in the Full Run.

Registration fees for the event will be donated to Macau IC2 Association to sponsor its upcoming Art for Community event, and to Caritas Macau to allow its users with restricted mobility to gain free access to its stair climber service.

The Parisian targets 600 participants for charity run

LYNZY VALLES



Wilfred Wong

Macau IC2 Association is the first association of its kind in the SAR to be led by members with intellectual disabilities. It offers regular training courses and organizes events and visits for its members, providing a platform for them to develop and learn to express their feelings, needs and ideas.

Speaking at the launch yesterday, Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd., said that the event is a response to last year, when local participants showed great interest in health and fitness.

"We're very happy to see that Macau citizens are so in-

terested in health and fitness and really support this kind of family activity. We're going to make it more difficult this year so you have to run around the [two properties] before you climb the 750-steps of the Eiffel Tower," said Wong.

"This is probably the most romantic run of Macau – if

you survive it," Wong joked. "The event is very meaningful, we're happy that we can support two charities that are dear to [us]."

Wong pledged that the gaming operator would continually contribute to the community and to the activity calendar of the SAR. **LV**

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Ella Lei proposes AL debate on illegal work

Lawmaker Ella Lei has proposed a motion for a Legislative Assembly (AL) debate on the issue of illegal work. Her motion follows an incident last week when an illegal driver from the mainland killed a 22-year-old student in a traffic accident, and comes in the context of Macau's mutual license recognition scheme with the mainland. In her proposal, Lei requested that the government apply a heavier penalty in situations of illegal work. Lei called for penalties to be in place as soon as the illegal work is identified. "The government should not delay it anymore. The government should stop illegal work at its origin by enhancing penalties and improving the laws to protect local workers' rights," Lei wrote.

Vong Hin Fai calls for judicial mutual recognition

Government-appointed lawmaker Vong Hin Fai has proposed mutual recognition of laws concerning arbitration in Greater Bay Area (GBA). Vong made his proposal during the 13th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Beijing. According to Vong, any arbitration decision made anywhere in the GBA should be effective in all areas of the region. Vong also proposed that mutual recognition could be expanded to include other judicial laws later. The lawmaker believes these measures would be beneficial for further judicial mutual recognition with the mainland.

HK, mainland institutes to collaborate on translation research

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) announced that it has built a collaboration partnership with the Research Institute of Tsinghua, Pearl River Delta (Tsinghua-PRD) to facilitate the commercialization of HKBU's research. At a signing ceremony, the two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding and an affiliated research collaboration agreement. With funding, space and policy support from the Guangzhou municipal government, the partnership aims to facilitate the commercialization of HKBU research by using the technology incubation resources in Guangzhou.

Alexis Tam cautious on the use of health coupons in Zhuhai

SECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam has expressed concern over the use of Macau's healthcare coupons in Zhuhai, saying that the measure must be carefully considered, according to a report by public broadcaster TDM.

Earlier this month, the Mayor of Zhuhai, Yao Yisheng, said that Zhuhai will explore the possibility of using Macau's healthcare coupons in Zhuhai.

According to the TDM report, Tam explained that Macau's healthcare coupons were originally aimed at providing opportunities for local private doctors to receive more patients, and, in turn, pushing forward the development of a family doctor scheme in Macau.

Tam remarked that if these coupons are to be used in mainland China, different practices and circumstances might arise. Hence, the topic needs to be carefully studied.

In addition, the Secretary said that the Macau government is currently discussing



with relevant mainland government departments ways to assist Macau residents living on the mainland side of the Greater Bay Area with purchasing the mainland's medical insurance.

The discussion is hoped to yield results that will allow Macau residents to feel medically secure on the mainland, and live in any of the

Greater Bay Area cities with more convenience.

As Greater Bay Area cooperation plans continue to be announced, many measures concerning Macau residents' life on the mainland have been considered or proposed.

Previously, the Health Bureau announced that the bureau would have a health

center in Hengqin, and that it would be free for Macau residents to use.

The outline of the Greater Bay Area development plan dictates that China will support Macau and Zhuhai in building a comprehensive livelihood project in Hengqin, and that this project should cover retirement, residence, and medical care. **JZ**

HONG KONG

Property may have bottomed as builder lifts prices

HONG Kong property prices are bouncing back.

Henderson Land Development Co. raised the average price for a new batch of apartments at The Vantage in Kowloon by about 10 percent, a price list shows. The move is well-founded - demand

is rising with developers selling more units in the first 11 days of this month than all of February, according to Midland Holdings Ltd.

Used homes are also fetching higher prices. Values for secondary homes have risen for the past four weeks, after sliding 10 percent in the

seven months through January, figures from Centaline Property Agency Ltd. show.

The Federal Reserve's signal it will pause interest-rate hikes has cleared away concerns of higher mortgage rates in the city, while China and the U.S. moving closer to a trade

deal has boosted confidence in the economic outlook.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. has already predicted the property market correction would be short-lived, and prices would bottom out by the end of the first quarter.

Still, not everyone is convinced.

DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Ltd. expects home prices to fall 10 percent in 2019, according to analyst Jeff Yau. The reasons include downward pressure on the global economy and a large supply of new residential units in areas like Tuen Mun and Tai Po. **Bloomberg**

AD



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Greater Bay project is coming and it will bring both opportunities and challenges to our little-big town. Macau Daily Times wants to hear your voice. We invite our readers to write in with Letters to the Editor on the topic of the Greater Bay Area.

Please email your letters to gba@macaudailytimes.com

FORUM

MDT/Macauhub

Portuguese environmental experience arrives at MIECF

THE 2019 edition of the Macau International Environmental Cooperation Forum (MIECF) will benefit from Portuguese experience in environmental and green taxation, gathered during an exchange visit from the Pan Pearl River Delta region to Portugal.

Agostinho Vong Wai Lon, head of the business delegation and executive director of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), said that the visit was a result of previous visits by representatives of the Pan-Delta governments, which for the first time included a representative of the Greater Bay Area Policy Office.

"We also hope these issues can be deepened in the Greater Bay area," Vong Wai Lon told Macauhub in Lisbon on Friday at the end of the exchange visit.

In the Portuguese capital, after a visit to Luxembourg, the delegation met with the Bank of Portugal, the Portuguese Environment Agency, as well as EDP – Energias de Portugal and Banco Comercial Português, which are both part Chinese-owned.

There was also a dinner with government representatives from the provinces and regions of the Pearl River



Pan-Delta and Portuguese officials in the area of finance and environmental protection.

Agostinho Vong Wai Lon said that objectives had been achieved, including deepening knowledge about environmental protection and green taxation in the two European countries.

"The result we got during this visit is that soon we can share this experience of Europe with the Forum participants in March at the MIECF," he told Macauhub.

The head of IPIM said that the policy defined by the government of the Macau Special Administrative Region is to achieve diversification of the economy, which implies developing "fi-

nancing with Macau characteristics."

In addition to the theme of environmental protection, this year's exchange visit focused on "acquiring some information on green taxation," to be taken as a reference for legislation to be adopted in Macau, said the head of the business delegation and executive member of IPIM.

The trip to Luxembourg was due to similarities between Macau and the European principality, namely the size of their economies, but also the fact that both have undergone periods of transformation, which in Luxembourg's case turned it into "a financial centre of Europe," according to Vong Wai Lon.

EU to fund Mozambique development

FOUR financing agreements for Mozambique to promote trade, biodiversity, agrobusiness and transport were signed in Maputo last week, according to the European Union delegation in Mozambique.

Worth a total of 217 million euros, the agreements are part of the 'Promove programme' and cover four key areas: facilitation of trade, sustainable management of natural resources, promotion of sustainable agriculture and agrobusiness, and roads in rural areas.

In a statement, the delegation said that signing the agreement was one of the highlights of the visit to Mozambique by the Director-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission, Stefano Manservigi, within the framework of cooperation between

the European Union and Mozambique.

Promove Comércio, with a budget of 12 million euros, aims to facilitate trade and improve the business environment, Promove Biodiversidade, with 13 million euros, aims to protect biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of rural communities thanks to the sustainable management of natural resources and Promove Agribiz, with 68 million euros, will focus on supporting the development of sustainable small-scale commercial agriculture and improving productivity.

Finally, Promove Transporte, with 124 million euros, is part of the European Union's overall approach to rural development under the 11th European Development Fund, focusing on the recovery of rural roads in the provinces of Zambézia and Nampula.

AD



Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau
Direcção dos Serviços de Identificação

Requerimento para emissão do Certificado de associação e fundação destinado às eleições dos membros da Comissão Eleitoral do Chefe do Executivo - 2019

Tendo em atenção as eleições dos membros da Comissão Eleitoral do Chefe do Executivo - 2019, a DSI vem pelo presente informar do seguinte:

1. As associações ou fundações devem formalizar atempadamente, junto da Direcção dos Serviços de Identificação, o requerimento para emissão do "certificado dos titulares dos órgãos sociais para efeitos das eleições do Chefe do Executivo - 2019".

Aos requerimentos apresentados já com todos os documentos necessários no dia 16 de Abril de 2019 ou antes desta data, será garantida a emissão do respectivo certificado antes do dia 23 de Abril de 2019, data em que termina o prazo de entrega do referido certificado aos SAEP para efeitos de apresentação do Boletim de Registo do Representante que assina o Boletim de Propositura.

2. Caso queiram solicitar o referido certificado para ser entregue nos SAEP, para fins de "apresentação da relação dos votantes das pessoas colectivas eleitoras", as associações ou fundações devem dirigir-se, quanto antes, à DSI para formalizar o requerimento da emissão do certificado.

Aos requerimentos apresentados já com todos os documentos necessários no dia 30 de Abril de 2019 ou antes desta data, será garantida a emissão do certificado solicitado antes do dia 7 de Maio de 2019, data em que termina o prazo de entrega do referido certificado aos SAEP para efeitos de apresentação da relação dos votantes das pessoas colectivas eleitoras.

3. O certificado dos titulares dos órgãos sociais poderá ser usado simultaneamente para fins indicados nos pontos 1 e 2, isto é, caso as associações ou fundações tenham requerido o respectivo certificado para efeitos de apresentação do Boletim de Registo do Representante que assina o Boletim de Propositura, não é necessário tornar a requerer outro certificado para efeitos de apresentação da relação dos votantes das pessoas colectivas eleitoras.

4. Os requerimentos formalizados depois das datas acima indicadas ou com documentação incompleta serão acompanhados pela DSI com o maior esforço.

5. Do certificado a emitir constará somente a **relação dos titulares dos órgãos sociais em efectividade de funções a 4 de Fevereiro de 2019**. Caso a acta da reunião apresentada no requerimento do certificado demonstre que os actuais corpos gerentes da associação ou fundação iniciaram as suas funções depois de 4 de Fevereiro de 2019, a respectiva acta será considerada inaplicável.

6. O pedido para emissão do certificado sobredito faz-se mediante:

- O preenchimento do impresso próprio para "Pedido de Certificado de Associação e Fundação" fornecido pela DSI (pode descarregar-lo a partir do website da DSI: <http://www.dsi.gov.mo>);
- O pedido é assinado pelo presidente da assembleia geral ou da direcção da associação ou fundação requerente ou pelo seu procurador, e apostado o carimbo da associação ou fundação;
- O pedido deve ser acompanhado dos seguintes documentos:
 - Acta da reunião da assembleia geral para eleições dos titulares dos órgãos sociais;
 - Fotocópias dos documentos de identificação dos titulares dos órgãos sociais;
 - Procuração (Quando o pedido for assinado pelo representante designado pelo presidente da assembleia geral ou da direcção da associação ou fundação requerente).

Não é necessário a entrega dos documentos acima referidos se tenham já efectuado a actualização do registo dos mesmos na DSI, entretanto podem as associações ou fundações requerentes juntá-los novamente ao requerimento para evitar morosidade, caso hajam erros nos documentos anteriormente apresentados.

Para mais informações sobre o requerimento do certificado de associação e fundação destinado às eleições dos membros da Comissão Eleitoral do Chefe do Executivo, podem ligar à linha de consulta da DSI através do número 8394-0581.

Direcção dos Serviços de Identificação, a 13 de Março de 2019.

A Directora,

Ao leong U



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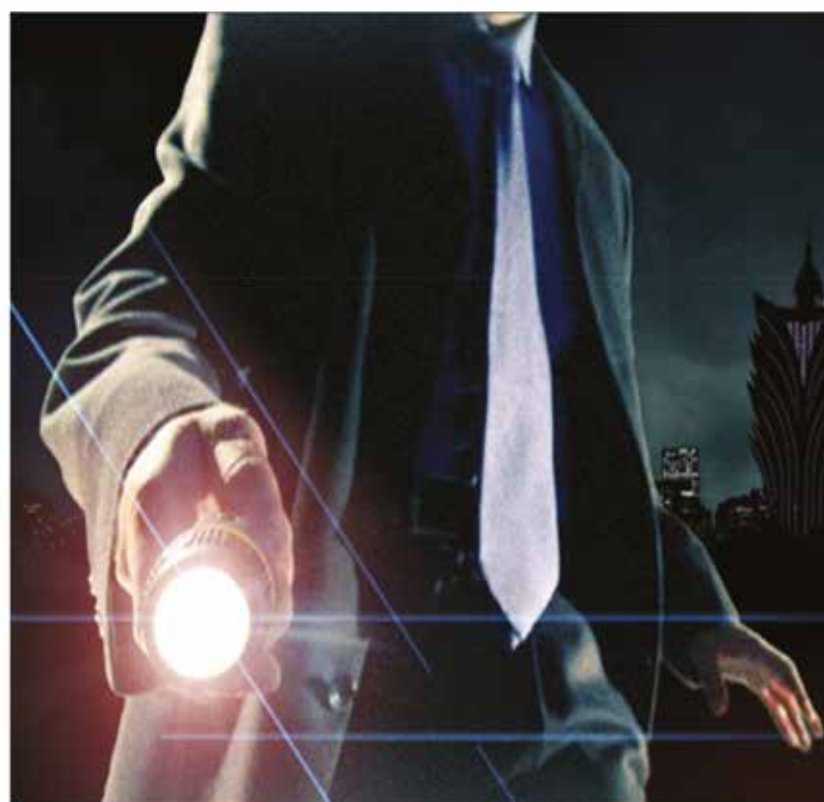
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Lion Air said to mull pivot to Airbus after Boeing orders halted



INDONESIA'S Lion Air, one of the biggest customers of Boeing Co.'s 737 Max plane, is considering switching to Airbus SE amid plans to suspend existing orders it has with the U.S. plane maker, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The carrier is suspending delivery of four 737 Max jets it had on order for this year from Boeing, director Daniel Putut said at an event in Jakarta yesterday. The decision comes after Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 became the second 737 Max involved in a fatal crash, with one of Lion Air's own 737 Max planes crashing in October, killing all 189 people on board.

The largest Indonesian carrier by domestic market share, Lion Air already refused to take delivery of a 737 Max jet due to be handed over in March, said the person, who asked not to be identified discussing internal matters. The carrier told Boeing about the decision last

month, they said. A spokeswoman for Boeing declined to comment.

As it mulls future plans for its fleet, Lion Air is considering jets from Airbus' A320 family, including the A321neo single-aisle model that is similar in size to the 737 Max series, the person said. Lion Air spokesman Danang Prihantoro said the company won't comment further on delivery plans beyond this year and will provide updates on any new developments.

Since the deadly crash on Oct. 29, which has been blamed on a malfunctioning sensor in the 737 Max, the relationship between Lion Air and Boeing has been tense. Anger over the plane maker's response to the tragedy prompted Lion Air's co-founder Rusdi Kirana to say in December he planned to scrap USD22 billion of Boeing jet orders. The Ethiopian crash, which bore some similarities to has added to founder Kirana's resolve, the person said.

The latest disaster has intensified pressure on Boeing, as aviation regulators in China and Indonesia join several airlines in grounding their Max 737 fleets. Singapore went a step further on yesterday, suspending all 737 Max traffic in and out of what is Asia's second-busiest international airport as the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore gathers more information on the "safety risk" associated with the Boeing plane, the authority said.

Lion Air operates 10 737 Max jets in Indonesia. National flagship PT Garuda Indonesia Persero Tbk is the only other operator in the country that has taken delivery of 737 Max planes, and their next shipment is not expected before 2020.

Losing Lion Air, the first customer to operate the 737 Max 9 globally, would be a blow to Boeing, compounding the hit from the growing crisis around plane groundings. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Singapore Exchange faces threat from HKEX China share move

Melissa Cheok

MOVES by Hong Kong's stock exchange to start trading derivatives contracts based on Chinese-listed shares pose a new competitive threat to rival Singapore Exchange Ltd.

Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. announced on Monday it signed an agreement with index provider MSCI Inc. to start trading Chinese equity futures, laying the groundwork for another avenue through which global investors can hedge exposure to China's USD7 trillion stock market. The HKEX plans are subject to regulatory approval.

When trading starts, it will end SGX's effective monopoly on offshore derivatives based on Chinese A shares which it has held since trading in its FTSE China A50 contract started in 2006. That will be a challenge for a derivatives contract which has been an important driver of SGX's growth in recent years, according to Citigroup Inc. analysts led by Robert Kong, who downgraded SGX shares to a sell from neutral.

"We welcome steps to support China's internationalization and increasing investor access to Asia's most important emerging market," SGX said in a statement. "SGX market participants will benefit from an even larger liquidity pool for our suite of China equity derivatives, as the interaction of different trading venues will create more flows."

Though the timing of HKEX's product launch has

yet to be determined, as regulators in Hong Kong and China review the application, trading is expected to start within months rather than years, the Citigroup analysts said.

HKEX's move could lead to a 15 percent decline in China A50 volumes over the next two years, according to Credit Suisse Group AG analysts, who said they don't expect trading in Hong Kong to start until after November.

Krishna Guha, an analyst at Jefferies in Singapore, was more sanguine about SGX's prospects.

"While we keep an eye on competing products, we are not overly concerned," Guha said, adding that SGX has first-mover advantage in China futures contract offerings.

SGX shares fell 1.2 percent at 1:21 p.m. in Singapore yesterday, after dropping 3.7 percent on Monday. HKEX shares climbed 1.8 percent after rising 2.1 percent the previous day.

The FTSE A50 contract generated about 40 percent of SGX's total derivatives volume in the last quarter. The futures have a daily turnover of \$5 billion and notional open interest of \$12 billion. An estimated \$8 billion in exchange-traded funds are benchmarked to the index.

HKEX's plans add to a series of challenges faced by the Singapore exchange, including a dearth of new listings and a dispute with the National Stock Exchange of India over the licensing of Nifty 50 Index futures and options contracts. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM AWARDED IN GBA ENTERPRISE AWARDS



MGM is the only Macau enterprise to receive an award in the first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao-Bay Area Top 100 Enterprise Heritage Awards and Outstanding En-

trepreneurship Awards Ceremony.

Held by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao-Bay Area Economic and Trade Association, the local gaming

operator was awarded alongside companies including the Swire Group and Lee Kum Kee.

The awards aimed to recognize outstanding enterprises that have demonstrated their commitment to shareholders, employees, guests, customers, communities, and environment.

Wendy Yu, senior vice president of Human Resources of MGM, said, "we are honored to be the only Macau enterprise to win this prestigious award at its inaugural edition. [...] With deep roots in Macau and our development in Zhuhai, we will continue fostering talent exchange as well as creating opportunities in the Greater Bay Area."

KUNG FU PANDA TO HOLD PREMIER AT THE VENETIAN



Broadway Asia and DreamWorks Theatricals yesterday announced the launch of DreamWorks' Kung Fu Panda Spectacular Live – a new live action entertainment at The Venetian Theatre, combining Hollywood, Broadway and circus.

Scheduled to commence in late December, five-time Tony Award winner Susan Stroman will bring her legendary talents to one of the most successful animated films of all time, Kung Fu Panda, according to a statement.

"The production will be an exciting new experience for audiences of all ages – as it incorporates storytelling, state-of-the-art projection mapping and video design, immersive aerial and acrobatics as well as extraordinary puppetry and martial arts," said director and choreographer Stroman.

Stroman, who is an award-winning artist, has assembled a creative team including some of the acclaimed live entertainment artists around the globe.

Co-conceived with David Thompson, the writer of Broadway's longest running revival, Chicago, the live action show features character costumes and puppetry designed by Michael Curry and six-time Tony Award winning costume designer William Ivey Long.

MONEY LENDING

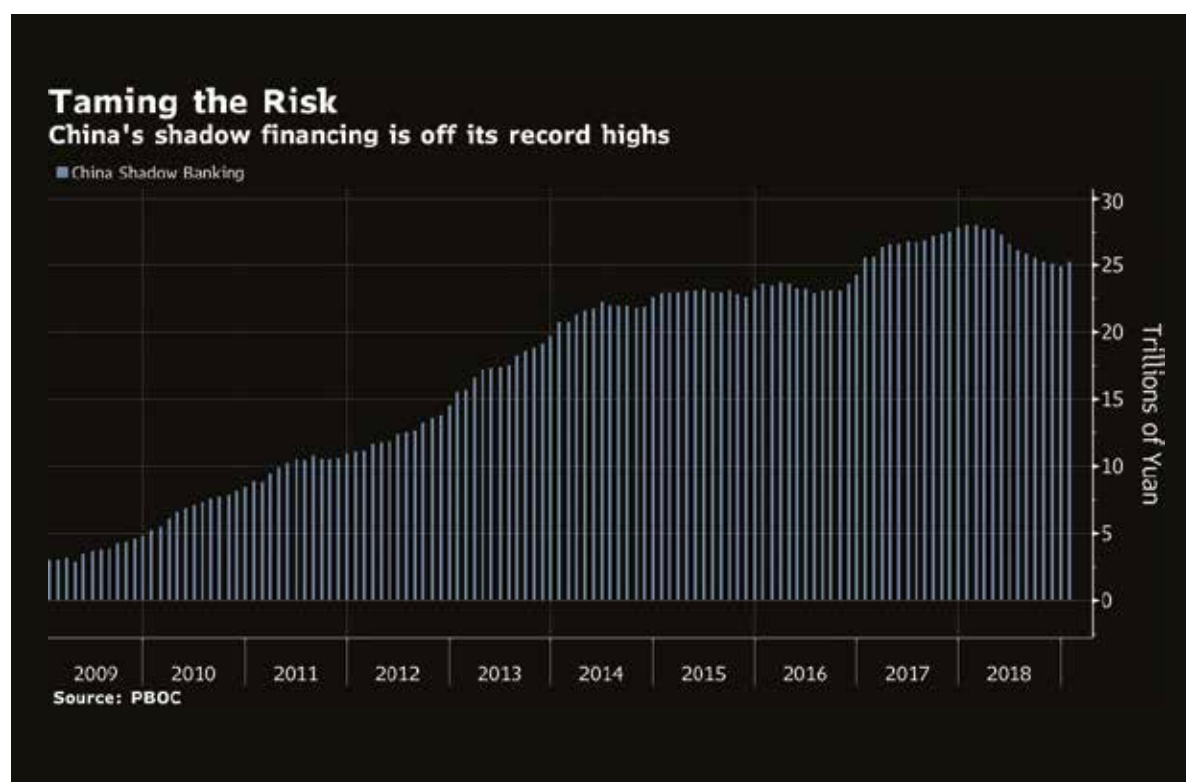
Gov't is said to scrutinize USD43b pawn-shop loan

CHINA'S pawn shops may be growing too big for their own good.

Unlike their small-dollar lending, used-guitar selling peers in middle America, pawn shops in Asia's largest economy have become a major force in the shadow-finance industry. They lent the equivalent of USD43 billion in 2017, often to small businesses and at much higher interest rates than banks. The number of Chinese pawn shops has doubled since 2010 to more than 8,500 and their average loan size exceeds \$26,000, versus around \$100 in the U.S.

That breakneck growth is now putting pawn shops in the Chinese government's crosshairs. The country's banking and insurance regulator is drafting new rules that will toughen oversight of the industry, people familiar with the matter said, asking not to be identified as the matter is private.

The move will target one of the last untouched corners of China's \$9 trillion shadow-banking industry, broadening a more than two-year government effort to put the country on a more stable financial footing. It suggests authorities aren't finished with their cleanup campaign, despite recent signs that they've dialed back deleveraging measures elsewhere to support economic growth.



The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission's inclusive financing division is drafting the new rules after taking over jurisdiction of pawn shops from the Ministry of Commerce last year, the people said. One of the rules may increase the minimum capital requirement for pawn shops from its current level of 3 million yuan, the people said. While CBIRC oversees the industry, local governments will

handle day-to-day supervision, they said, an approach used for peer-to-peer lenders.

CBIRC didn't immediately reply to a fax seeking comment.

China's pawn shops are often used by small-business owners to access high-cost funds for working capital. More than half of pawn-shop loans extended in 2017 were backed by real estate. And unlike typical bank loans, borrowers don't need to disclose how the money will be used.

More than a third of China's pawn shops were loss-making in the first two months of 2018 and their overdue loan ratio exceeded 13 percent amid rising competition with online lenders, official data show. Shares of Sunny Loan Top Co. and Changsha Tongcheng Holdings Co., two China-listed companies that invest in pawn shops, have dropped more than 20 percent over the past three years even as the Shan-

ghai Composite Index gained. Both stocks were little changed yesterday.

In recent years, some outlets have expanded to accept stocks and accounts receivables as collateral, in addition to luxury watches, jewelry, automobiles and properties. To supplement their own capital and increase their capacity to lend, pawn shops have also borrowed from banks.

The country's banking and insurance regulator is drafting new rules that will toughen oversight of the industry

A typical loan in Shanghai comes with an interest rate of about 2 percent a month, or 24 percent annually, compared with the benchmark one-year lending rate of 4.35 percent. Pawn shops will typically lend up to 40 percent of the value of an apartment pledged as collateral, renewing the loan every six months.

A recent court case in Beijing showed how large such sums can get. The dispute involved a three-month, 4.35 million yuan (\$648,000) property-backed loan with a 30 percent annualized interest rate. The borrower ultimately defaulted. **Bloomberg**

AUTOMOBILE

Ford China partner sees venture's sales rebounding on new models

FORD Motor Co.'s partner in China, Chongqing Changan Automobile Co., expects sales to rebound this year as the automakers introduce more models to help reverse losses in the world's biggest vehicle market.

Changan and Ford's venture will speed up the rollout of new cars including those under the luxury Lincoln brand to revive sales, Zhu Huarong, Changan's president, said in an interview in Beijing yesterday. The venture is also making changes to the company's strategy and workforce to



meet challenges in the market, he said, without elaborating.

"We are very confident" that sales at the venture with Ford will

recover this year, Zhu said.

Carmakers are reeling

from a decline in deliveries in China after a trade war with the U.S. and an equity rout last year dented consumer demand, contributing to a fourth-quarter loss of USD534 million in China for Ford. Sales at the Ford-Changan venture dropped 54 percent in 2018, and may have contributed to profit plunging as much as 93 percent at listed Chongqing Changan.

Changan, whose manufacturing roots date back more than 150 years, is working on a plan to develop hydrogen fuel-cell cars that are slated to go on sale in 2025, Zhu said. The carmaker, based in Chongqing, southwestern China, will cooperate with other companies on this development plan, Zhu said, declining to specify whether it will team up with Ford. **Bloomberg**

At least 12 missing after 2 boat collisions

AT least 12 people were missing after two collisions between ships and fishing boats off the southeast coast of China yesterday.

In Zhejiang province, local authorities said 14 people aboard a fishing boat fell into the water after their boat was hit by a ship and sank at about 1 a.m. Two were rescued and ships in the area were called in to help search for the others.

To the south, a search was underway for crew members of a fishing boat that collided with an oil tanker in waters off Hong Kong.

Hong Kong police said the fishing boat sank after the collision yesterday morning. It wasn't immediately clear how many people were on board the fishing boat and how many were missing.

Police said all 13 crewmembers on the Chinese-registered oil tanker were safe.

The collision happened southeast of Hong Kong's Lamma Island. In January, at least one person died in a fire on a Vietnam-registered oil tanker as it prepared to refuel off the same island. **AP**

Authorities vow to continue crackdown fueling Muslim detention camps

OFFICIALS from China's predominately Muslim region of Xinjiang defended mass detention camps as necessary to fight terrorism and vowed to maintain the crackdown for a "long time."

Local security policies had prevented a major terrorist attack in the region for more than two years, Xinjiang government chief Shohrat Zakir told a regional delegation meeting in Beijing yesterday. Even so, he said it was still too early to relax the campaign because separatism persisted in the region, which borders Afghanistan and Kazakhstan.

"The fight against instability, extremism and secessionism is long, complex and intense," Zakir told the public question session, held on the sidelines of the annual National People's Congress. "We can't relax for a moment at any time."

The remarks represent the party's latest effort to explain the mass detentions, which have become a major source of criticism from Western governments and human rights advocates. Academic estimates, which United Nations officials have deemed credible, suggest that authorities are holding as many as 1 million ethnic Uighurs and Kazakhs in "transformation through education" camps -- or roughly 10 percent of the regional population.

'CONCENTRATION CAMPS'

The European Union has condemned the practice and U.S. lawmakers have called for sanc-

tions on top Chinese officials including regional Communist Party chief Chen Quanguo, who participated in yesterday's session. Some Muslim-dominated countries have begun to criticize China, with Turkey's foreign ministry calling the "concentration camps" a "great embarrassment for humanity."

During a 10-day tour of the region in November, Bloomberg News observed a pervasive security system, including mass anti-riot drills, facial recognition scanners outside markets and checkpoints every few blocks. Many Uighurs appeared too scared to speak, although some disclosed concerns about

being sent to "study" for as long as three years.

The Xinjiang delegation's room in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing was packed with journalists before the question session, underscoring the intense international scrutiny on the region. Such events held during the annual parliamentary session are often the only time top Chinese officials answer public questions.

'TRAINING CENTERS'

Chinese officials have in recent months sought to defend the practices, codifying the use of "vocational training centers" in local regulations and

inviting foreign diplomats on supervised tours. Zakir, an ethnic Uighur, told the official Xinhua News Agency in October that the regional government was "protecting the basic human rights of the citizens from the harm of terrorism and extremism."

He echoed those remarks, disputing the term "re-education centers" and comparing the vocational facilities to boarding school. Zakir said that the policies didn't target any ethnic group.

China's crackdown on the region began after a series of Uighur attacks on civilians starting in 2013, including a

flaming car attack in the heart of Beijing: Tiananmen Square. The escalation alarmed authorities who had repeatedly attempted to pacify Xinjiang, most recently after 2009 riots in Urumqi killed some 200 people, mostly Han Chinese.

"In order to restore peace for the people, we have implemented the principle of putting prevention first and combining punishment with prevention," Zakir said. "Xinjiang has cracked down on violent and terrorist crimes, and taken measures to prevent some people from becoming perpetrators of these acts."

Bloomberg



China threat to telecoms cited in EU Parliament draft resolution

THE European Parliament plans to add its voice to growing concerns in the Western world about alleged security threats posed by Chinese telecommunications companies such as Huawei Technologies Co. and ZTE Corp.

The European Union assembly will stress the need for the bloc to protect the next generation of wireless networks, known as 5G, from intruders and to bolster cybersecurity defenses in general, according to the draft of a resolution slated for a

vote yesterday in Strasbourg, France.

In the draft, the 28-nation Parliament "expresses deep concern about the recent allegations that 5G equipment developed by Chinese companies may have embedded backdoors that would allow manufacturers and authorities to have unauthorized access to private and personal data and telecommunications from the EU."

The assembly "is equally concerned about the potential presence of major vulnerabilities in the

5G equipment developed by these manufacturers if they were to be installed when rolling out 5G networks in the coming years," according to the text.

The EU's increasing alarm about technology-related security risks from China follows U.S. allegations that Huawei could enable Chinese espionage and calls for European allies to avoid partnering with the company.

Western jitters have mushroomed since a 2017 Chinese law requiring or-

ganizations and citizens to support national-security investigations.

The draft EU Parliament resolution, drawn up by four of the assembly's main political groups including the No. 1 Christian Democrats and second-ranking Socialists, says European authorities should develop a certification system for 5G equipment to enhance its security.

"If there's the slightest suspicion that Trojan horses end up in critical infrastructure due to Chinese technology,



Richard Yu, CEO of the Huawei consumer business group unveils the wireless router running with 5G modem Balong 5000 chipset in Beijing back in January

all alarm bells should ring," Markus Ferber, a German member of the assembly's Christian Democratic faction, said by email on Monday. "The

EU has to make sure it becomes more independent from third countries when it comes to infrastructure and central technologies." **Bloomberg**

Rod McGuirk, Melbourne

AUSTRALIA

Sex abuse convictions of cardinal prove polarizing

THE most senior Catholic to be convicted of child sex abuse will be sentenced to prison in Australia today in a landmark case that has polarized observers. Some described the prosecution as proof the church is no longer above the law, while others suspect Cardinal George Pell has been made a scapegoat for the church's sins.

Pope Francis' former finance minister, who had been described as the third-highest ranking Catholic in the Vatican, has spent two weeks in a Melbourne remand jail cell since a sentencing hearing in the Victoria state County Court on Feb. 27 in which his lawyers conceded the 77-year-old must spend time behind bars.

Pell had been convicted in December of orally raping a 13-year-old choirboy and indecently dealing with the boy and the boy's 13-year-old friend in the late 1990s, months after Pell became archbishop of Melbourne and initiated a compensation scheme for victims of clergy sexual abuse. A court order had prohibited media from reporting on the verdict until two weeks ago, when prosecutors abandoned a second trial on charges that Pell had groped two boys in a public swimming pool in the 1970s.

Chief Judge Peter Kidd will sentence Pell on five convictions, each carrying a potential 10-year maximum sentence. Most of the sentences for each conviction are likely to be served concurrently.

Pell's sentence will also reflect court standards of two decades

AP PHOTO



ago, when his crimes were committed. In those days, judges placed less weight on the damage done to children by sexual abuse.

In an unusual move for an Australian court that acknowledges intense international interest in the case, the judge will allow his sentencing remarks to be broadcast on live television.

After centuries of impunity, cardinals from Australia to Chile

and points in between are facing justice in both the Vatican and government courts for their own sexual misdeeds or for having shielded abusers under their watch.

Last week, France's senior Catholic cleric, Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, was convicted of failing to report a known pedophile priest to police. He was given a six-month suspended sentence.

Francis last month defrocked

the onetime leader of the American church after an internal investigation determined Cardinal Theodore McCarrick sexually molested children and adult men. It was the first time a cardinal had been defrocked over the child abuse scandal.

Pell has denied any wrongdoing and will appeal his convictions at the Victoria Court of Appeal on June 5. His lawyers canceled an application to keep

him free on bail before then.

The appeal grounds include that the "verdicts are unreasonable and cannot be supported" by the evidence of more than 20 witnesses who testified, including clerics, choristers and altar servers.

"It was not open to the jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt on the word of the complainant alone," the filings said.

That view has been expressed in some sections of the media.

"Pell was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt on the uncorroborated evidence of one witness, without forensic evidence, a pattern of behavior or a confession," veteran crime reporter John Silvester wrote in Melbourne's The Age newspaper.

"Pell has become a lightning rod on the worldwide storm of anger at a systemic cover-up of priestly abuses. But that doesn't make him a child molester," Silvester added.

An Australian academic who wrote an opinion piece describing Pell's "accusers" as "wicked" last week apologized for the article, which was published in a Catholic monthly newspaper that was later pulled by the church.

"Pell is a tough man and he will, by the grace of God, survive the wickedness of his accusers and the silence of many who should defend him but won't," Tasmania University think-tank director David Daintree wrote in the Tasmania-based Catholic Standard newspaper.

In his written apology issued by the Hobart Archdiocese, Daintree said, "It was never my intention to cast doubt on survivors." AP

SOUTH KOREA

Moon's office angrily reacts to Pyongyang 'spokesman' claim

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

THE office of South Korean President Moon Jae-in responded sharply yesterday to a conservative lawmaker's accusation that he was acting as the "top spokesman" of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The Blue House said the comments by Na Kyung-won, floor leader of the Liberty Korea Party, were an insult to both Moon and South Koreans wanting peace and it demanded an apology.

Na's speech at the National Assembly in Seoul was interrupted for about 20 minutes after legislators from the ruling liberal party reacted angrily to her comments,

approaching the podium and engaging in shouting matches with opposition lawmakers.

"Do not waste energy that should be used for the country on insulting [South Korean] people and the head of state," the Blue House said in its statement. "The Liberty Korea Party and floor leader Na should bow in apology to the people who yearn for the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and permanent peace and prosperity."

Na said Moon's outreach to Pyongyang and proposals to restart inter-Korean economic projects banned under U.S.-led international sanctions are causing a rift with Washington, which has

called for allies to maintain economic pressure until North Korea takes firmer steps toward relinquishing its nuclear weapons and missiles. She demanded Moon overhaul members of his security and diplomatic team and withdraw the appointment of Kim Yeonchul, an outspoken supporter of inter-Korean rapprochement, as his new point-man on North Korea.

"Please ensure that we never again hear the embarrassing talk that the president of the Republic of Korea is the top spokesman of Kim Jong Un," said Na, referring to South Korea by its formal names, as lawmakers from Moon's party began shouting at her.

Na said she borrowed the expression from "foreign wires," apparently referring to a Bloomberg report last September that described Moon as acting as Kim's "top spokesman" at the U.N. General Assembly. Moon's Democratic Party said it plans to refer Na to the Assembly's ethics committee over her speech that "polluted" the parliament.

Moon, who is currently on a three-nation tour in Asia, arrived in Malaysia yesterday for a state visit.

Moon has prioritized stabilizing bilateral relations with North Korea amid the larger nuclear negotiations and held three summits with Kim last year where they agreed on steps to reduce con-

AP PHOTO



ventional military threats between the countries and restart inter-Korean economic projects when possible. Moon also lobbied hard to revive nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang, which resulted in two meetings between Trump and President Donald Trump.

Trump and Kim's second meeting in Vietnam last month collapsed after North Korea rejected ambitious U.S. proposals to

discard its entire nuclear weapons and missile programs in exchange for the removal of all sanctions. Experts say the breakdown of the Trump-Kim talks raised further doubts about Moon's claim that Kim is genuinely interested in dealing away his nuclear weapons and about Moon's role as mediator, which has also become less crucial with Washington and Pyongyang directly communicating. AP

DRUG TRAFFICKING

UN says methamphetamine output booming in Southeast Asia

PRODUCTION of methamphetamine is skyrocketing in Southeast Asia, with prices dropping and usage expanding, the U.N.'s anti-drug agency said Monday.

Even as seizures of the drug known as speed, ice and "ya ba" in its various forms reached a record high last year, street prices have dropped, indicating increased availability, said a report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The agency said methamphetamine has become the main drug of concern in 12 out of 13 East and Southeast Asian countries, up from five a decade ago. The only exception was Vietnam, where heroin is considered the major problem.

In Thailand alone, 515 million methamphetamine tablets were seized in 2018, 17 times the total amount of the drug seized a decade ago in all 13 countries combined, the U.N. agency said. Much of the supply comes from neighboring Myanmar.



"Data on seizures, prices, use and treatment all point to continuing expansion of the methamphetamine market in East and Southeast Asia," said Tun Nay Soe, the agency's inter-regional program coordinator.

The report warns that organized crime groups in the region have stepped up their involvement in making and trafficking metham-

phetamine and other drugs in the Golden Triangle, the region where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet that has historically been a major source of opium and heroin.

It said the drug market in East and South-East Asia had shifted from such opiates to methamphetamine since the latter part of the 2000s.

"The shift to methamphetamine has affected even countries traditionally known to have a relatively large market for heroin, such as China and Malaysia," it said. "In Malaysia, the number of methamphetamine users detected by law enforcement authorities surpassed that of heroin users for the first time in 2017."

In another indicator of the methamphetamine epidemic, medical treatment related to its use dominated the number of drug-related admissions in several East and Southeast Asian countries, the report said.

The drug agency warned that other synthetic drugs were also gaining traction in Asian markets.

"Potent synthetic opioids (e.g. fentanyl), implicated in fatalities in other parts of the world, are being identified by some countries in the region," it said. Fentanyl is one of a number of opioids responsible for growing deaths of drug users in the United States.

"Aside from methamphetamine which is getting most of the attention because of the surge in seizures and street price drops, synthetic opioids and other drugs have also been found across the region," said Jeremy Douglas, UNODC regional representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. **AP**

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AVIATION

2nd crash renews safety concerns for Boeing's prized new jet

David Koenig

The second deadly crash of a prized new airplane in five months has renewed safety concerns about the 737 Max that could shape Boeing's fortunes for many years.

The 737 Max is the newest version of the 737, the best-selling airliner ever. Since debuting in 2017, Boeing has delivered more than 350 of them in several versions that vary by size.

Dozens of airlines around the world have embraced the plane for its fuel efficiency and utility for short and medium-haul flights.

Boeing has taken more than 5,000 orders for the various Max versions, and they constitute the largest share of the company's backlog of nearly 5,900 planes. They carry list prices from USD100 million to \$135 million, although airlines routinely get deep discounts.

The plane suffered its first fatal accident in October, when a 737 Max 8 operated by Lion Air plunged into the Java Sea, killing 189 people. Boeing bounced back, however, with little apparent effect on new orders.

However, the second deadly crash for a Max 8 on Sunday in Ethiopia, which killed all 157 people on board, could prove far more damaging if investigators find fault in Boeing's design or airlines and their passengers lose confidence in the jet.

Already airlines in Ethiopia, Mexico, China, Brazil, Argentina and Indonesia have temporarily grounded their Max 8s, in addition to Caribbean carrier Cayman Airways, Comair in South Africa, and Royal Air Maroc in Morocco.

Crucially, however, there was no outward sign that the influential U.S. regulator, the Federal Aviation Administration, would do the same.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said her department, which includes the FAA, was "very concerned" and monitoring developments around Sunday's crash. She said she met with acting FAA Administrator Dan Elwell to discuss the situation "and what are our possible paths forward." She didn't say whether the agency was considering grounding any planes.

It's unusual for authorities to take the step of grounding planes, and it's up to each country to set standards on which planes can fly and how those planes are maintained, said Todd Curtis, an aviation safety analyst who directs the Airsafe.com Foundation.

In the last major FAA recall, the agency grounded Boeing 787 passenger jets in 2013 after several instances in which lithium-ion batteries overheated. The plane was relatively new at the time. United was the only U.S. carrier affected, with six planes grounded.

Yesterday [local time], the FAA issued a statement saying that while others have drawn

similarities between the Indonesia and Ethiopia crashes, the agency was not.

"This investigation has just begun and to date we have not been provided data to draw any conclusions or take any actions," the FAA said.

The FAA also said that no later than April it expects Boeing will complete changes, including new training for pilots in automated anti-stall technology that is suspected of playing a role in the Lion Air crash. Data released by Indonesian investigators indicates that pilots struggled unsuccessfully to counter the system, which repeatedly pointed the plane's nose down and may have sent it into a death spiral.

■ Already airlines in Ethiopia, Mexico, China, Brazil, Argentina and Indonesia have temporarily grounded their Max 8s

A consumer group, Flyers-Rights.org, urged the FAA to ground the Max 8.

"The FAA's wait-and-see attitude risks lives," said the group's president, Paul Hudson.

U.S. airlines repeated their belief that the plane is safe.

American Airlines, which operates 24 Max 8s, said it bases its judgment on collecting extensive data on its entire fleet, including the Max 8.

"We have full confidence in the aircraft and our crew members," the carrier's vice president of flight service, Jill Surdeck, said in a memo to employees.

Southwest Airlines operates the largest U.S. fleet of Max planes, with 34 Max 8s. Spokesman Brian Parrish said the airline remains confident in their safety. United has about a dozen Max 9s, which are slightly bigger than the Max 8.

Dozens of Max aircraft crisscrossed the skies over the United States yesterday [local time], and passengers continued to board them and fly without incident. Passengers interviewed at Houston's Hobby Airport were keenly aware of the crash in Ethiopia. They expressed concern but no panic.

"I drive in Houston every day," said Brian Browder, who was waiting for a flight to Washington, D.C. "That's the place to be worried."

Still, Browder, who works for a construction-industry trade group and flies several times a month, said he would be "a bit apprehensive" about getting on a 737 MAX.

"They need to explain exactly what happened and why," he said.

Kelly Wells, a health care

worker from Austin, believes a catastrophic accident is less likely to happen in the United States.

"Those pilots are very well trained to handle an emergency. I'm in capable hands," she said before a flight on Southwest, which operates the Max, although her flight was not among them.

Peggy Chang Barber, a lawyer for a Houston nonprofit who was on her way to New York, said U.S. airlines are "pretty vigilant" about maintenance and pilot training, and she won't be concerned "unless they find a fault with the plane."

It isn't clear yet whether the plane's technology played a role in the Ethiopian Airlines crash, or whether that accident is related to the deadly Lion Air accident on Oct. 29 in Indonesia.

Even if Boeing must make software or hardware changes to the plane, "it's nothing they can't get past, but it would be an expensive process," said Richard Aboulafia, an aviation consultant with Teal Group.

"Historically, [airlines] cancel orders because of [fuel] performance shortfalls or because somebody else gave them a discount — not because of safety," Aboulafia said.

The FAA stripped the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 of its airworthiness certificate after numerous safety problems including a 1979 crash in Chicago, yet it still outsold a rival plane made by Lockheed, he said. **AP**

Rachel Lerman, San Francisco

USA

Google paid former exec USD35m after harassment claim

GOOGLE paid former search executive Amit Singhal USD35 million in an exit package when he was reportedly forced to resign after a sexual assault investigation, according to court documents released Monday.

Details of the exit package were revealed as part of a shareholder lawsuit against the company, one that followed a published report of payouts Google made to executives accused of sexual misconduct.

The lawsuit targets the board of Google parent Alphabet, charging that its members had a duty to protect the company and its shareholders from risk and reputation damage. Instead, it says, the board agreed to pay off and otherwise support male executives facing misconduct charges — opening the company to reputational and financial damage by doing so.

Previously redacted portions of the lawsuit were made available yesterday (Macau time), including quotes from Alphabet board committee meetings.

One portion of the minutes showed that Singhal, a senior vice president of search who left the company in 2016, received two \$15 million payments and a pay-

ment of between \$5 million to \$15 million as part of a separation agreement. The total payment could have been up to \$45 million.

Singhal was one subject of a New York Times investigation last year that revealed Google paid Android creator Andy Rubin \$90 million in a severance package after the company found allegations of sexual assault against him were credible. Rubin has denied the claims.

Singhal has also denied the claims against him, saying in a statement to the AP in 2017 that he had not been accused of harassment before and that he left Google on his own terms. Singhal did not immediately return a request for comment.

But the New York Times, citing three people briefed on the incident, reported that an employee claimed Singhal groped her at an off-campus event. A Google investigation found her claims

AP PHOTO



credible, according to the Times.

Previously, the Times reported Singhal was paid “millions” in an exit package. Singhal later joined Uber, but left after just five weeks. News reports at the time said he failed to tell Uber he left

Google because of a sexual harassment allegation.

Google acknowledged the unredacted claims in the lawsuit and said in a statement that there are “serious consequences for anyone who behaves inappro-

priately at Google.”

“In recent years, we’ve made many changes to our workplace and taken an increasingly hard line on inappropriate conduct by people in positions of authority,” the company said in an emailed statement.

The company was pressured to make changes by employee action last year. After news of Rubin’s massive payout, tens of thousands of Google workers around the world walked out of work in November to protest the company’s handling of sexual misconduct claims.

Google promised to be more forceful in handling such cases and ended mandatory arbitration in cases of sexual misconduct.

But the backlash has continued. Google Walkout organizers are still fighting the company on specific demands, and high-profile engineers have quit the company. **AP**

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what's ON



ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

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

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

NO WHERE THERE – WORKS BY TANG JING

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

UNTIL: March 16, 2019

VENUE: 1844 Macau Photography Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6311 1390

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

3RD MACAU PRINTMAKING TRIENNIAL

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Monday)

VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Center - Navy Yard No.1

Exhibitions Gallery and Nostalgic

House of the Taipa Houses

UNTIL: March 16, 2019

VENUE: 1844 Macau Photography Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

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

Offbeat

SOCIAL MEDIA TO STREAM ASIAN FOOTBALL GAMES AMID PIRACY BATTLE

Seeking to resolve the television piracy of Qatari-owned broadcast rights by Saudi Arabian interests, the Asian Football Confederation will use its Facebook and YouTube channels to broadcast Saudi-hosted football games in its competitions.

The AFC said yesterday it wants to protect broadcast partners and “tackle attempts to illegally exploit those rights wherever it occurs.”

The Asian football body announced the compromise less than four weeks before its presidential election in Kuala Lumpur. Incumbent Sheikh Salman of Bahrain faces candidates from Qatar and Saudi-supported United Arab Emirates.

Pirate network beoutQ in Saudi Arabia has long been broadcasting the signals of World Cup, Asian Cup and Champions League games that are exclusively owned in the region by Qatar-owned BeIN Sports. Saudi authorities have declared BeIN illegal in the kingdom — a proxy battle in the wider economic and diplomatic boycott of Qatar by hostile regional neighbors for nearly two years.

The AFC said it will use social media to stream “matches involving Saudi Arabia teams played in Saudi Arabia.”

The Saudi football federation said the decision amounts to canceling “the BeIN sport monopoly over all Asian Football Confederation competitions.”

The AFC declined to say if BeIN Sports has been paid compensation for the compromise.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
16:35	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	Palcos Agora
18:00	Ministério do Tempo
19:00	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Montra do Lilau
21:50	O Último Reino Sr.1 - Fim
22:40	LiteraturAqui
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	5 Para a Meia-Noite - Estreia
01:50	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:35	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 BROLLY

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



Conservative Party leader Edward Heath

1970 CONSERVATIVE VICTORY IN FIRST TEEN ELECTION

The Conservatives are celebrating a record majority in the Bridgwater by-election. They won by 10,915 votes, the largest in the constituency for 50 years.

It was the first time 18-year-old citizens were allowed to vote since the age of majority was reduced from 21 in January this year.

This was also the first time ballot papers were marked with the name of the party as well as the candidates.

Polling stations stayed open until 2200 BST (2100 GMT) - also a first.

The victorious Conservative candidate Tom King, aged 36, was given a hero's welcome by a crowd of about 100 when he stepped out onto the balcony of the town hall after the results were read out.

He was then carried up the high street on the shoulders of three farmers and a local vet.

The swing from Labour to Tory was 8.6% and the Liberals just managed to save their deposit by less than 50 votes.

Conservative Party leader Edward Heath said the result confirmed his view that Labour had lost touch with the wishes of the electorate.

His deputy, Reginald Maudling, said: “This is a fine result which would give us a massive majority. The sooner the Prime Minister faces the electorate, the better it will be for Britain.”

The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, does not comment on by-election results.

But the assistant general secretary of the Labour Party, J Gwyn Morgan, pointed out that the anti-government swing at Bridgwater was lower than at other recent by-elections.

“The swing against the government reveals the continued narrowing of the Conservative lead since the last series of by-elections,” he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 18 May Harold Wilson called a general election for 18 June. His Labour Party lost to Edward Heath's Conservatives.

The result was totally unexpected as opinion polls had predicted an easy victory for Labour on the back of a healthy economy and large pay rises. But the Tories' campaign that painted the government as too willing to back down to trade union pressure paid off.

Tom King has since been made secretary of state for Employment, Transport, the Environment, Northern Ireland, (1985-1989) and defence (1989 - 1992). In 2001 he took his seat in the Lords as the Right Honourable the Lord King of Bridgwater.

Edward Heath was prime minister until 1974 and lost the Conservative Party leadership to Margaret Thatcher in 1975.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You are still exploring new ways to connect with other people, so be patient with the learning curve and try not to get discouraged if you aren't getting the results you want right now.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
The universe has a lot to teach you right now, and asking tons of questions will help you with your lessons. Don't be shy—and don't worry about appearing unintelligent.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You and your people are not quite on the same page, which could make putting social plans together a bigger challenge than usual. It might be time to take a break and spend a bit of time alone.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You'll have great influence today in one-on-one, face-to-face situations, so try to schedule in-person meetings with anyone you need to convince of something today (especially if the situation is somewhat delicate).

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Today is a good day to make a clean sweep. So if you've been in an argument with someone, get in touch and suggest that the two of you let bygones be bygones. And if your home could use a deep cleaning, get to it!

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Thinking on your feet is one of your best skills—even if it's one you haven't used in a while. The energy of spontaneity will be especially invigorating today.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Avoid trendy items, and stick with something that has long-term value and style -- even if it might cost more initially. Value is not always about the lowest number on a price tag.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Hear that? That clackety-clack is the gears in your mind, turning at a furious pace! You are entering a very active mental phase, in which your simplest thoughts will quickly transform into complex, innovative ideas.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
If you're looking for a break in your busy life, seek out some mellow people who understand the true meaning of relaxation. You're like a sponge today—soaking up what others exude.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Right now, your physical health will be greatly affected by your emotional health. Feeling good about who you are and where you are in life will go a long way toward helping your body feel good.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
This is the beginning of a very productive period full of experiments, educational challenges, and opportunities for self-improvement. Don't immediately discount any idea that you have today.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Paying attention might be a bit difficult for you today, so it's not an ideal time for reading anything complex (or even watching a subtitled movie). Your mind is going in a million different directions...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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Easy+

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							5	8
		3	2	7				
4	9		5				7	

Medium

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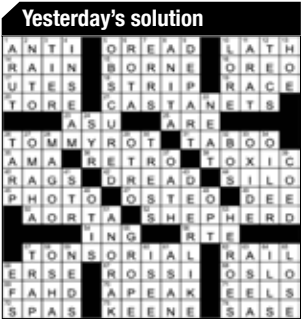
Hard

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	6							
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6		2						

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Slant; 5- Beasts of burden; 10- Hill toy; 14- Oratorio solo; 15- Singer Page; 16- Old Italian money; 17- Teri of "Tootsie"; 18- The "E" of "E-mail"; 20- Fortune tellers; 22- That's the spot!; 23- Prevention dose; 24- Give merit; 26- Schlep; 27- Panhandlers, collectively; 30- Not blind; 34- Pesters; 35- World's longest river; 36- Prefix with skeleton; 37- Actor Connery; 38- Deep black; 40- Hardware fastener; 41- Bark up the wrong tree; 42- ___ about (roughly); 43- Conditional release; 45- Porpoise; 47- Abilities; 48- ___ Paulo; 49- Loses color; 50- Contemptuous look; 53- Kenan's comedy partner; 54- Hawke of "Reality Bites"; 58- Familiar; 61- Pool division; 62- Extol; 63- Drench; 64- Legendary singer James; 65- Small combo; 66- "Hedda Gabler" playwright; 67- Escape slowly;

DOWN: 1- Price indicators; 2- Dies ___; 3- Italian bread?; 4- Seasoning plant; 5- Imitate; 6- Payment for regular work; 7- Lieu; 8- Engrave with acid; 9- Obedience school command; 10- Swamp; 11- Waterfall; 12- ___ the Red; 13- Fresh-water fish; 19- Red cosmetic; 21- Swing to and fro; 25- Hall of fame; 26- Frog's perch; 27- Stationed; 28- Diciembre follower; 29- Knot; 30- Transgression; 31- Dovetail part; 32- Rejoice; 33- Spoils, with "on"; 35- ___easter; 39- ___ appA@tit!; 40- Table supports; 42- Scarlett of fiction; 44- Toward the sheltered side; 46- Pretended; 47- "Unto the Sons" author; 49- Unborn child; 50- Shaker contents; 51- Tenn. neighbor; 52- Prefix with distant; 53- Door handle; 55- Detest; 56- Get in on a deal; 57- Half-moon tide; 59- Despot Amin; 60- Family room;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
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- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
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HKD 5,292 sq ft
Three Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 19025577

Apartment J, Nam Long
Taipa
One Bedroom Apartment
US Style Fridge
HKD 12,300 / 720 sq ft
Ref: 17110658

Sakura Court, Ocean Gardens
Taipa
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FOOTBALL

With batteries 'recharged,' Zidane back as Real Madrid coach

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

REAL Madrid picked one of its most successful figures to try to end one of its worst crises.

Zinedine Zidane is returning to coach Madrid, the club he led to three straight Champions League titles before quitting while on top nine months ago.

Madrid announced Monday

that Zidane accepted an offer to replace Santiago Solari and signed a contract until June 2022 to try to get the club back on track after a disastrous season.

The coaching change came less than a week after two losses to Barcelona and another to Ajax — results that eliminated the club from the Champions League and the Copa del Rey and virtually ended its hopes of winning the Spanish league.

"I'm very happy to be back home. I've recharged my batteries and now I'm ready again for the experience of being Real Madrid's coach. I'm motivated to be coaching again," Zidane said. "What I want to do now is return to work and put the club back where it belongs."

Spanish television channel La Sexta was the first to report Zidane's return. The announcement came after the board of directors met Monday in Madrid.

"You have an incredible history with the club, both as a player and as a coach," Madrid president Florentino Perez told Zidane. "We are proud to have you with us again. You represent the grandiosity of this club. Thank you for your loyalty."

Zidane, who won the 2002 Champions League while playing for Madrid, said he was never in doubt after receiving the offer from Perez.

"I love this club, and when the president called me, I couldn't say no," Zidane said. "I'll give everything I have to make this club better."

Zidane quit not long after Madrid won the Champions League title last season, saying that he and the club needed a change in command to keep succeeding. He won nine titles in his first stint with Madrid.

Zidane will be in charge today's practice session, and his first game back will be on Saturday at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium against Celta Vigo. Madrid trails leader Barcelona by 12 points with 11 matches left and is five points behind second-place Atletico Madrid.

"I've been watching the season closely and I'm also not happy with how things have gone," Zidane said. "We have to see what we can (do) to improve and make sure things can be different going forward."

Solari led the team to a 4-1 win at Valladolid on Sunday and was in charge of practice on Monday. The club said it offered him an opportunity to remain in a different position. The former Argentina and Madrid player had been the "B" team's coach before taking over the main squad in October.

Solari led Madrid to 22 wins, eight losses and two draws in all competitions, and helped the team win the Club World Cup in December.

Zidane's name was a unanimous choice within the club but few thought he would accept returning so soon after deciding to take a break.

The level-headed coach took over in January 2016 and immediately won over the squad with his calm manner and easygoing attitude. In addition to the three Champions League titles, he also led Madrid to the 2017 Spanish league title, the club's first since 2012. His other titles in his first coaching stint included two Club World Cups, two UEFA Super Cups and one Spanish Super Cup.

Shortly after Zidane left, Cristiano Ronaldo left to join Juventus, and Madrid has endured an up-and-down season that led to the humiliating losses to Barcelona and Ajax at the Bernabeu.

Zidane was replaced by Julen Lopetegui, the former Spain coach who was fired before the World Cup for taking the Madrid job. He lasted only a few months at the helm.

Solari took over from Lopetegui as an interim coach and eventually was given a full-time job — with a contract until 2021 — after putting the team back on track. Unlike Zidane, though, he struggled to manage the squad and was at odds with some of its key players, including Marcelo and Francisco "Isco" Alarcon.

Jose Mourinho, fired by Manchester United last year, was another strong candidate to replace Solari after succeeding with Madrid in the early 2010s. Other names mentioned included Jurgen Klopp, Mauricio Pochettino, Joachim Loew and Antonio Conte, who was highly touted to take over from the fired Lopetegui.

Some even wanted the club to consider former star Raul Gonzalez, who has just started coaching one of Madrid's youth squads.

But it will be the great Zidane at the helm again.

"We'll get back to work and try to do the right things," Zidane said. "We have 11 matches left in the league, then we will start thinking about next year and beyond." **AP**

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opinion

Macau Matters
Richard Whitfield



PERSONAL DATA IN MACAU

I won the trifecta and have all the first world fat old men medical conditions – high blood pressure, high cholesterol and type II diabetes. For winning this race I get to have (seemingly huge amounts of) my blood taken every 6 months for analysis, and urinalysis every 12 months. My Macau government doctors now have 6+ years of longitudinal data of many medical indicators concerning my health but they never show any of it to me and I am confident that they have never drawn any graphs to look at trends. I find it quite bizarre that they take the trouble of collecting all this medical data about me and then do nothing to properly analyze it!

Early on, at my request, my doctor would give me a copy of my test results so that my sister could review it – she was an intensive care specialist doctor for many years. However, more recently the Macau health department instituted a very complicated and troublesome process whereby I can buy some, but not all, of my own medical test results. Thus, I cannot obtain existing medical data about me to analyze myself or to have experts analyze it on my behalf. Again, this makes no sense to me.

I now buy some products online and have them delivered which is very convenient. These websites often ask me to review products I have purchased, and to help answer other customers' questions about using products I have purchased and I have done so in the past. Many years ago, I had a job working on the help desk for a computer software company answering questions from customers. I have also previously worked as a product manager and in marketing doing product usability and quality studies and product design reviews. I am now starting to question why I should now be doing free work for these websites, work that I got well paid to do many years ago.

Also, every time I buy anything by credit card I get annoyed at paying a percentage of the purchase price to the credit card company. I worked for many years in computer software development and know full well that the cost for processing a credit card transaction is fixed and independent of the value of the purchase. Credit card companies also hold a lot of valuable information about me and my purchasing profile and history which they happily sell to third parties. It is no wonder that credit card companies are among the most profitable in the world.

Macau casinos and shopping malls contain tens of thousands of video cameras that can recognize individual faces and track people's movements through their premises. They also monitor how much you gamble, and what you buy in their shops. This is all very useful data in helping these businesses decide what kinds of shops to put into what locations in their shopping malls and what kinds of special offers to present to you. It also helps them decide what gambling games to offer where and when in their casinos. I seem to get relatively little benefit from the reams of information these businesses get from analyzing my shopper/player activities.

The value of personal data is being increasingly recognized all round the world, and large Internet and other companies are under increasing pressure to protect the data they hold on people and give people the right to access and control data about themselves. Given the huge amounts of personal data now being generated in Macau, it is well past time that we have good personal data protection laws – yet another area where we can do much better.

THE BUZZ COLLEGE COACHES, OTHERS INDICTED IN ADMISSIONS BRIBERY CASE

Actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin are among at least 40 people indicted in a sweeping college admissions bribery scandal.

Loughlin appeared in the ABC sitcom "Full House," and Huffman starred in ABC's "Desperate Housewives." Both were charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud in indictments unsealed Tuesday in federal court in Boston.

Court documents say Huffman paid USD15,000 that she disguised as a charitable donation so her

daughter could partake in the college entrance cheating scam.

Court papers say a cooperating witness met with Huffman and her husband at their Los Angeles home and explained the scam to them. The cooperator told investigators that Huffman and her spouse "agreed to the plan."

Huffman is married to actor William H. Macy.

Messages seeking comment have been left with representatives for Huffman and Loughlin.

THE INTERNET

At age 30, World Wide Web is 'not the web we wanted'



English computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee, best known as the inventor of the World Wide Web

Jamey Keaten, Geneva

At the ripe old age of 30 and with half the globe using it, the World Wide Web is facing growing pains with issues like hate speech, privacy concerns and state-sponsored hacking, its creator says, trumpeting a call to make it better for humanity.

Tim Berners-Lee on yesterday joined a celebration of the Web and reminisced about his invention at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, starting with a proposal published on March 12, 1989. It opened the way to a technological revolution that has transformed the way people buy goods, share ideas, get information and much more.

It's also become a place where tech titans scoop up personal data, rival governments spy and seek to scuttle elections, and hate speech and vitriol have thrived.

As of late 2018, half of the world was online, with the other half often struggling to secure access.

Speaking at a "Web@30" conference at CERN, Berners-Lee acknowledged that a sense among many who are already on the Web has become: "Whoops! The web is not the web we wanted in every respect."

His World Wide Web Foundation wants to enlist governments, companies, and citizens to take a greater role in shaping the web for good under principles laid out in its "Contract for the Web."

Under the contract, governments are called upon to

make sure everyone can connect to the internet, to keep it available and to respect privacy. Companies are to make the internet affordable, respect privacy and develop technology that will put people – and the "public good" – first. Citizens are to create and to cooperate and respect "civil discourse," among other things.

Whoops! The web is not the web we wanted in every respect.

TIM BERNERS-LEE

"The Contract for the Web is about sitting down in working groups with other people who signed up, and to say, 'Ok, let's work out what this really means,'" Berners-Lee said. It was unclear, however, how such rules would be enforced.

Berners-Lee cautioned it was important to strike a balance between oversight and freedom but difficult to agree what it should be.

"Where is the balance between leaving the tech companies to do the right thing and regulating them? Where is the balance between freedom of speech and hate speech?" he said.

The conference, which brought together Internet

and tech experts, also gave CERN the chance to showcase its reputation as an open-source incubator of ideas. Berners-Lee worked there in the late 1980s, and had been determined to help bridge a communications and documentation gap among different computer platforms.

As a young English software engineer at CERN, Berners-Lee, who is now 63, came up with the idea for hypertext transfer protocol – the "http" that adorns web addresses – and other building blocks for the web.

The "http" system allowed text and small images to be retrieved through a piece of software – the first browser – which Berners-Lee released in 1990 and is considered the start of the web. In practice, the access to a browser on a home computer made the internet easily accessible to consumers for the first time.

Speaking to reporters earlier this week, Berners-Lee recalled how his research was helped his former boss at CERN, Mike Sendall, who wanted a pretext to buy a then-new Next computer by Steve Jobs' Apple needed for his research.

Berners-Lee said Sendall told him to "pick a random program to develop on it [...] Why don't you do that hypertext thing?"

Berners-Lee has since become a sort of father figure for the internet community, been knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and named as one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century by Time magazine. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	45-65 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate	
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

SOUTHEAST ASIA Production of methamphetamine is skyrocketing in Southeast Asia, with prices dropping and usage expanding, the United Nations's anti-drug agency said. More on p13



BREXIT Today it's finally decision day for Prime Minister Theresa May's EU divorce deal. With Britain scheduled to leave the European Union in less than three weeks, U.K. lawmakers are poised to choose the country's immediate direction from among three starkly different choices: deal, no deal or delay.

SOUTH AFRICA's president endorsed Zimbabwe's government yesterday, ignoring reports of human right abuses by the military to crush persistent dissent in the neighboring country. On a visit to Zimbabwe, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa voiced his strong support of President Emmerson Mnangagwa, repeating calls for an end to Western sanctions.



USA New York's attorney general Letitia James (pictured) has opened a civil investigation into President Donald Trump's business dealings, taking action after his former lawyer told Congress he exaggerated his wealth to obtain loans.



MMA Mix Martial artist and boxer Conor McGregor (pictured) was arrested in South Florida for stealing the cellphone of someone who was trying to take his photo, authorities said. The 30-year-old McGregor was arrested and charged with robbery and criminal mischief. An attorney for McGregor called the altercation "minor" and said the popular fighter would cooperate with authorities.