



### MGM PRESENTS DIGITAL ART SPECTACLE

The MGM Art Symposium returns for its second year with a cast of globally-renowned creatives discussing the nature of digital art

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### LI KA-SHING'S SON STUMBLES IN SUCCESSION

P6 GREATER BAY



### XI RECRUITS POPULISTS FOR GLOBAL PLAN

News that Italy will join the Belt and Road Initiative has sparked worries in the West over China's push for economic domination

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** pledged to improve its system for registering new drugs in the country this year and more closely monitor those medicines after they've entered the market, part of a series of rapid health-care reforms that seek to lower costs and improve the quality of drugs. [More on p9](#)

AP PHOTO



**THAILAND** The leader of the oldest political party and former PM has resigned after his party's poor showing in the general election. Vejjajiva (pictured) announced his resignation after an unofficial tally last night showed his Democrat Party in fifth place. The Democrats received about 2.98 million votes out of a preliminary total vote count of about 33 million. [More on p12](#)

AP PHOTO



**INDONESIA**'s long-awaited first subway opened yesterday in Jakarta to relieve crippling traffic gridlock in Southeast Asia's biggest economy. President Joko Widodo presided over a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of the second phase: a northward line planned for completion by 2024. The two projects are being built at a cost of USD2.6 billion.

More on backpage



CORRUPTION

## CCAC take down gov't official who profited off greyhounds

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CITY UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

PROF JACKY HO

# Schools need new tactics to tackle bullies

P3 MDT INTERVIEW





# MGM holds art symposium, debuts digital artwork for spectacle screens

MGM presented the second MGM Art Symposium at its Cotai property yesterday with the theme "Transforming Art with Technology," inviting renowned creatives to share their insights on art, science and digital technology.

Moderated by Tim Marlow, artistic director of the Royal Academy of Arts, the inaugural topic "Redefining Public Art," discussed the nature of digital art, assessing a new range of art forms that changed artwork presentation, as well as examining the life cycles of new art forms through technology.

The session also identified the challenges that art collectors are facing in the digital age.

Other speakers, Michael Govan, CEO, and Wallis Annenberg, director at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, commented on the fragility of digital artworks as compared to physical ones.

"A lot of digital artworks are a bit fragile and they have to be cared for. I'd put technology into another category," said Govan during the session. "The fragility of that is something that works for me."

Meanwhile, the symposium also presented Yang Yongliang's Virtual Reality Experience, "Nine Dragons," with the creator ex-



Pansy Ho

plaining how he melded Oriental aesthetics with digital technology in his work.

Yang, a contemporary artist, expressed his enthusiasm for the dragon as a symbol in traditional Chinese culture, where the symbol has been transformed through the passage of time. In the modern day, it is recognized as a symbol of prosperity and good fortune, whereas before it represented literati spirit and integrity.

According to Yang, the work was

initially inspired by a Southern painting titled "Nine Dragons," one of the most classical dragon motifs in Asian art history.

Meanwhile, gaming property MGM Cotai also debuted its commissioned digital artwork, presenting Zhu Changquan's "The History of an Action" in collaboration with the Ullens Center of Contemporary Art.

Titled "The History of an Action, 2019," the video featured an 18-minute work that disassembles events, symbols, and

visual expressions.

The gaming operator announced that the works will be showcased three times daily until September 7, 2019. MGM said that the project was part of its commitment to "bringing Macau to the world, and the world to Macau."

"We endeavor to reinvent art expression through innovative technology, offering diversified art and entertainment experiences for local people, 70 million population of the Greater Bay



Zhu Changquan

Area, as well as over 35 million visitors to Macau every year," said Pansy Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM China at the event.

The forum also invited Jeffrey Shaw, chair professor at the School of Creative Media at City University of Hong Kong, as well as Bas van Beek, a multidisciplinary artist who studies archive material, and restores, adjusts and digitizes designs that are often either not produced or not published. LV

## ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

### DIET TIPS FOR GERIATRIC DOGS

**GERIATRIC** dogs need special consideration when preparing a diet and exercise regimen. Health and joint problems may require different tactics than those used for younger obese dogs.

#### GERIATRIC DOG DIET

Before changing your senior dog's diet, consult your veterinarian for advice. If your dog has health problems, he may not be able to eat the same diet as a younger dog. However, some foods recommended by veterinarians are high in corn, wheat and other cheap fillers, which are bad for your older dog.

Though senior dogs need less protein than younger dogs, don't sacrifice the quality of your dog's food. Many senior diets are filled with wheat, corn and meat byproducts, which provide no nutritional value. Look for high-quality senior diets that rely on protein and high-quality grain for their top three ingredients.

Senior diets often utilise lower fat proteins

such as poultry and fish, rather than beef and lamb. They also utilize more high-quality grains such as barley, brown rice and oatmeal.

Another option is cutting back the amount of food and adding your own dietary enticements, such as replacing 25 percent of the food with ground vegetables. Since dogs can't digest the nutrients in whole vegetables, grind them in your blender and add them to his food. Good vegetable sources are green beans, squash, broccoli and celery. Since older dogs are also prone to constipation, replace a portion of the protein with healthy grains, such as wheat bran or oatmeal. One or two spoonfuls of canned pumpkin adds fiber while reducing calories. Adding this to a bland diet of boiled chicken and rice is another way to reduce your dog's calories without causing stomach upset from a rich protein-based food.

Don't free-feed your senior dog, even if he isn't interested in eating. Try adding a sodium-free broth or wet food to your dog's

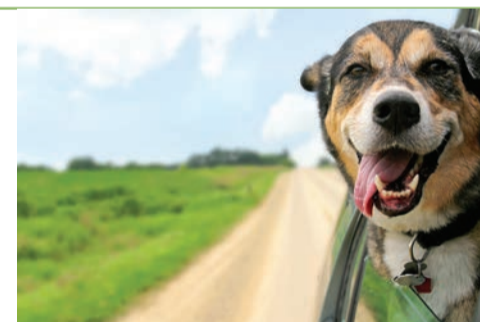
food to entice him to eat. Leaving food out all day prevents you from monitoring exactly how much he's eating and may cause you to feed him more than necessary.

#### GERIATRIC DOG EXERCISE

Though they may not have the energy of their youth, senior dogs still need physical and mental stimulation. Provide your dog with daily, steady exercise. Don't push your dog. Instead, slowly build his energy level back up with short, daily exercise. Be consistent. Don't exercise a lot one day to make up for not exercising the previous day. Get him excited about games that he used to enjoy such as tug and ball, just play them more slowly and for less time.

Another exercise option is making him work for his food. Instead of feeding it in a bowl, toss it across the floor so he can search for it. Hide it in toys or in little piles around the house so he must search for it. Place it in a ball that spits out kibble when he rolls it across the floor or wet it down, stuff it in a hollow bone or toy and freeze it. If he has never used one of these toys, first teach him how to use it.

Geriatric dogs are prone to obesity because they consume the same amount of calories,



even though their activity level is reduced. To keep your senior dog at a healthy weight, reduce his calories and keep him exercising, even if walks are slower than they used to be.

Hope this info helps  
Till next week  
Dr Ruan

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CITY UNIVERSITY OF MACAU



Professor Jacky Ho, CityU

EDUCATION

# Macau schools need a fresh approach to deal with rampant bullying problem

Renato Marques

**I**N light of the results obtained by Macau in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which ranked the region among the worst in the world for school bullying, the Times interviewed the Head of the Department of Innovative Social Work of City University of Macau, Professor Jacky Ho.

Macau scored fourth overall in the ranking of the worst jurisdictions for bullying, just behind Singapore, New Zealand and Latvia. Questioned on whether the results in the last assessment were surprising, Ho said: "Let's say yes and no. The reason I am not surprised is because we have been seeing a lot of different incidents regarding school bullying which came out in different forms, whether physical and emotional or even verbal."

"So I am not surprised by that situation because we see this everywhere now, and because of social media, people are more aware of that situation. There are more cases being reported, not just by the media but also through other community platforms."

Nevertheless, Professor Ho explained, "on the other hand, I am [somewhat] surprised because Macau has been culti-

vating [a system where] NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) provide a range of different kinds of services to young people. Plenty of them [address] professional social support for youth and help them to grow in different ways," he noted.

Ho added that he feels surprised by the revelation that "somehow it seems that these programs that have been put in place do not actually help the young people to focus on their future or their personal development or personal pursuit."

### LITTLE TIME, POOR COMMUNICATION

Another topic addressed by the PISA report, which refers back to a 2015 assessment, is that contrary to global trends, students enrolled in "elite schools" in Macau have a higher probability of being involved in bullying.

"What I found from the report is that young people from these elite schools are usually from a high income family but maybe because of this, they might be lacking support or lacking communication between youngsters and their parents," said Ho.

"Maybe their parents occupy high-level jobs and they might not have much time for their kids," the professor suggested, while calling attention to another

factor that might have influenced Macau's results.

"Also because Macau is a special city where most businesses are open 24-7, [shiftwork] might also contribute to the lack of opportunity for children to talk with their parents and parents hardly find time to spend with their youth."

"This might add to 'attention-seeking' behavior and parents may not be aware of their sons' and daughters' situations, whether in an academic or emotional or self-development setting," he said. "This could justify the high percentage of students involved in bullying in the so-called elite schools, and they can be either the victim or the aggressor in this sense."

### TO RECOGNIZE INCAPACITY

Questioned on whether he expects any change in the results for the upcoming PISA report - with assessments being done every three years - Ho said "I am expecting a linear trend on this situation in Macau and that is why I am suggesting that these issues should be targeted and resolved not just with schools but also with parents and the community as a whole."

According to Ho and at an international level, there is some work being done in this field through a method termed "res-

torative meetings," in which all parties involved in a bullying problem are invited to discuss the problem and resolve it permanently.

"These meetings occur usually when schools find out that there are students being bullied. All parties gather in a meeting to try to settle the problem. Nowadays, not many schools [in Macau do this] although some have social workers or other counsellors working there and with the capability to intervene in these situations."

The scholar calls for pressure to be put on schools to adopt this method "because schools focus too much on punishment but after you deal with the consequences of the bullying, the relationship between the students has not been resolved. They return to the classroom and engage in an even more conflict-ridden relationship." The situation is made worse by the fact that schools' higher administration and management have been unable to acknowledge their incapacity to deal with bullying.

"This is a situation that schools, principals, headmasters and teachers need to acknowledge is beyond their professional knowledge to deal with. They have to engage the schools counsellors or social workers and get them into the core of the problem."

## Bus collision injures seven

An accident that took place on Friday at the Avenida do Ouvidor Arriaga resulted in 16 school children being sent to the hospital for an evaluation. The collision involved a school bus and a private car. Seven people, including five school children aged between 4 and 5 years old, a female school worker and a female teacher sustained injuries. The collision is suspected to have been caused by the car failing to stop at the intersection and colliding with the school bus. The car's driver is a local student aged 20 years old.

## Property management industry expects fee increase

The property management industry expects property management fees to increase between 5 and 10 percent due to the city's new minimum wage bill. The vice-president of the Property Management Business Association Macau, Yeong Kuong, expects that this time, the increase will have less of an impact than the increase of the minimum wage in 2016. "The minimum wage adjustment will definitely result in an increase in costs, and these costs will be passed onto small owners," said Yeong, who hopes the government can give more time to residents and the property management industry for them to adjust to the new regulation.

## Smart water meter program to launch this year

Macao Water will launch a smart water meter pilot program for homes in the first half of this year in the Macau peninsula, according to the utility company. The meter will be used to record users' water habits and abnormalities and to analyze data. It is hoped that the meter will help to reduce errors caused by manual meter readings and to better understand the daily water-peak distribution. Moreover, on Friday, the city's water authority reported that Macau currently has a total of 179 buildings participating in the safe water scheme.



## Las Vegas Sands notifies SEC of settlement

Casino company Las Vegas Sands has notified federal regulators that it settled a 15-year breach-of-contract battle with a Hong Kong businessman, without disclosing terms. A notice posted with the Securities and Exchange Commission says only that Round Square Co. headed by Richard Suen "released all claims" against Sands when the agreement was announced March 14 in Nevada state court. The notice says the settlement's terms are confidential. Sands twice appealed jury verdicts that Suen was due tens of millions of dollars for helping Sands open its first casino in the Chinese gambling enclave of Macau in 2004. The settlement ended a third trial in Nevada that focused on establishing the amount Round Square should receive.

## Pagcor sees revenue jump in offshore operations

More stringent regulations over Philippine offshore gaming operators, starting from 2016, have resulted in a large increase in revenue for the country's gaming regulator, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp (Pagcor). Offshore operations generated PHP657 million (MOP4.3 billion) in 2016. After the aforementioned regulations were tightened, revenues soared to PHP3.924 billion (MOP25.6 billion) in 2017 and PHP7.365 billion (MOP48.1 billion) in 2018.

## Kosovo suspends casinos, betting shops

Kosovo's parliament has voted to suspend all casinos and betting shops. Lawmakers voted 74-0 for a resolution suspending gambling activities until a draft law the government will prepare in 30 days is approved. It did not say what the new law will change. Avdullah Hoti, a lawmaker with the Democratic League of Kosovo party who proposed the resolution, said "betting games have grabbed the citizens and no one has become rich with the betting shop businesses." In a post on his Facebook page, Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj said he is looking for Cabinet approval next week. In 2018, the government gained 16 million euros (MOP146 million) from gambling receipts. After neighboring Albania closed all casinos and betting shops last year, many of them moved to Kosovo.

## SECURITY

# Authorities consider holding armed attack drill annually

**A**N armed attack drill is considered being held annually to simulate emergency situations in the city's casinos, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau announced in a statement on Friday.

The announcement came after the simulation drill dubbed as Wolf Hunting 2019 was concluded at The Venetian Macao on Friday, in which emergency workers and officers from the Judiciary Police, the Public Security Police Force, the Fire Services Bureau and the Customs Service took part.

The drill on Friday simulated an armed robbery with six actors posing as criminals attacking some patrons before escaping the hotel lobby.

According to authorities, some 360 people attended the 90-minute drill.

According to Paulo Martins Chan, director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), "the emergency contact system has been improved between DICJ, the casinos, as well as the police," as cited in a report by TDM. Commenting on the drill, Ma Io Kun, commissioner-general of Unitary Police Service said, "without testing, we won't be able to assess the effectiveness of the current system operations."

The police said in a statement that the drill included simulations of multiple injuries, a bomb threat, people being held hostage and standoffs between the police and the criminals. The drill also incorporated pe-



pper spray for the first time.

The police also pledged that it would remain vigilant in developing the security situation by carrying out different types of exercises, enhancing the coordination capacity and joint operations of public security services and other entities to deal with possible emergency situations.

Commissioner-general Ma

further added that the rise in money exchange scams has brought changes to the surroundings of the casinos. Yet he assured that the city's overall social order remains intact.

Wolf Hunting was designed to test the ability of public-sector departments and the local casino industry to coordinate and respond to major incidents.

Further, DICJ said in a state-

ment that it would continue to assist the police in its simulation drills, and coordinate with the gaming concessionaires and sub-concessionaires "in order to enhance the capacity to respond to unforeseen situations."

It added that the move is also to establish mechanisms of collaboration, and improve and optimize the supervision of casinos in a timely manner. **LV**

## Airport holds fire drill

**T**HE Macau International Airport (MIA) carried out its "Fire in the Fuel Farm Exercise 2019" on Friday, involving a simulated fire in a fuel tank caused by static electricity.

Nam Kwong Petroleum & Chemicals Co. Ltd., the fuel provider, activated the safety systems according to their internal procedures and moved the vehicles that were parked in the area.

Simultaneously, they notified all entities involved in the emergency in accordance with the Airport Emergency Plan.

The airport fire fighting station deployed their trucks immediately to the location to put

out the fire. Although there were no injuries, the commander-in-chief asked for additional support from the Fire Services Headquarters and evacuated staff in the vicinity of the incident.

The exercise, which lasted for 45 minutes, was coordinated by the Macau International Airport Company Ltd.

About 230 people took part in the exercise, representing the Unitary Police, the Public Security Police Force, the Fire Services, the Civil Aviation Authority and CAM-Macau International Airport Company, amongst others.

## CANIDROME

# Senior gov't official directed greyhounds to boost his clinic's business

**M**ACAU'S Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has found that a division head of the Municipal Affairs Bureau abused his power in the aftermath of the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome's closure last summer by directing the placement of greyhounds to an animal clinic in which he secretly held a stake.

In July last year, the Municipal Affairs Bureau, then known as the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, took in more than 500 stranded greyhounds at the Canidrome after the venue was closed and the

operating company evacuated from the premises. One month later, the CCAC received a complaint alleging that some public servants had mishandled the subsequent placing of the greyhounds.

The anti-corruption agency said that the senior public official, Choi U Fai, the veterinary and inspection head of the Civic Affairs Bureau, had colluded with another public servant (an assistant officer of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau) and a businessman to obtain unlawful economic advantages.

According to a CCAC report, the suspect directed the greyhounds to an animal clinic in which he secretly had a stake. As a result, the clinic won a contract to provide medical care for and perform neutering surgery on over 500 greyhounds.

In addition, without the approval of the former Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the division head assigned his subordinates to lend government-owned medical equipment to the clinic.

Choi was a long-time advocate for the Canidrome's closure, disclosing to the

press as early as in 2012 that dozens of greyhounds were being killed each month.

As suggested by the Public Prosecutions Office and approved by the Criminal Investigation Court, Choi has been suspended from public duties. Moreover, coercive measures have been taken against all three suspects, including the requirement to regularly report to authorities and a prohibition on exiting the Macau SAR. If found guilty, the three suspects may face up to five years imprisonment in accordance

with the Penal Code.

Meanwhile, during the course of the investigation, the CCAC also discovered that since July 2012, the division head had abused his power by assigning his subordinates to include a trading company, in which he controlled an interest, in a list of suppliers for the division's procurement of goods and services. The inclusion in the list resulted in the company winning over 120 contracts, involving a total sum in excess of MOP8 million.

If found guilty, Choi is liable for imprisonment of up to three years. **DB**





# MGM PROMOTES LOCAL GASTRONOMY WITH ITS GLOBALLY ACCLAIMED CHEFS

*MGM works closely with world-renowned celebrity chefs to inspire and cultivate Macau's culinary art talent and to promote the inheritance of local cuisines, as part of MGM's continuous endeavors in bringing the world to Macau, and more importantly bringing Macau to the world.*



**T**HE opening of MGM COTAI last year has not only excited the local food scene, but also the world's culinary landscape. With the announcement of World's 50 Best Restaurants 2018, MGM is elated with the exciting results of Chef Mauro Colagreco's Mirazur ranking at No.3 and Chef Mitsuharu Tsumura's Maido ranking at No.7. The two world-renowned chefs helm two of MGM COTAI's celebrity chef restaurants, making MGM COTAI the only resort in the world with two top 10 chefs from "World's 50 Best Restaurants".

As the Celebrity Chef of Coast at MGM COTAI, Chef Graham Elliot is one of the judges of the American reality television series Top Chef. Last year, MGM and Chef Elliot held a sharing session with over 100 local young entrepreneurs to shed lights on how to integrate creativity with gastronomy, adding uniqueness to the culinary landscape of Macau.

Chef Elliot said, "In this tiny little place, we have many top chefs of the world as well as numerous small family-run restaurants, making Macau's food culture soulful and celebrated. I always like to go to the Red Market in search of local ingredients for the sake of bringing me new inspirations for my dishes."

Invited by MGM, the production crew of the Emmy Award-winning series Top Chef decided to feature Macau for the finale of Season 16. After the competitions in Kentucky in the US, the remaining cheftestants go all the way to Macau and battle it out in an epic showdown where one winner is crowned the champion.



This filming not only allows the participating chefs and the crew to explore Macau's gastronomic culture, but also makes Macau the highlight of this season. Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of the Macao Government Tourist Office, said, "We are glad that Macau is featured in Top Chef, elevating the city's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. During Top Chef's epicurean adventure, our city's talented chefs and community partners share stories and insights on Macau's culinary diversity with a focus on our unique Macanese cuisine. We hope the viewers will be inspired to come and visit so they can experience all of the great culinary experiences our city offers."

**We are glad that Macau is featured in Top Chef, elevating the city's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.**

MARIA HELENA DE SENNA FERNANDES  
DIRECTOR OF MGTO

"We are thrilled to have been chosen by Top Chef as they brought the cast and crew to Macau for the first time," said Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited Grant Bowie. "With the cheftestants showcasing their incredible culinary skills at the various iconic spots of MGM, Top Chef will put us center stage with their global fans. We also thank judge Chef Elliot for bringing all of his peers to his Coast restaurant at our resort to sample his culinary delicacies."

The season finale episodes featured Macau's top sightseeing destinations, as well as MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI. Chef Mitsuharu Tsumura of Aji at MGM COTAI was invited to be the guest judge, and the winner of this season was announced at Five Foot Road in MGM COTAI.

Top Chef photo credit: Carmo Correia & Bravo



## INSPIRE LOCAL TALENTS WITH THE SUCCESS OF NIKKEI CUISINE

With the aim of nurturing local culinary art talent and to inspire them to integrate local culture and creativity into their recipes, MGM invited Chef Tsumura to introduce the concept of Nikkei cuisine and its culinary techniques with IFT's Culinary Arts Management Degree Programme students.

Chef Tsumura said: "I would like to share my vision and philosophy to inspire and encourage students, so that they can help contribute to the development of Macanese cuisine with their pride and creativity."

## BROADEN LOCAL TALENTS' HORIZONS

As another initiative to encourage the young generation in Macao to join the culinary field, MGM invited Chef Colagreco of Grill 58 to inspire students from the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management of MUST by sharing his culinary expertise.

Inspired by his mentors in Argentina, Chef Colagreco chose to pursue his career in France when he was young. He hoped that Macau's culinary students could be in-



spired and cherish the exchange opportunities like he did. He also encouraged students to keep on learning and pursuing their dreams no matter where they are in the future.



# Li Ka-Shing's son stumbles in year since Superman's retirement

Bruce Einhorn & Jinshan Hong

**F**OLLOWING in his father's footsteps was always going to be a challenge for CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd.'s Victor Li.

Li Ka-shing, the self-made billionaire who over seven decades turned a plastic flower business into a global empire spanning ports and property to telecommunications and retailing, last March announced he would retire. He then handed the top position at the family-controlled conglomerate to his eldest son.

Twelve months later, Victor Li, 54, has learned a tough lesson about being the follow-up act to a legendary figure in Hong Kong and investors have been pretty unforgiving so far.

The stock price of the family's flagship company, CK Hutchison, has dropped 16 percent in the year since Li Ka-shing announced his retirement. During that time, the benchmark Hang Seng Index has fallen 8.1 percent.

"Li Ka-shing has been a unique asset of the family group, which unfortunately is not transferable to the next generation," said Joseph Fan, a Chinese University of Hong Kong professor who specializes in family-run businesses.

The elder Li, now 90, started out as a refugee and built a fortune that made him the city's richest man, earning him a reputation among local residents as a deal maker on par with the likes of Warren Buffett.

## YOUNGER LEADERSHIP

Now, it's show time for Victor Li. The fitful transition at CK Hutchison is emblematic of a broader shift occurring at Hong Kong's top family-run companies as billionaire founders make way for younger leadership.

The next tycoon to step aside may be Henderson Land Deve-



Victor Li

lopment Co. Chairman Lee Shau Kee, the city's second-richest man. Lee, 91, is considering retiring and having sons Lee Ka Kit and Lee Ka Shing take over, the company said in a stock exchange filing last week.

Even as CK Hutchison's profit has jumped, Victor Li's attempt to put his stamp on the group's future has led to some setbacks abroad, with the group retreating from several high-profile deals. Closer to home he has moved cautiously, focusing on redeveloping properties and leaving untouched a board of directors composed largely of old-timers.

"There's not much change. It's just having an extra title," Li said at a Hong Kong press conference on Thursday following the announcement that CK Hutchison income rose 11 percent in 2018 to HKD39 billion (USD5 billion), on a 9 percent gain in sales to HKD453 billion.

With the retirement of his father, nicknamed Superman by the local media, the younger Li has yet to win over investors who doubt he has the same ma-

gic touch, according to Richard Harris, Hong Kong-based chief executive officer of Port Shelter Investment Management.

"CK Hutchison's shares used to have a Superman premium," Harris said. "When Superman retired, things became boring."

That's not for lack of trying. The younger Li didn't waste time seeking to reshape the family business: In June a consortium of the group's companies offered AUD13 billion (USD9.3 billion) for APA Group, an Australian operator of gas pipelines. The price tag represented the biggest overseas acquisition offer in CK's history.

The deal imploded, with Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg in November rejecting it as "contrary to the national interest."

Li took another hit when the group's Canadian oil company, Husky Energy Inc., abandoned a CAD2.75 billion (USD2.1 billion) hostile takeover of MEG Energy Corp. Husky announced its plan in September and in January walked away after failing to win

enough support from shareholders.

Li's ability to make deals abroad is suffering in part from his father's decades of work cultivating relations with the Chinese leaders, according to CGS-CIMB Securities analyst Raymond Cheng. "Superman is seen as having close ties with the Chinese government, while Western countries are growing skeptical of such backgrounds," he said.

At the press conference, Li defended the group's overseas purchase plans, saying CK Hutchison today is seen as a global company although Hong Kong is its home. "We don't feel excluded in other places in the world," he said.

Li has had victories closer to home. In July, the group disclosed a plan to redevelop Hutchison House, a stolid 1970s-era building in Hong Kong's Central district. The new 490,000-square-foot building could double the project's rental income when completed in 2023, with a value that could reach HKD35 billion, according

to Bloomberg Intelligence.

"We'll keep on doing Hong Kong property. It's our main business," Li said at the press conference.

The Hutchison House project is one of several redevelopments of existing Hong Kong properties as Li devotes more attention to the group's backyard, according to Morningstar Investment Service analyst Phillip Zhong.

"He has a greater belief there are more opportunities in the Hong Kong property sector," he said. "Because of the setback they had in Australia and improving sentiment here, there's a shifting of the focus back to Hong Kong."

## LONG TENURE

In the boardroom, Li is still largely working with his father's team. The average age of members of CK Hutchison's board of directors is more than 73, the oldest among companies on the Hang Seng Index, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The average for index member companies is 61.

Affiliates CK Asset Holdings Ltd., CK Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. and Power Assets Holdings Ltd. aren't far behind, with all three ranking in the top 10 of the oldest boards of companies on the index. CK Hutchison declined to comment about board composition and corporate strategy.

The news from abroad wasn't all bad for Li. In June, CK Asset spent 1 billion pounds (USD1.3 billion) to acquire the London headquarters of UBS Group AG. The group took control of mobile operator Wind Tre SpA by buying out its partner for 2.45 billion euros (\$2.8 billion) in September.

Li has slowly been building ties with Chinese tech companies by agreeing to deals with Ant Financial, Xiaomi Corp. and Meitu Inc. to sell smartphones, offer digital payments and provide other services in CK's retail stores.

"Victor didn't make any major mistakes," said Francis Lun, CEO of Geo Securities Ltd. "We can't expect everyone to work miracles." **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](mailto:gba@macaudailytimes.com)





# Cruise, yacht businesses watching Greater Bay for opportunity

A white yacht departed from Shenwan Yacht Dock in Zhongshan, a city of China's southern Guangdong province, and sailed along the West River, a tributary of the Pearl River, for about one hour into Port Coloane of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

This is a sightseeing trip between the Macau SAR and Zhongshan under the Individual Yacht Visit Scheme. The scheme, which was officially launched two years ago, started the individual tourism

cooperation between Guangdong province and Macau.

Unlike the yacht sightseeing in the niche tourism market, mass-market tourism cooperation in the Greater Bay Area has long been mature. The ferry routes between the Bay Area regions and the newly built Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge weave a transportation network that facilitates the development of tourism and leisure in the region.

According to the outline development plan for the Greater Bay

Area, the participating cities can develop a variety of tourism products involving culture, history, leisure and health. They have been instructed to explore transportation options such as cruise lines, yachts and high-speed railways, so that the area can be built into a world-class destination for tourists.

Zhu Fuming, president of the Genting Cruise Lines – which has its home ports in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, and offers at least one cruise line trip

in the Pearl River estuary – said as the Greater Bay Area has favorable geographic advantages, a vast population, and a relatively-high economic development level and spending capacity, there is potential for developing the cruise line business in the region.

However, as the Greater Bay Area has three customs jurisdictions, three currencies and three legal regimes, it still needs in-depth coordination between the three places to break the barriers maintained by different policy

and legal regimes.

Zheng Weihang, vice-director of China Cruise and Yacht Industry Association, said that, if these barriers can be overcome, the Greater Bay Area has the capability to link the industrial chain in Zhuhai, Foshan, Zhongshan, Huizhou and Dongguan with the science and technology research capacity in Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou and Shenzhen. Doing so could allow it to become a base for manufacture and maintenance of cruises and yachts. **DB/Xinhua**

## PUBLIC APPROVAL

# HK people show record low confidence in 'One Country, Two Systems'

THE latest survey conducted by the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong (HKU POP) showed that Hong Kong peoples' net confidence in the future of the Special Administrative Region has plunged to a record low since the question was first asked in 1994.

Last week, HKU POP released its trust and confidence indicators. A total of 1,024 Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above were questioned regarding their confidence in the future of the Hong Kong SAR, the Beijing central and Taiwan

governments, as well as in the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy. Confidence in the policy dropped by 10 percentage points in the latest survey.

Further analysis shows that the younger the respondent, the less they trust the central government, and the less confident they are in Hong Kong's future and its separate system of governance.

With respect to the confidence indicators, peoples' confidence in the future of China remains the highest among the three options.

The latest survey shows that Hong Kong peoples' net trust in the Hong Kong

government and central government have both dropped since half a year ago. Both figures are at a record low since Carrie Lam became Chief Executive.

The latest survey revealed that 34 percent of respondents trusted the Hong Kong government and 33 percent trusted the Beijing central government.

On the other hand, 39 percent of the respondents had confidence in Hong Kong's future, and 62 percent had confidence in China's future, while 41 percent of the respondents were confident in 'One Country, Two Systems.' **JZ**

## HEALTH

# Measles outbreak infects workers at HK airport

HONG Kong's Department of Health is investigating an outbreak of measles that has infected three workers at the city's airport.

The trio, employees at the Hong Kong International Airport, each developed a rash last week, according to a government statement late Friday. Another two cases were announced Saturday, one involving a man working for an airline and the other, a 11-month-old girl.

The man traveled to countries including Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines during the incubation and com-

municable periods, according to a separate government statement.

He was a pilot with Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd., Radio Television Hong Kong reported, citing the government. Cathay Pacific and the Hong Kong government's information department couldn't immediately be reached outside of office hours to confirm a pilot was infected.

The Philippines is in the midst of a measles epidemic. More than 21,000 cases have been recorded this year and 315 people have died, its government said.

A health talk was conducted at the Hong Kong airport to deliver measles-related health advice to workers, a government spokesman said Friday. Measles mop-up vaccinations were given to close work contacts of the three patients to prevent the possible spread of infection, he said, referring to the infected airport employees.

At the beginning of March, a man developed full-blown symptoms of measles after boarding a Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong to Tokyo. He was a flight attendant at the airline, the South China Morning Post reported. **Bloomberg**





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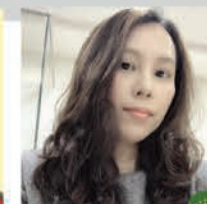
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Property of the Week



**SUPREME FLOWER CITY includes car park**

**\$15,800,000** 2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 2

The large living spaces in Supreme are very popular with families thanks to the amount of natural light, the high ratio of usable area and the generous room sizes. This 4 bedroom / 2 bathroom apartment has recently been renovated, it features a western style kitchen including a built in oven and fitted cupboards, all in a high quality finish.

The apartment also benefits from being situated directly below the 'fire break' floor with no immediate neighbors above. It is available for vacant possession, and a car park space is included as gesture of courtesy for speedy sale.



Property Hotlist



**NOVA GARDENS, TAIPA**  
**\$12,500,000**  
 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

3   
 3



**ONE GRANTAI, COTAI**  
**\$23,000/mth**  
 2,122 ft<sup>2</sup>

3   
 3



**NOVA PARK, TAIPA**  
**\$16,400/mth**  
 1,134 ft<sup>2</sup>

2   
 2



More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 2 2 1,497 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,826,300** (ref:19015572)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 2 1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$7,950,000** (ref:18085559)
- [Taipa] Nova City 4 3 2,503 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$17,800,000** (ref:199015574)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 3 2 1,610 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$10,800,000** (ref: 18105563)
- [Taipa] Va Fat 1 1 570 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$4,680,000** (ref:18115569)

For Rent

- [Coloane] Houston Court 1 1 850 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,800/mth** (ref:17090657)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 2 1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$14,000/mth** (ref:17020639)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$35,000/mth** (ref:18040674)
- [Taipa] Nova Park 2 2 1,134ft<sup>2</sup> **\$16,400/mth** (ref:17020638)
- [Taipa] Nam Long 1 1 720 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$12,300/mth** (ref:17110658)

Recent Movements

- Sold** Jou Fai Kuok, St Paul's Ruin  
 1 bed, 627 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 18055556)
- Rented** Nam Long, Taipa  
 2 bed, 550 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 18095561)
- Rented** Office space, Senado Square  
 1,200 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 18090200)

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## Alibaba buys Israeli AR startup

**C**HINESE e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. has acquired Israeli startup Infinity Augmented Reality, after investing in the company three years ago.

InfinityAR will join Alibaba's Israel Machine Vision Laboratory, according to a release on the startup's website. Financial details were not disclosed, but Alibaba paid more than USD10 million, according to an estimate from market sources cited by Globes.

"The talented team brings unique know-how in sensor fusion, computer vision and navigation technologies," lab head Lihi Zelnik-Manor said in the release.

The startup says it can turn AR glasses into a "powerful content augmentation platform." It had previously raised \$18 million from Alibaba and Japanese firm Sun Corp. in 2016.

The acquisition comes during a time of heightened scrutiny over the role of Chinese investment in Israel. U.S. officials have raised the prospect of a body to vet investments similar to the U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment. **Bloomberg**

**C**HINA pledged to improve its system for registering new drugs in the country this year and more closely monitor those medicines after they've entered the market, part of a series of rapid health-care reforms that seek to lower costs and improve the quality of drugs.

"We are going to identify a new framework of the administration measures for drug registration," Wang Ping, Director-General of the Department of Drug Registration at the National Medical Products Administration, said at a forum in Beijing on Saturday. "We also want to work closely with pharmaceutical companies and strengthen monitoring and surveillance after the new drug has been launched into the market."

Facing pressure from its growing middle class to gain access to the best drugs and health care available, Beijing is now approving novel drugs from foreign pharmaceuticals like Pfizer Inc. and Novartis AG as quickly as U.S. or European regulators are. Where patients once had to travel outside of the country to get life-saving medication, China is now determined to make sure its citizens, who have some of the highest rates of cancer, diabetes and li-

### MEDICINE

# China pledges stronger reform on approving, monitoring new drugs



ver disease in the world, can get direct access to top drugs first.

It's also adding more of these novel drugs to its national insurance reimbursement list regularly, a change that's already boosting revenue for companies like Roche Holding AG. While drugmakers have had to

lower prices substantially in order to get onto the list, the surge in volume sold has made it worth their while.

At the same time, China wants to contain costs by lowering prices of generic medicines - older drugs whose patents have expired.

Last year, it started a pilot program for some of its major cities to bulk-buy certain generic drugs through tender, a process that drove down prices by as much as 90 percent. As the program expands to cover more generic drugs, it's likely to eat into the profit of pharmaceuticals like Pfizer, who do a thriving business selling generic versions of drugs they invented to Chinese hospitals.

Many patients in China "still pay too much out of pocket especially for high value drugs that treat serious diseases," Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said at the same panel at the China Development Forum. China's government should integrate best practices from other markets, he said, and must deepen its protection of intellectual property. **Bloomberg**

AD



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# Italy signs accord deepening economic ties with Beijing

**I**TALY signed a memorandum of understanding with China on Saturday supporting Beijing's "Belt and Road" initiative, which aims to weave a network of ports, bridges and power plants linking China with Africa, Europe and beyond.

With the move, Italy becomes the first member of the Group of Seven major economies, which includes the United States, to join the Belt and Road program, following Portugal's embrace of the initiative in December.

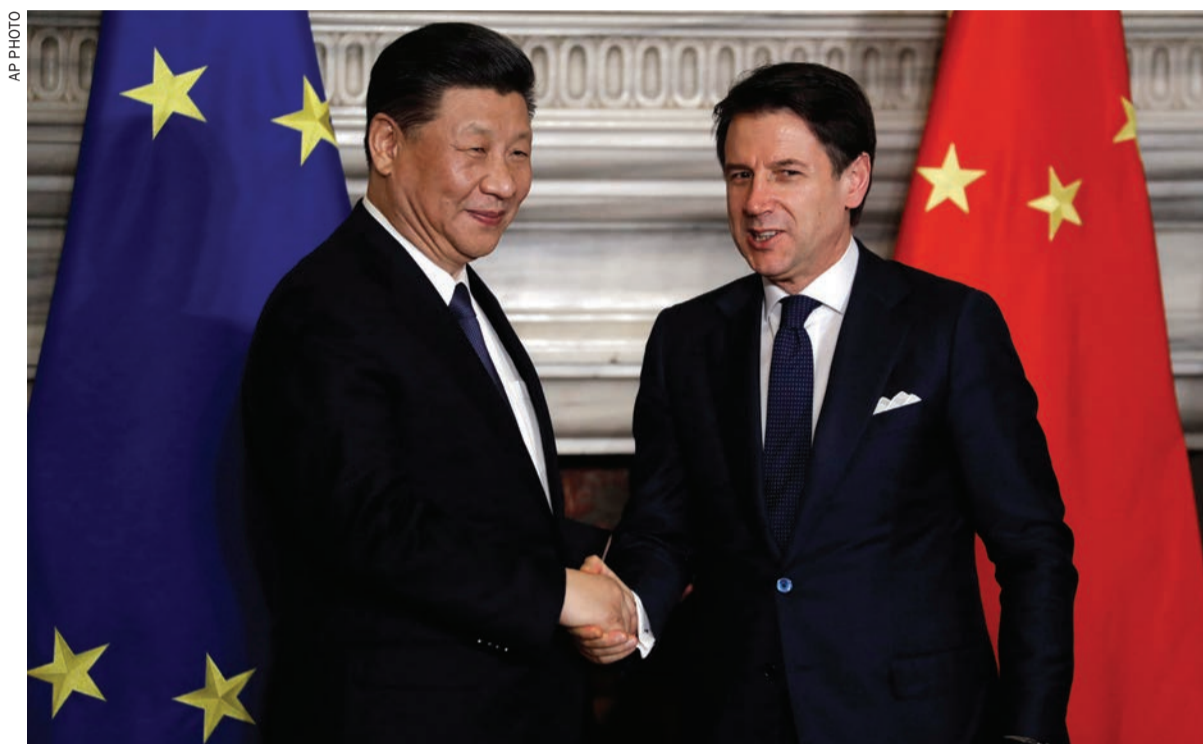
Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte and Chinese President Xi Jinping attended a ceremony in Rome where 29 separate protocols of the memorandum were signed by both governments in front of the flags of China, Italy and the European Union.

Luigi di Maio, the Italian minister of economic development, told reporters afterward that his country's goal is to increase exports to China in order to correct trade imbalances and boost Italian businesses and the country's troubled economy. He said the value of the individual deals signed on Saturday amounts to USD2.8 billion, with the potential to grow to USD22.6 billion.

"Our goal with these accords is to start to rebalance an imbalance for which there is a lot of 'Made in China' coming to Italy and too little 'Made in Italy' that goes to China," Di Maio said.

He said Italy now expects "a substantial and gradual increase of exports and we hope that in the next years we can balance out the trade imbalances."

Italy's move appears to also be



driven by hopes that Chinese investment in Italy's ports might help revive the country's traditional role as a key link in trade between the East and West.

The signed accords are wide-ranging and include cooperation between banks, between a Chinese construction company and Italian ports, and the export of Italian fruit to China. The deals also foresee cooperation in the spheres of science and technology and between media outlets, as well as the return by Italy of hundreds of Chinese cultural treasures.

The signing ceremony took place at the Villa Madama, a Renaissance villa designed by Raphael, where Xi was greeted with full honors on the second day of his two-day visit to Italy. He then

traveled to Sicily, where officials hope to attract more Chinese tourism.

## ■ The deals also foresee cooperation in the spheres of science and technology

Italy's involvement in the Belt and Road program gives China a crucial inroad into Western Europe and a symbolic boost in its economic tug-of-war with Washington, where President

Donald Trump is challenging China over trade and other issues.

The EU, however, is worried about unfair competition from Chinese companies, which are controlled by the Chinese government and benefit from the state's financial backing. EU leaders in Brussels are preparing a strategy to counter the growing influence of China, which they describe as a "systemic rival."

Some Italian government officials were critical of the deals, worried that Italy might be ceding national sovereignty in key strategic areas to Beijing. In a sign of opposition, Matteo Salvini, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, stayed away from the official ceremonies with

the Chinese delegation.

Di Maio stressed that Italy remains firmly rooted in its alliance with the United States, NATO and its European partners, but said Italy must also look out for its own economic interests.

"Like someone in the United States said 'America first,' I continue to repeat: 'Italy first' in commercial relations," Di Maio said.

In response to concerns that the memorandum could open the way to colonization by China, Di Maio countered it would instead help goods manufactured in Italy "to colonize the world."

"That is a good colonialization," he said.

The Belt and Road project has so far seen investments totaling more than a trillion dollars since its launch more than five years ago, and China says some 150 countries have signed agreements related to the project.

Beijing has marketed the initiative as a way to give some of the world's neediest countries a leg up, helping them gain access to more trade and investment. But it also helps Chinese companies tap new markets for their products while helping Beijing amass greater global influence.

Some governments including the U.S., Japan and India worry that Beijing is trying to build a China-centered sphere of influence that undermines their own sway, pulling developing nations into infrastructure "debt traps" that would give China ever-more control over their territories and economies. Some say the proposed improvements are too expensive for the impoverished countries.

China's official position is that Belt and Road is solely an economic initiative with no political motives. Xi said last year that even as China moves closer to the center of the world stage, it will never seek hegemony. **AP**

## TECH TRADE

# Apple's Cook says he's bullish on global economy

Dake Kang, Beijing

**A**PPLI CEO Tim Cook said Saturday that he is "extremely bullish" about the global economy based on the amount of innovation underway, and urged China to continue to "open up" amid complaints from the U.S. and others that it is shutting foreign firms out of key high-tech industries.

In a speech at an economic forum in Beijing, Cook said Apple is less concerned with the short-term economic outlook because the tech giant makes investments looking ahead years or decades.

"In the long term, I'm

extremely bullish. I think the key to the economy, unlocking its potential has always been innovation, and when I travel around the world, I've never seen innovation at a more feverish pace than I do today, so I'm extremely optimistic," Cook told participants at the China Development Forum, a gathering of business leaders in Beijing.

His remarks come as China and the U.S. prepare to meet again to resolve their trade dispute, which has roiled global markets, and as Apple is expected to announce that it is launching a video service.

The iPhone has long been Apple's marquee

product and main money maker, but sales are starting to decline. The company is pushing digital subscriptions as it searches for new growth.

## ■ Apple is one of many American companies now grappling with increasing Chinese consumer anxiety

Apple is one of many American companies now grappling with increasing Chinese consumer anxiety. China is a major market for Apple and other smartphone makers, accounting for one-third of the industry's global handset shipments.

In other comments, Cook said the world was "facing greater challenges than ever before."

"Climate change is threatening our planet, poverty and inequality hold citizens and nations back from their potential, basic health care remains out of reach for millions," he said.

"At the same time [...]



we can have a healthy planet and a thriving economy. We can continue to lift millions of people out of poverty, and we can give everyone a chance to

learn and thrive. To fulfill this potential, we must all work hand in hand, government, academic institutions and businesses like Apple," Cook said. **AP**



ADVERTORIAL

# SANDS CHINA NEWS

## Sands China Organises Second "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Visit" Professionalism Training for Team Members

Team members visit Shenzhen to promote cultural exchange

Sands China Ltd. recently led a delegation to Shenzhen, as part of the company's professionalism training initiatives.

The second "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Visit" was co-organised by Sands China Ltd. and the National Conditions Education (Macau) Association to deepen employees' understanding of national development and the Greater Bay Area, helping them better understand the area's business environment, develop their professional confidence and broaden their horizons.

The delegation comprised nearly 60 senior management team members. Their visit to the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone had the aim of encouraging cooperation and exchange between industry professionals from Macao and their counterparts in the Greater Bay Area.

The Sands China delegation started their tour with a visit to Seafront Towers, the headquarters of Tencent Holdings Limited, the Chinese multinational corporation behind popular Internet-related services and products like QQ and WeChat.

Led by Tencent staff, the delegation visited different parts of the towers such as office areas, fitness rooms and the exhibition hall, getting a glimpse of some of Tencent's latest technologies, such as the company's Youtu face verification technology, face detection security system, and the various interactive functions of AR (augmented reality) and VR (virtual reality) facilities that visitors can try via cell phones.

The delegation then had a meeting with senior Tencent management and was welcomed by Tencent Cloud President Qiu Yuepeng. The two parties shared ideas with each other on cooperation and exchange within the Greater Bay Area.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the OCT Loft Creative Culture Park, experiencing first-hand the dramatic changes in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone over the years of China's reform and opening-up. The delegation also visited Qianhai Free Trade Zone and gained an understanding of several aspects of the zone such as planning, policymaking and positioning.

Invited guests of honour at the event included Wen Hongyan, senior vice president of human resources for Sands China Ltd.; Dean Zhao, senior vice president of e-commerce for Venetian Macau Limited; around 60 Sands China senior management team members; and executives from the National Conditions Education (Macau) Association: President Wang Haitao, Executive Vice President Zhang Jin and Secretary General Zheng Yingfeng.

Sands China has always strived to enhance the professional skills of its 28,000 team members through various avenues. Apart from the first "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Visit" to Foshan's Shunde district, the company has set up banner stands at its properties and video screens showing a professionalism education documentary series in order to raise team members' awareness and understanding of professionalism education. In addition, the company's Professionalism Training for Team Members programme, co-organised with the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), was launched in July 2016 and has since trained more than 3,700 team members. The company targets to train a total of 7,500 team members during the first five years of the programme.



A delegation of senior management team members from Sands China Ltd. visits the headquarters of Tencent Holdings Limited Jan. 28, getting a glimpse of some of Tencent's latest technologies. Sands China Ltd. led the delegation to Shenzhen as part of the company's professionalism training initiatives.



# Beijing stops purchase of Canadian canola seeds

Rob Gillies, Toronto

CHINA has stopped all new purchases of Canadian canola seeds in what some see as retaliation for Canada's arrest of a top executive of Chinese tech giant Huawei.

The Canola Council of Canada said last week exporters are reporting Chinese importers are unwilling to purchase the seeds at this time.

In 2018, China bought about 40 percent of Canada's canola exports for a total of USD2.1 billion.

Guy Saint-Jacques, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said Canada's government now needs to retaliate and should expel any Chinese athletes training in Canada for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games in 2022.

"We are going to lose billions in dollars in trade and it's time to show our displeasure," Saint-Jacques said.

Earlier this year, Beijing suspended canola imports from Canadian-based Richardson International Ltd. for what one Chinese official alleged was the detection of hazardous organisms in the company's product.

But David Mulrone, Canada's former ambassador to China, said the blockage of Canadian canola is "absolutely related" to the Huawei arrest.

Relations between both countries have been tense since Canada arrested Chinese executive Meng Wanzhou in Vancouver in early December at the request of the U.S.

On Dec. 10, it arrested two Canadians in an apparent attempt to pressure the government of Justin Trudeau. A Chinese court also sentenced a Canadian to death in a sudden retrial in December, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier.

Mulrone said the latest move by China should convince the Canadian government that Huawei should be banned from supplying equipment for 5G networks in Canada.

"This is really the example that should convince people that the risk is too great," Mulrone said.

Canada and its security agencies are studying whether to use equipment from Huawei as phone carriers prepare to roll out fifth-generation technology. 5G is designed to support a vast expansion of networks to facilitate medical

devices, self-driving cars and other technology.

Huawei is the world's biggest supplier of network gear used by phone and internet companies, but has long been seen as a front for spying by China's military and its highly skilled security services.

"We are about to make a really, really important decision on the future of the technology on which our internet is based," Mulrone said. "How can we not at least consider what's happening in the agriculture sector when we make a decision in the technology sector?"

"If China intervenes capriciously in one sector, might it not intervene capriciously in another? We have to turn the tables on China. China turns the tables on us," he added.

Prime Justin Trudeau said Canada's intelligence and security services are very carefully examining Huawei.

**We are going to lose billions in dollars in trade.**

GUY SAINT-JACQUES  
FORMER CANADIAN AMBASSADOR  
TO CHINA

Trudeau added that he is optimistic his government will be able to solve the canola issue, noting a previous issue over canola exports to China in 2016 was solved.

It is not the first time that Beijing has struck back against a nation which appears to cross it.

In 2010, China suspended its bilateral trade deal with Norway and restricted imports of Norwegian salmon after the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Chinese political prisoner Liu Xiaobo.

Britain and other countries were also retaliated against over their meetings with the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader who is considered a dangerous separatist by Beijing.

"We cannot take this laying down any longer. It's a two-way relationship and they cannot do this to an old friend," said Saint-Jacques, the ex-ambassador.

Saint-Jacques also said it is getting close to the point where Canada should expel China's ambassador. AP





Pheu Thai party leader Sudarat Keyuraphan (left)

## ELECTIONS

# Thais vote in long-delayed poll pitting junta versus critics

Stephen Wright and Preeyapa T. Khunsong

**N**EARLY five years after a coup, Thailand voted yesterday in a long-delayed election pitting a military-backed party against the populist political force the generals overthrew.

An opinion survey taken in the days before the election, and released after voting closed, indicated that the governing party ousted in the 2014 coup would win the most parliamentary seats but not enough to govern alone. A military-backed party would win the second-highest number of seats, according to the Suan Dusit survey.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the blunt-speaking army chief who led the coup, is hoping to extend his hold on power after engineering a new political system that aims to stifle the influence of big political parties not aligned with the military.

Voting stations closed at 5 p.m. and meaningful results were expected within several hours. The formation of a new government, likely to be unstable and short-lived, could take weeks of haggling.

About 51 million Thais were eligible to vote. Leaders of political

parties opposed to military rule urged a high turnout as the only way to derail Prayuth's plans.

Prayuth was among the first to vote in Bangkok, the capital, arriving in a black Mercedes after polling booths opened at 8 a.m.

"I hope everyone helps each other by going to vote today as it's everyone's right," he told reporters after voting. He played golf later in the morning before heading to an army base to await results.

The election is the latest chapter in a nearly two-decade struggle between conservative forces including the military and the political machine of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a tycoon who upended tradition-bound Thailand's politics with a populist political revolution.

Thaksin was ousted in a 2006 military coup and now lives in exile abroad to avoid a prison term, but parties allied with him have won every election since 2001. His sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, who led the government that was ousted in 2014, also fled the country after what supporters said was a politically motivated corruption prosecution.

After the coup, political par-

ty gatherings were banned and pro-democracy activists and other dissenters were regularly arrested, interrogated and imprisoned. Just days before yesterday's election, the Thaksin-allied Pheu Thai party said the houses of party officials and its campaign canvassers in some provinces were searched by military personnel in an act of intimidation.

## Thais were voting for a 500-seat parliament

The party's leader, Sudarat Keyuraphan, said after voting in Bangkok's Ladprao district that she was confident of winning.

"I don't say it'll be a landslide. I don't know. Depends on the people. But I think we can win this election," she said.

Thailand's powerful King Maha Vajiralongkorn issued a statement on the eve of the election that said the role of leaders is to stop "bad people" from gaining power and causing chaos. It was also broadcast on Thai television stations minutes

before voting started.

Invoking a speech by his father, the previous Thai king who died in 2016 after reigning for seven decades, Vajiralongkorn said not all citizens can be transformed into good people so leaders must be given support in ruling to create a peaceful nation.

He urged government officials, soldiers and civil servants to look after national security.

It was the monarch's second notable intervention in politics recently. Last month, he demanded his sister Princess Ubolratana Mahidol withdraw as a prime ministerial candidate for a small Thaksin-allied party within 24 hours of her announcement.

First-time voter Napasapan Wongchotipan said she hopes for positive changes after the election.

"I have no idea what the results will be like," she said. "But I do wish that the party that we will get, the party that wins the votes, will come in and improve our country."

Thais were voting for a 500-seat parliament that along with a 250-member junta-appointed Senate will decide the country's next prime minister. That setup means a military-backed figure such as Prayuth could become leader even while lacking a ma-

jority in parliament.

"The biggest challenge of this election is whether it will mark the beginning of a transitional democracy in Thailand. I hope to see that, but it seems to be a very dimmed hope," said Siripan Nogsuan Sawasdee, a political scientist at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

"It might end up with the election being used as a façade for a new authoritarian ruler or we might end up with another round of conflicts and polarization," she said.

Political parties and their main leaders held their final major rallies on Friday evening in Bangkok.

Sudarat said Pheu Thai would fight to overcome constitutional hurdles erected against it by Prayuth's regime.

"In 2014, they took power with the barrel of a gun, by a coup," she said. "In 2019, they are trying to take away the people's power again through crooked regulations under the constitution."

When it seized power in 2014, the military said it was to end political unrest that had periodically turned violent and disrupted daily life and the economy. The claim has been one of the few selling points for the gruff Prayuth, who according to critics has overseen a period of growing inequality and economic hardship in Thailand.

"I want things to improve," Narate Wongthong said after voting. "We had too many conflicts in the past and I want to see lots of people come out and vote." AP



NEW ZEALAND

# Thousands attend vigil to honor 50 mosque dead

THOUSANDS of people gathered in the New Zealand city of Christchurch yesterday to listen to prayers, songs and speeches at a vigil to remember the 50 people killed in a terrorist attack on two mosques.

One of those watching from a wheelchair was 21-year-old Mustafa Boztas, who was shot in the leg and liver during the March 15 attack at the Al Noor mosque.

"It's beautiful to see what the community has put together to show they care about us, and to show that we are all one," Boztas said.

He said he was recovering well and hoped to be walking normally soon.

Officials estimate up to 40,000 people attended the event on a sunny evening at Hagley Park. It was held

on a stage that had been set up for a concert by Canadian singer Bryan Adams that was cancelled after the attacks.

The names of each of the 50 people killed were read out.

Okirano Tilaia, the head boy at Cashmere High School, which lost two students in the attack, cited Martin Luther King Jr. in his speech, saying he conquered people with love, peace and solidarity.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can," Tilaia said. "And hatred cannot drive out hatred. Only love can."

New Zealand has been holding a series of memorials since the attacks. On Friday, people across the nation observed the Muslim call to prayer one week after the attacks. Next Friday, a national remembrance is scheduled. AP

BORDER TENSIONS

# Pakistan showcases military even as tensions with India ease

PAKISTAN celebrated its national day on Saturday with a military parade showcasing its missiles, tanks and aircraft, even as the prime minister and his Indian counterpart exchanged goodwill messages in a sign of easing tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered "best wishes" to his counterpart Imran Khan ahead of Saturday's celebrations. Khan welcomed the statement late Friday and called for a comprehensive dialogue on all issues, including the disputed Kashmir region.

Tensions between India and Pakistan flared last month after a suicide attack killed 40 Indian paramilitary soldiers in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir. The Indian air force launched an airstrike inside Pakistan, saying it was targeting militants it blamed for the bombing.

Pakistan retaliated and said it shot down two Indian air force planes. One pilot was captured and later released. India says it lost only one plane.

Pakistan's President Arif Alvi marked



the national day by saying the region needs peace, not war, and that Pakistan wants to live peacefully with its neighbors. He said Pakistan's war is against hunger, poverty and unemployment.

"Our desire for peace shouldn't be construed as our weakness. Let's end the hatred and sow the seeds of peace in this region for prosperity of the people," Alvi said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was the chief guest of the parade, in which troops marched through the streets of Islamabad and warplanes staged acrobatic flyovers. Authorities suspended mobile phone services and blocked roads as part of

security precautions.

Later Saturday, President Alvi held a ceremony in which he honored military officers and accomplished civilians in their respective fields. The presidency also announced that Naem Rashid, who was killed trying to stop the gunman who attacked two New Zealand mosques earlier this month, will be honored posthumously later this year.

The nationwide celebrations were marred by tragedy when a wall collapsed over students and teachers marking the occasion in the eastern city of Gujranwala. Local administrator Naila Baqar said five students and a teacher died, and 12 others were injured. AP

AD

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Speaker: **Dr. Tiffany C. H. Leung**, Lecturer in SPEED at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
**FMCC Breakfast Meeting**

**Introduction:** Firms in Macau's gambling industry tend to adopt the Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI) to disclose their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) performance in their annual reports. Dr. Tiffany Leung will analyse the current and future CSR trends that benefit their business operations, including cost and risk reduction, innovation and creating shared value. Not to be missed!

**Date:** Wednesday, March 27th, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 - 10:30am (Reception: 8:45am)  
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USA

# Disaster aid bill facing a tricky path as it heads to Senate

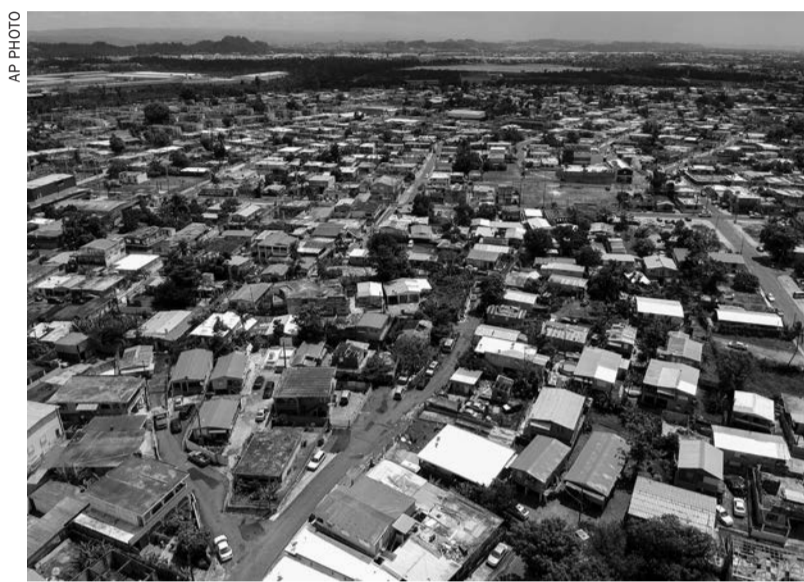
Andrew Taylor, Washington

A battle over funding for Puerto Rico is complicating the path forward for a long-delayed disaster aid bill that's a top political priority for some of President Donald Trump's Republican allies as it heads to the Senate floor this week.

At stake is USD13.5 billion emergency relief legislation to help southern farmers, rebuild hurricane-damaged military bases, repair water systems, and assist victims of last year's California wildfires, among other purposes.

The measure has wide backing from both Democrats and Republicans and is perhaps most ardently backed by Trump loyalists such as David Perdue, R-Ga., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C., who face potentially difficult re-election fights next year.

The White House, however, isn't pleased with the bill and is particularly opposed to efforts by Democrats to make hurricane relief to Puerto Rico more gen-



rous. Senate Republicans are supporting food aid to the devastated island and are working with top Democrats like Patrick Leahy of Vermont to try to speed passage of the measure by adding additional help for Puerto Rico.

The House passed a companion \$14.2 billion version of the legislation in January, but it got tangled up in the politics of the

partial government shutdown and Trump's demands for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The measure is especially sought by lawmakers from southern states like Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, which were hit by hurricanes Michael and Florence last year. There's money to respond to an earthquake in Alaska, California wildfires and

floods in South Carolina, and for the ongoing recovery effort in Puerto Rico, which was devastated by back-to-back hurricanes in 2017.

And now there's widespread flooding in Nebraska, Iowa and other Midwestern states.

In an official position paper in January, the White House said the House bill was far too generous, objecting to almost \$6 billion worth of the measure. But it stopped short of an outright veto threat, and GOP aides say Trump has since told Perdue that he'd sign the Senate version of the bill, which mirrors the House plan in most respects.

For many lawmakers, passage is already overdue. Puerto Rico has already cut nutrition benefits by roughly 25 percent amid the funding crunch and Georgia lawmakers warn that their farmers need help in the run-up to planting season.

"We are past the time when this should have gotten done. I have spoken with the president many times about this. His commit-

ment to our farmers is unwavering," Perdue said last month.

Trump's commitment to aid to storm-ravaged Puerto Rico is in question, however.

Last fall, Trump tweeted falsely that the government of Puerto Rico was using disaster aid funding to pay off its debt, and earlier this year Trump reportedly contemplated trying to shift some of Puerto Rico's disaster aid to address disaster in the mainland U.S.

While Trump supports \$600 million to maintain food stamp benefits in Puerto Rico, Capitol Hill aides say the White House is opposing more generous terms for delivery of disaster aid dollars and funding to rebuild antiquated water systems and make them more resilient to future storms.

Allies of Puerto Rico say Trump treats the U.S. territory worse than states that have endured far less devastating hurricane disasters.

"These folks are living under the American flag," said Rep. Jose Serrano, D-N.Y. "They should not be treated any differently than any other American citizen."

The Puerto Rican vote is an increasingly potent vote in Florida, an essential state to Trump's re-election bid. Freshman Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., a Trump ally, is a strong supporter of aid to the island. AP

AD

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Gregory Katz, London

UK

# Theresa May faces pressure to step down to save Brexit

**P**RIME Minister Theresa May faces growing pressure from within her own party either to resign or to set a date for stepping down as a way to build support for her Brexit agreement with the European Union, British media reported yesterday.

Senior Conservative Party figures were urging May to recognize her weakened political position and leave the prime minister's post. However, there was no indication from Downing Street a resignation was near.

Some of the party's key supporters of a "hard" Brexit that would see Britain leave the EU even without a withdrawal deal in place planned to meet with May at Chequers, the prime minister's country residence.

May thus far has been unable to generate enough support in Parliament for the deal her government and the EU reached late last year. Lawmakers voted down the Brexit plan twice, and May has raised the possibility of bringing it back a third time if enough legislators appear willing to switch their votes.

Treasury chief Philip Hammond said that senior party members plotting to remove May were being "self-indulgent." He said a change of leadership would not

provide a solution to the U.K.'s political deadlock on Brexit.

**I'm afraid it's all over for the PM. She's done her best.**

GEORGE FREEMAN  
CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEGISLATOR

"We've got to address the question of what type of Brexit is acceptable to Parliament, what type of way forward Parliament can agree on so that we can avoid what would be an economic catastrophe of a no-deal exit and also what would be a very big challenge to confidence in our political system if we didn't exit at all," Hammond said.

Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington, mentioned as a possible caretaker prime minister



should May be ousted, said that talk of a Cabinet revolt was far-fetched speculation.

The Cabinet is focused on the best way to get May's withdrawal plan passed in the House of Commons, Lidington said.

The U.K.'s departure from the EU was set to take place on March 29, but the absence of an approved divorce agreement

prompted May last week to ask the leaders of the 27 remaining member nations for a postponement.

The leaders rejected May's request to extend the deadline until June 30. Instead, they agreed to delay Brexit until May 22, on the eve of EU Parliament elections, if the prime minister can persuade Parliament to endorse the twice-

rejected agreement.

If she is unable to rally support for the withdrawal agreement, the European leaders said Britain only has until April 12 to choose between leaving the EU without a divorce deal and a radically new path, such as revoking the decision to leave the bloc or calling another voter referendum on Brexit.

Parliament may take a series of votes this week to determine what proposals, if any, could command majority support.

Conservative Party legislator George Freeman tweeted Saturday night that the U.K. needs a new leader if the Brexit process is to move forward.

"I'm afraid it's all over for the PM. She's done her best. But across the country you can see the anger. Everyone feels betrayed," Freeman tweeted. "This can't go on. We need a new PM who can reach out & build some sort of coalition for a Plan B." AP

AD

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VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

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TIME: 10:30am-11pm

UNTIL: April 7, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

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VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park

ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)

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## Offbeat

## REEL-Y? NEW BEER CAN DOUBLE AS MOTION PICTURE FILM DEVELOPER



Kodak says a new beer hitting the market can be used to develop its Super 8 movie film.

Dogfish Head Craft Brewery in Delaware created its SuperEIGHT beer after a conversation with people at Kodak, the upstate New York technology company most famous for its photographic roots.

Dogfish learned from Kodak that heightened levels of acidity and vitamin C in certain beers could make them a processing agent for film. That inspired the brewery to design such a beer. Kodak helped by testing it.

Dogfish founder Sam Calagione says he'll document his summer travels on Super 8 film that will be developed in SuperEIGHT beer and turned into a short film.

The beer, made with pear, mango, berries, kiwi, quinoa and salt, is set for national distribution next month.

## TV canal macau



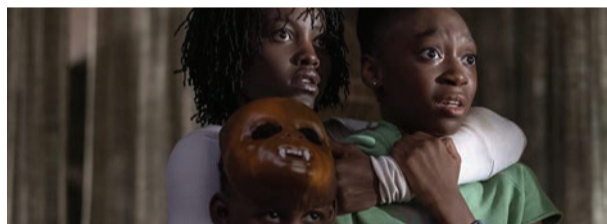
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:05	Conversa da Treta
16:30	Grande Entrevista
17:30	Ministério do Tempo
18:30	Contraponto (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Desporto
22:20	Impostores Sr.2
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Magazine Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:10	RTPi Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

21 - 27 Mar



US

ROOM 1

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

Director: Jordan Peele

Starring: Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

CAPTAIN MARVEL

ROOM 1

7:15pm

Director: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck

Starring: Brie Larson, Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min

MASQUERADE HOTEL

ROOM 2

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

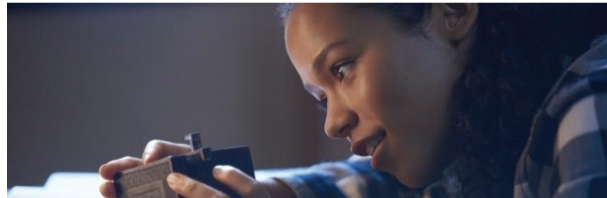
Director: Masayuki Suzuki

Starring: Takuya Kimura, Masami Nagasawa, Nozomi de

Lencquesaing

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 133min



ESCAPE ROOM

ROOM 2

9:45pm

Director: Adam Robitel

Starring: Taylor Russell, Logan Miller, Jay Ellis

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 99min

I WANT TO EAT YOUR PANCREAS

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Shin'ichirô Ushijima

Starring: Mahiro Takasugi, Lynn, Yukiyo Fujii

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 108min

KAMEN RIDER HEISEI GENERATIONS FPREVER

ROOM 3

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

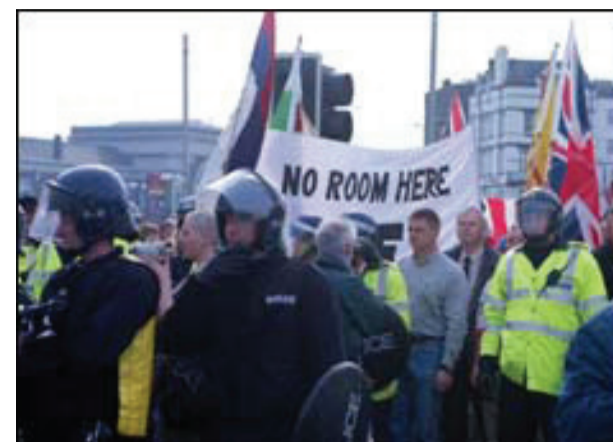
Director: Kyohei Yamaguchi

Starring: Eiji Akaso, Shunsuke Daitô, Nayuta Fukuzaki

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

## this day in history



## 1975 NATIONAL FRONT RALLIES AGAINST EUROPE

Members of an extreme right-wing UK party, flanked by 2,000 police officers, have marched through north London in protest against integration with Europe.

Beating drums and chanting "we're going to get the reds", National Front members marched through Islington waving placards.

Extra police were drafted in amid fears violence may flare as on previous National Front demonstrations.

The march, held in protest of the EEC, drew about 400 National Front supporters.

There were fears of a counter-demonstration against the far-right protesters but there were no violent outbursts.

But about 300 protesters gathered opposite Islington Town Hall shouting at the main march - they stood where the Labour Council had refused to allow the National Front to hold a rally.

They were cordoned off from the main march by police but could be seen waving banners and shouting abuse at the National Front demonstrators.

Police led the National Front march to Exmouth Market, a mile away, to allow the rally to take place in a deserted street.

No members of the public were allowed access to the rally.

This blanket-covering by the police has become a successful strategy in curbing violence and troubles during marches.

Police clamped down after the Red Lion Square riot last June at Holborn when the National Front was protesting against the government's plans for immigrants, and violence flared as other protestors demonstrated against the rally.

One demonstrator died, the first death at a demonstration in 55 years, and many policemen and protesters were injured.

Police horses were used to clear a way through and a large number of arrests were made.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The National Front movement was at its most vocal and active in the 1970s and many more demonstrations followed.

It fielded hundreds of candidates at the 1979 General Election but failed to translate its support into votes.

In-fighting began to cripple the movement and a splinter group - the British National Party - was formed.

The BNP has grown steadily and in the 2001 General Election it won more votes than expected.

For the first time the party had saved its deposit in an election in the north of England.

It sent shock waves through the country that it signalled the far right movement was gaining supporters despite the country's increasing multi-culturalism.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You can have a great day if you don't think about anything except what's in front of you, and be sure to do it well.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Attachments are more important than ever. You need security in life, and you're not getting the financial variety, at least not at the moment.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Be careful what you say, unless you can afford to put your money where your mouth is. If not, don't offer any ideas.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Life just gets bigger and better, even if you can't see the same sparkle you once could. Interest is still accruing on your inner investments, if not your outer ones.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're certainly not at one of life's pinnacles. That leaves you plenty of room to move forward. Keep aiming for that high point, even if the only capital you have is willpower.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 So how does it feel to be the underdog? It's a rank you don't want to brag about, that's for sure. But if your last place ribbon is obvious, then make the most of your little guy status.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Just how much longer will this dry spell last? You don't have any ready answers, not that anyone is looking to you for them anyway. But on the off chance someone asks, it pays to be prepared.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your biggest challenge is accepting the status quo. But conditions won't be changing anytime soon, so don't even bother asking. Learn to live with a flat line.

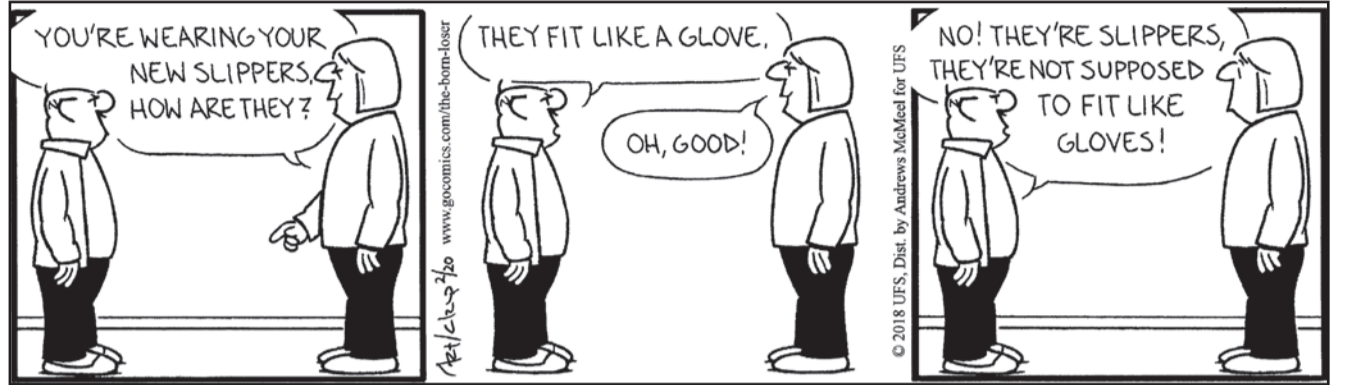
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You used to think hoping for good luck was a waste of time, but these days, what do you have to lose? Hard work won't help you make any extra pennies. You might as well start flipping coins.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 This isn't the old days. Don't be talked into sharing if you don't have enough for you and yours. Some around you may feel more deserving but you ultimately control the purse strings.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You don't have any energy to waste on power struggles. The real struggle is so important you can't afford even the slightest distraction from it. In fact, you're about due for extraordinary measures, so start saving up.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's easy to slip into a fantasy world when the real one starts to feel overwhelming, but daydreams won't put bread on the table. Don't let your mind wander into greener pastures.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Good fortune; 5- Tropical eel; 10- Tooth; 14- Casa cookware; 15- Like Santa; 16- Golden calf; 17- The Tower of Pisa does this; 18- Lab work; 19- Verdi opera; 20- Very long; 22- Unit of magnetic intensity; 24- At all; 25- Jiffy; 26- Recreation; 29- Memorable time; 32- Bank offerings; 36- 100 centavos; 37- Title of reverence for God; 39- Notice; 40- Naive; 43- \_\_\_ tai; 44- Intolerance; 45- And here it is!; 46- Parisian pupil; 48- Mystery writer Josephine; 49- Sacred text of Islam; 50- Tree-ring indication; 52- That guy; 53- Without exception; 57- Appendix; 61- "The Time Machine" race; 62- Favored crime of pyromaniacs; 64- Madcap; 65- Pieces partner; 66- Irish county; 67- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 68- Engrave with acid; 69- Camp sights; 70- Tabula \_\_\_;

DOWN: 1- Hang loose; 2- Peter Fonda role; 3- Scottish social unit; 4- Leaping marsupial; 5- Like wool sweaters in storage; 6- Follow instructions; 7- Hi-\_\_\_ monitor; 8- Respecting; 9- Affirmatives; 10- Ignominious failure; 11- Passage into a mine; 12- Lymph \_\_\_; 13- Delighted; 21- Blasting stuff; 23- Revered remnant; 26- Froth; 27- Pertaining to punishment; 28- Actor Davis; 29- Proclamation; 30- Comic O'Donnell; 31- Restless; 33- \_\_\_ Is Born; 34- \_\_\_ lift?; 35- Four-door; 37- Eureka!; 38- Align the cross hairs; 41- Ragu competitor; 42- Medicinal application spray; 47- Disappear; 49- Rib; 51- Make into law; 52- Sharpens; 53- Nixon pal Rebozo; 54- Landed; 55- Campus mil. group; 56- First name in courtroom fiction; 57- Bud of "Harold and Maude"; 58- Scene of first miracle; 59- Supermodel Sastre; 60- Vega's constellation; 63- \_\_\_ Remo;

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-70.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
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Steven Wine, Miami Gardens

TENNIS

# Serena withdraws, No. 1 Osaka loses, Federer wins at Miami

**T**HE new site for the Miami Open suddenly is missing a lot of star power.

Serena Williams withdrew yesterday [Macau time], blaming a previously undisclosed left knee injury. Less than two hours later, top-ranked Naomi Osaka lost in the third round to tour veteran Hsieh Su-Wei of Taiwan, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Osaka's departure matched the earliest ever in the tournament by a top-seeded woman and jeopardized her No. 1 ranking, depending on results next week.

"I feel like I've dealt with the stress of people asking me do I have pressure because I have the No. 1 next to my name," Osaka said. "I thought I was doing fine with that, but I guess I'm not."

Roger Federer briefly seemed headed for the exit but instead advanced to the third round by rallying past qualifier Radu Albot 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"Radu put me through the ringer," Federer said.

No. 2-seeded Alexander Zverev double-faulted 12 times and lost to wild card David Ferrer, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Williams' withdrawal was unexpected because she showed no signs of injury a day earlier while winning her opening match against Rebecca Peterson, 6-3, 1-6, 6-1. Williams didn't mention any health issues during a news conference after the match, and the WTA had no information regarding when she was hurt.

Williams' victory Friday was her first at Hard Rock Stadium, the Miami Dolphins' home and the Miami Open's new center court. The tournament moved this year from Key Biscayne, where Williams



won eight titles.

"I am disappointed to withdraw," she said in a statement. "It was an amazing experience to play at Hard Rock Stadium this year, and I would like to thank the Miami Open for putting on an amazing event. I hope to be back next year to play at this one-of-a-kind tournament in front of the incredible fans here in Miami."

Federer, a three-time champion, lost serve only once — in the first game — but was on the ropes until he swept the final three games, to the relief of an enthusiastic stadium crowd.

"It was a great atmosphere," Federer said. "It was electric. I think that's why I played so well at the end."

While attendance in the stadium continued to be spotty,

outer courts were jammed, and the day session drew a tournament record 32,831 spectators.

Seeded losers on the men's side included No. 10 Karen Khachanov, No. 21 Diego Schwartzman, No. 26 Guido Pella, No. 30 Stan Wawrinka and No. 31 Steve Johnson. In a game of inches, the 5-foot-6 Schwartzman lost to 6-foot-11 Reilly Opelka 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Williams was next scheduled to play No. 18-seeded Qiang Wang, who advanced to the fourth round.

Also reaching the women's round of 16 was the 33-year-old Hsieh, who turned pro in 2001 but has achieved the two biggest victories of her career in the past nine months. Her only other win over a No. 1 player came against Simona Halep at Wimbledon last year.

With two-handed groundstrokes from both sides, Hsieh was the steadier player from the baseline against Osaka. When Hsieh closed out match point with a forehand volley winner, she began to cry as the crowd applauded her performance.

Osaka smiled when reminded it was the first time in 64 matches she lost after winning the first set.

"I know — it's depressing," she said. "I was thinking about it right after I lost."

Osaka, 21, has won the past two Grand Slam tournaments. Williams, 37, still hasn't won a tournament since the 2017 Australian Open, before she took a break of more than a year to become a mom. She has played only eight matches this year.

Williams' stay at the Miami Open was also brief last year, when she lost in the first round to Osaka. Friday's match was Williams' first since she retired from Indian Wells two weeks ago because of a viral illness. **AP**

FOOTBALL

# Spain, Italy start Euro 2020 qualifying with wins

**S**PAIN needed to be bailed out by a veteran. Italy got a boost from some new faces.

The former European champions started their campaigns to qualify for Euro 2020 with wins over Scandinavian visitors this weekend — but in different fashion.

While a misfiring Spain turned to captain Sergio Ramos to edge Norway 2-1, Italians Nicolò Barella and Moise Kean scored their first international goals to beat Finland 2-0.

The pressure is on Italy to recover from last year's embarrassing failure to not reach the World Cup. Spain likewise wants to use the European qualifying cam-

paign to restore its status as one of the continent's best teams after losing to a less talented Russia in the World Cup last 16.

"When you start from zero there is always excitement," Ramos said. "We have a dream, this goal to do something big. A new quest starts, a new objective, and there is no better way to do so than this."

GROUP F

Spain dominated the first half at Valencia's Mestalla Stadium but only Rodrigo Moreno could convert his scoring chance.

Norway equalized in the 65th minute when forward Joshua King netted a penalty kick after substitute Bjorn

Johnsen was fouled by Inigo Martinez in the area.

But Ramos soon got his turn at the spot when Alvaro Morata poached a poor back pass by Harvard Nordtveit and was cut down in the box by goalkeeper Rune Jarstein.

Ramos, making his 162nd appearance for Spain, got the winner when he converted a spot kick in the "panenka" style — waiting for the goalie to move before chipping the ball down the middle — in the 71st.

GROUP J

Barella, a 22-year-old midfielder with Cagliari, scored seven minutes in for Italy with a long, deflected shot from a rebound following a



Spain's skipper Ramos (right)

free kick from Marco Verratti.

Kean, aged 19, then took advantage of an excellent throughball from Ciro Immobile to find the target from the center of the area

in the 74th. He became the second youngest scorer for Italy after Bruno Nicole in 1958.

It marked the first time the Azzurri scored more than one goal in a competitive

match in nearly two years.

Also in Group J, Greece won at Liechtenstein 2-0 from goals by Kostas Fortounis and Anastasios Donis. Bosnia and Herzegovina beat Armenia 2-1 as Bosnia striker Edin Dzeko celebrated his 100th appearance.

GROUP D

Switzerland got second-half goals from Steven Zuber and Denis Zakaria to win at Georgia 2-0, ending the hosts' run of seven unbeaten games at home.

Switzerland will play Group D favorite Denmark in Basel today.

Ireland's Jeff Hendrick scored to help beat Gibraltar 1-0. **AP**



opinion

Editorial  
Paulo Coutinho



CHIEF PUZZLE

Heavyweight politician Edmund Ho made a rare and strong public appearance last week in a checks and balances convenium of Macau representatives' work at the "two sessions" of Beijing's legislative (NPC) and consultative (CPPCC) bodies to lay out his profile of the ideal candidate to replace Chui Sai On at the top post.

The former Chief Executive (CE) said the next leader should be someone with solid leadership skills and ability to make "important decisions," all the while promoting "unity over disunion" and care for solidarity and stability in society. Translating this into local political lingo, he wants consensus - a mantra that has deep roots in the sociological history of this place.

Another highlighted yet arguable message is that he stands convinced that "Macau [people?] is wise enough" to choose the best person for the position.

Being a long-time observer of Macau affairs, the wise people that Ho was referring to are indeed the so-called "influential forces" of Macau; the elites or, to be precise, the oligarchs and tycoons that have been running the city for decades.

So, what about them? Are they united as they were in the previous elections of the CE? The answer is no.

There is a clear divide among the elites and it seems that a turf war is ongoing.

In order to have a grasp on who's winning or losing this "war," we have to look at the election of the next CE as we look at a puzzle. Putting together the facts available publicly in order to get the big picture - or at least some sort of a picture.

For this exercise, we will only take into consideration those who made themselves available to contend for the top post in public statements. That is, by alphabetical order, Ho Iat Seng, Lionel Leong and Alexis Tam.

First piece of the puzzle: who best fits the profile described by the former CE? That is really up to interpretation. However, in my opinion, the profiling eliminates from contention Ho Iat Seng.

The President of the Legislative Assembly (AL) has not shown during his tenure at the AL any particular leadership ability. Under Ho, the AL was a rubber-stamp legislature. Add to that, the fact that he (and his aligned peers) lost their push last year to evict pro-democracy lawmaker Sulu Sou from the AL after losing a fierce legal battle. Add to that, the shameful dismissal of two veteran jurists (Paulo Cardinal and Paulo Taipa) without plausible cause - in what was widely deemed as a political sacking. If that is someone willing to promote harmony or stability, you tell me.

Lionel Leong was long seen in the public eye as a protégé of Edmund Ho and has been the name "written in the stars" to take the scepter from his mentor. Then, he was the chosen one to take over the most critical portfolio in the cabinet when Chui promoted a total revamp of the government four years ago. Leong was lucky enough to oversee the turnaround in falling casino receipts. Circumstances helped, no doubt, but the fact of the matter is that he was there when it happened. Another factor is that he stands out as an outsider from the "small circle," and he earned a reputation in typhoon Hato's aftermath being the first government member to go to the field and side with the community at a time of chaos and sorrow.

Alexis Tam comes out somehow of the same breed. His populist agenda and charisma also connects him with the community. But he will always be remembered for his inaugural speech as secretary: "I will resign if I do not fulfill my promises." Did he deliver? Did he resign?

What stands in the end Edmund Ho's puzzling words which demonstrate that there is a clear divide in this "small circus" politics. The consensus elixir is yet to be cooked.

THE BUZZ ADELE AND JENNIFER LAWRENCE WHOOP IT UP AT NYC GAY BAR

Bar patrons in New York's Greenwich Village were in the right place at the right time when Adele and Jennifer Lawrence showed up.

The Daily News reports Grammy-winning singer Adele and her Oscar-winning actress pal hit the gay bar Pieces over the weekend, to the delight of the crowd.

They drank and danced and schmoozed, hugging shirtless men and taking selfies while the crowd applauded.

They danced to Kylie Minogue and played a

drinking game.

And Adele participated in a game show hosted by a drag queen and introduced herself as a married, stay-at-home mom.

Adele has long been a favorite in the LGBTQ community. She told Time magazine in 2015 that she couldn't wait to find out who her young son's "girlfriend or his boyfriend is going to be. [...] Whatever my kid wants to do or be I will always support him no matter what."

Streisand apologizes for remarks on Michael Jackson accusers



In this Dec. 1986 file photo, singers Barbra Streisand and Michael Jackson attend an event in Los Angeles

Jocelyn Noveck, New York

**B**ARBRA Streisand apologized yesterday [Macau time] for her remarks about Michael Jackson and two men who have accused him of sexual abuse, saying that she should have chosen her words more carefully and that she admires the accusers for "speaking their truth."

Streisand had received bitter criticism online after she was quoted in The Times of London as saying that Jackson's accusers were "thrilled to be there" during the alleged abuse, which "didn't kill them."

After an initial statement to The Associated Press in which she sought to clarify her remarks, the superstar of song, stage and screen posted an apology online that went further.

"I am profoundly sorry for any pain or misunderstanding I caused by not choosing my words more carefully about Michael Jackson and his victims," she wrote.

"I didn't mean to dismiss the trauma these boys experienced in any way," she wrote. "Like all survivors of sexual assault, they will have to carry this for the rest of their lives. I feel deep remorse and I hope that James and Wade know that I truly respect and admire them for speaking their truth."

The apology went far

beyond the earlier statement to the AP, in which she elaborated on her published remarks, saying she felt "nothing but sympathy" for the men, Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who accuse the late star of molesting them as children.

**I didn't mean to dismiss the trauma these boys experienced in any way.**

BARBRA STREISAND

She wrote in that earlier statement: "To be crystal clear, there is no situation or circumstance where it is OK for the innocence of children to be taken advantage of by anyone."

The remarks in question came deep into a wide-ranging interview with The Times. Asked about Jackson, Streisand was quoted as saying she "absolutely" believed Robson and Safechuck, who make their allegations in the recent HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland."

Jackson's estate has condemned the HBO documentary. Jackson, who died in 2009, was found not guilty in 2005 of charges he

molested a 13-year-old boy.

Streisand was asked about the documentary, which she called "too painful."

She then said that Jackson, when she met him, was "very sweet, very childlike." Asked how she reconciled that man with the one portrayed in the documentary, she replied: "His sexual needs were his sexual needs, coming from whatever childhood he has or whatever DNA he has. You can say 'molested,' but those children, as you heard say, they were thrilled to be there. They both married and they both have children, so it didn't kill them."

Among those firing back on social media was the director of "Leaving Neverland," Dan Reed, who wrote of that last quote: "Did you really say that?!"

Asked by The Times whether she was angry at Jackson, Streisand said: "It's a combination of feelings. I feel bad for the children. I feel bad for him. I blame, I guess, the parents, who would allow their children to sleep with him."

Also attracting attention Saturday for remarks about Jackson was his close friend and mentor Diana Ross.

"This is what's on my heart this morning," Ross wrote on Twitter. "I believe and trust that Michael Jackson was and is a magnificent incredible force to me and to many others." AP

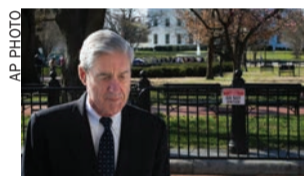
Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



**NEW ZEALANDERS** are debating the limits of free speech after their chief censor banned a 74-page manifesto written by the man accused of slaughtering 50 people at two mosques in Christchurch. The ban means anybody caught with the document on their computer could face up to 10 years in prison, while anyone caught sending it could face 14 years. [More on p13](#)



**USA** Democrats are pressing for full disclosure of special counsel Robert Mueller's (pictured) report on the Russia investigation and vowing to use subpoena powers and other legal means if necessary to get it. Attorney General William Barr is expected to release his first summary of Mueller's findings today.



**UK** Anti-Brexit protesters flooded into central London by the hundreds of thousands, demanding a new referendum on whether Britain should leave the European Union. The "People's Vote March" snaked from Park Lane and other locations to converge on the Parliament. [More on p15](#)



**KENYA** A science teacher from rural Kenya, who gives away most of his salary to support poorer pupils, has won a USD1m prize for the world's best teacher. Peter Tabichi (pictured), a member of the Franciscan religious order, won the 2019 Global Teacher Prize. Brother Peter has been praised for his achievements in a deprived school with crowded classes and few text books.