



JAPAN APPROVES RULES FOR PLANNED CASINOS

Abe's cabinet approved regulations for gambling resorts, the first of which could open in Osaka as soon as 2024

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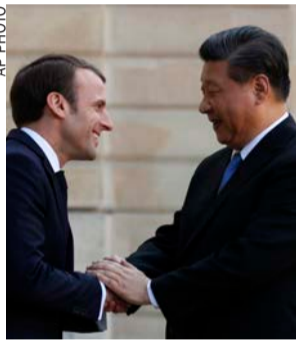
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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-FRANCE Airbus secured a USD35 billion jet deal from China during a state visit by President Xi Jinping to the French capital, dealing a fresh blow to Boeing Co. as it grapples with the grounding of its best-selling jet. [More on p8](#)



CHINA's former internet censor, Lu Wei, who once held high-profile meetings with industry leaders such as Apple CEO Tim Cook and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, was sentenced to 14 years in prison on corruption charges yesterday. [More on p11](#)



PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday accused a dismissed police colonel, who had publicly criticized him and his deadly anti-drug campaign, of criminal involvement and said he wanted to know why the former officer "is still alive."

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'A MACAU AUTHOR'

Arts Festival finale a Mok lan lan original

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RENATO MARQUES



MACAU RACING FESTIVAL ZHAOQING

Greater Bay GT Cup, of course

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GAMING

Japan's cabinet approves regulations for planned casinos

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet approved regulations for gambling resorts, the first of which could open in Osaka as soon as 2024 and provide a new source of tax revenue.

Japan legalized casinos in 2016 and passed another bill in 2018 that laid out a roadmap for gaming. The goal was to have the first casino open by the time Tokyo hosted the 2020 Summer Olympics, but wrangling over regulations and public concern over compulsive gambling has pushed

back the plans.

The Japanese plans could open the way for billions of dollars in investment from the likes of MGM Resorts International and Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd. Japan, which already has horse racing and other forms of legalized gambling, is a late entrant into the Asian casino market, with Macau being the region's most powerful center.

By opening casinos, Japan "will seek to become an advanced country for tourism," Abe said at his residence yesterday.

Meanwhile, it was announced earlier this week that the city of Osaka, long eyed by U.S. and Asian gaming operators, will take at least another year to make its integrated resort partnership decision. Osaka has not yet been approved to become one of three cities to host integrated resorts in Japan, but it is on the shortlist and is a favorite of MGM Resorts.

In an interview with Bloomberg, MGM Resorts Chairman and CEO Jim Murren affirmed that the gaming operator

is doubling down on its Osaka plans.

"We made the decision to focus all our energy on Osaka," said Murren. "I am confident Osaka is going to be one of the three. We are working really hard for MGM to be the IR [integrated resort] operator in Osaka. All we can do is work as hard as we can, meet with Japanese companies, form a Japanese consortium: we are trying to outwork our competitors a little bit."

The latest Japanese regulations approved yesterday

specify the size of the hotels, conference facilities and exhibition centers that must be part of the gambling resorts.

The regulations dictate that the guest room area of the hotel must equate to at least 100,000 square meters, while the minimum size of the convention and exhibition centers will be calculated together, with a larger convention center allowing a smaller exhibition center.

Moreover, the area allocated for the casino must make up no more than 3 percent of the total area of the resort and operators are only allowed to advertise in international airports and cruise ship terminals. Operators will be obliged to report to the government any customers who make transactions of 1 million yen (MOP73,000) or more in cash. **DB/Bloomberg**

YESTERDAY, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) has prepared to launch hearings on whether or not Wynn Resorts is suitable to hold a casino license in the state, reports Calvin Ayre. The process has faced a series of delays as Wynn Resorts, along with founder and former CEO Steve Wynn, have introduced legal measures designed to prevent the release of certain details regarding the sexual misconduct allegations against the executive.

When Wynn Resorts was awarded the license in 2013, it was viewed by the MGC as a legitima-

GAMING

Massachusetts gaming board schedules hearing for Wynn decision

te contender and Steve Wynn was deemed a "highly ethical" individual and a "perfectionist who is passionate about everything he does." When news broke in early 2018 regarding Steve Wynn's sexual improprieties, his reputation was put on the line.

Wynn Resorts has already admitted that certain high-ranking individuals at the organization were aware of

Steve Wynn's actions, yet they did nothing to stop him. Those individuals are no longer with the company, as Wynn Resorts stated recently, and the MGC is calling into question both Steve Wynn's activities and those of the company.

The commission could ultimately decide to fine Wynn Resorts or revoke the license it was given for the Boston-area casino, Encore

Boston Harbor.

Wynn Resorts has pushed forward with Encore, which is expected to open June 23. It is already taking reservations, but a decision by the MGC to revoke the license could bring everything to a grinding halt. It would force thousands of workers out of their jobs and lead to possibly millions of dollars in lost tax revenue.

Because of the poten-

tial damage that could befall the area by a license revocation, most analysts predict that Wynn Resorts will retain its concession, but be forced to pay a fine.

Nevada gambling regulators announced a settlement with Wynn Resorts in late January. The settlement does not revoke or limit Wynn Resort's gambling license in the world's second-largest gambling

center, but requires the company to pay a fine. The amount will be set by the Nevada Gaming Commission, but it wasn't immediately clear when that could occur.

In Macau, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau did not open its own investigation into Wynn Resorts but said last year that it was seeking more information from local subsidiary Wynn Macau. The local arm of the Wynn casino empire said it would "fully cooperate with any requests" from the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. **DB**

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Lynzy Valles

ENVIRONMENT

THE 2019 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (2019MIECF) will launch its "Greenovation Zone," designed specifically for innovative green technologies and projects.

Kicking off tomorrow, the exhibition will be themed "Promoting Ecological Civilization and Green Development," and will have some 500 exhibitors from nearly 20 regions and countries.

At a press conference held yesterday, the organizers, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the Environmental Protection Bureau, announced that the new zone will accommodate exchange activities to make the application and exchange of green innovative technologies mainstream.

The three-day exhibition will feature Green Forum again, which will hold a total of eight sessions commencing tomorrow.

Irene Lau, acting president of IPIM, recalled that in the past 11 events, the exhibition resulted in nearly 5,000 successful matching sessions, while 320 letters of intent and projects have been signed through MIECF.

According to Sam Lei, executive director of IPIM, some 70 to 80 percent of those involved were local businesses.

"For those signed agreements, proposals or projects, looking at statistics, we know that 70 percent have been executed or implemented," Lei told the press.

Lei also announced that the budget for this year is MOP25 million, citing the additional booths for Portuguese-speaking countries and the Greater Bay Area.

Meanwhile, Michael Lie-

breich, founder of New Energy Finance, was invited to 2019MIECF as the keynote speaker, along with some 70 speakers to share their insights on different topics, including "ways toward ecological civilization," "developing green energy," "urban water treatment," and "green finance."

The forum, under the theme "New Opportunities in the Eco Bay Area - Creating Green Energy Cities," focuses on the development of green energy and green finance in

the Greater Bay Area and Portuguese-speaking countries.

On Friday, the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Session will invite members of the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Delegation to Portugal and Luxembourg to share their experience and findings, as arranged by the SAR government.

There will also be a roundtable discussion on creating green values through ecological civilization presented by Pan-Pearl River Delta Region eco-corporate pioneers.

The development status of environmental protections in mainland China will also be introduced then.

Meanwhile, the Greater Bay Area Eco-Products and Solutions Pavilion will be expanded, showcasing the products and services of eco-enterprises from Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Foshan and Zhongshan.

The Green Building Area will demonstrate and highlight green building techniques and products, allowing the construction industry to find suitable professional

partners.

On the internationally-watched topic of green finance innovation, the forum has arranged a Green Finance Networking event to promote exchanges on green investment projects.

A promotional session on Local Green Products will also be held, where representatives of environmental protection associations from Macau will introduce government officials to exhibiting association members and their products and services.



Irene Lau

TRANSPORTATION

New traffic infraction system enforced from next week

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) and the Transport Bureau (DSAT) are preparing to enforce a new system from next Monday which detects traffic infractions, such as disregard for traffic lights and speeding through intersections, the DSAT informed in a statement.

According to the statement, the system would be enforced in two phases with coordination from the PSP.

For the first phase, which kick-offs on

Monday (April 1), a total of seven of these machines will enter into operation, replacing the previous system that only allowed for the detection of infractions where traffic lights had been disregarded.

The system will be in operation at the intersections of Avenida da Praia Grande and Travessa do Padre Narciso, Avenida D. João IV and Avenida do Infante D. Henrique, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida and Rua

Filipe O'Costa, Rua da Ribeira do Patane and Avenida de Demétrio Cinatti, Avenida Venceslau Morais and Rua Francisco Xavier Pereira, Avenida Venceslau Morais and Avenida do Almirante Magalhães Correia.

The areas will have the same features as the ones already operating in the intersections between Avenida da Praia Grande, Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro and Avenida de D. João IV.

The second phase will be implemented this

July, where the same system will be set up at seven further locations.

According to the road traffic act, a driver who disregards the speed limits will be penalized with a fine that ranges from MOP600 to MOP40,000, as well as a suspension from driving. As for drivers who do not stop at red traffic lights, they will be punished with a fine ranging from MOP1,000 to MOP10,000, as well as being suspended from driving. **RM**





Chong Coc Veng



MOTORSPORTS

Macau Racing Festival in Zhaoqing, Greater Bay GT Cup a novelty

Renato Marques

THE Macau Racing Festival is set to kick-off this May. The series of competitions are part of the local motorsports calendar and are ultimately used as qualification races for each year's Macau Grand Prix.

This year, the Automobile General Association Macao-China (AAMC) has decided to change the circuit where the racing action will take place in May and June, trading the Zhuhai International Circuit (ZIC) in Zhuhai for the Guangdong International Circuit (GIC) in Zhaoqing.

The president of the AAMC, Chong Coc Veng, explained that the decision was based on the rotation criteria between the only two circuits available in close proximity to Macau.

"We only have these choices, and every three or four years we try to change to another area. We have used Zhaoqing before for four years and then Zhuhai for another four. So now we are returning to Zhaoqing in order to give the drivers more opportunities to test the cars and [their skills] on a different circuit," Chong said. "I think it is good that drivers go to Zhaoqing, be-

cause drivers cannot just get used to one single circuit."

The AAMC president noted that options like running the competitions in Malaysia (Sepang) or at the Shanghai International Circuit had been considered, but were abandoned due to the high costs the options would entail.

Questioned on the advantages and disadvantages of the GIC, Chong noted, "we agree that this is a different circuit. The Zhuhai circuit is a much longer circuit [4.3 kilometers] than Zhaoqing [2.8 kilometers]."

"I can't say which is the best, they are just different," added Chong. "These are local races with the drivers all focused on Macau only, and I think this is an important point that all drivers understand."

The Macau Racing Festival will be held in the same format as in previous years, with four races being contested over two weekend events. The first event is May 24 to 26 (races 1 and 2) and the second is June 21 to 23 (races 3 and 4).

The races will also continue to feature two racing categories included under the umbrella of the Macau Touring Car Series (MTCS) -

the AAMC Challenge 1600cc Turbo Class and the AAMC Challenge Above 1950cc Class.

As a novelty, the AAMC also confirmed to the Times that a newly created Greater Bay GT Cup competition will also be staged during the competition weekends. The new

competition is for GT4 specification vehicles and will be included in both the Macau and Hong Kong GT series calendar.

The competitions aim to replace last year's first "Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup" for a more mature series in 2019, as announced at the launch

in 2018.

Similar to 2018, the best 18 drivers in each category at MTCS will qualify to race at the Macau Grand Prix's Macau Touring Car Cup. The Greater Bay GT Cup will have its own Season Finale, where the 2019 champions will be crowned.

It will take time to build the next generation of drivers

QUESTIONED on the decreasing number of young participants in local motorsports activities, the president of the AAMC, Chong Coc Veng said his organization is trying hard to reverse the trend but it will take some time.

"Any sport needs a young generation [to have continuity]. But motorsports is a bit different, as it demands more resources [than most other sports]," said Chong. "Like when you are a young boy, in the first stages, it's the father and the mother that take care of everything."

Chong said that the AAMC provides the opportunity for all young drivers to start by karting, noting that, "Macau has a great karting circuit. It's a very good place for youngsters to start."

Following this, Chong said it mostly depends on the youngster's capacity and persistence in engaging with the sport.

"We all know that is very hard to engage with motorsports. It depends on their per-

sistence and hard work to continue."

"Our focus is to provide opportunities for them to practice and to have more racing opportunities. We now have a total of six rounds in total [per year] on the karting circuit," which is then followed by a "jump" into other motorsports categories.

However, moving between categories is no easy feat.

"I can't say if it's too difficult or easy," said Chong when pressed on the matter. "What I can say is if they want that, they need to put all their energy into it. If they don't like it, nobody can push."

According to Chong, one of the roles of the AAMC is to aid the development of local motorsports and improve it year after year, not only through the training of drivers, but also other supporting roles, such as marshals, officials and even medical training. This aims "to elevate the quality of our major event, the Macau Grand Prix, which already has 66 years of history." **RM**

EVA BUCHO



Macau's prosperity stems from love of country, according to UM professor

Julie Zhu

SPEAKERS at yesterday's seminar regarding 26 years of the Basic Law indicated that Macau's prosperity stems, in particular, from the city's concept of loving the country and loving the people of Macau.

Luo Weijian, a law professor from the University of Macau, remarked that compared to Macau, Hong Kong does an inferior job in protecting national security, practicing the central government's overall jurisdiction over the SARs and stopping activities which violate the constitution of the government.

"The main reason is that the strength of 'Love the Country, Love Hong Kong' still does not have an obvious dominating position in Hong Kong," said Luo.

In the professor's opinion, 'Love the Country, Love Macau' is the basis of 'One Country, Two Systems,' which has been advantageous in Macau's internal administration.

Executive dominance, the government's right to make law proposals and the government's exclusive right to propose budgets are being exercised in Macau "through cooperation between the government and the 'Love the Country, Love Macau' strength within the Legislative Assembly

[...] which is exactly what Hong Kong is lacking."

"Regardless of national security legislation, Chief Executive [CE] elections, restriction of civil referendum, including the recent establishment of the Municipal Affairs Bureau [IAM], were all faced with different kinds of opinions. But, in the end, they were all passed," said Luo. "It is all because the 'Love the Country, Love Macau' strength is the dominating power. That is why the government could pass all these bills."

In addition to Luo, Ieong Wan Chong, former member of the Macau SAR Basic Law Committee of the Standing Committee

of the National People's Congress and current honorary advisor at the Macau Polytechnic University, also expressed that Macau can be the bridge connecting China's socialism to capitalism.

"In the new era of One Country, Two Systems, socialism and capitalism are connected in Macau, which is absolutely a sign of the constitution [being fulfilled]," said Ieong.

"Most capitalist countries are developed countries, and developed countries have many fields worth learning from," said Ieong, before adding that Macau is taking advantage of the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy.

In addition, he remarked that

the Macau SAR's positive image "has been widely accepted and endorsed by the Chinese and the world."

Ieong also commented on the fifth Macau CE election.

"In a few months, the election of the fifth CE will be held. Based on the experience of previous elections, we are absolutely confident in this one," said Ieong.

He criticized the fact that during some of the previous elections, the election committee was not created lawfully, "which is a big violation of the constitution."

"This time, the loophole has been covered up, and I believe the new Chief Executive will lead Macau into a new era," said Ieong.

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Mok Ian Ian (fourth from right)



Poster for the 30th Macao Arts Festival, with The Soul of Macao advertised

30TH MACAO ARTS FESTIVAL

And the prestigious closing spot goes to... IC president's own play

Daniel Beittler

THE Macao Arts Festival, this year returning to celebrate its milestone 30th anniversary, kicks off in just over five weeks with a 22-program roster spread across a dozen Macau venues. Though not advertised by organizers, the program concludes with a Cantonese opera production adapted from an original play written by Mok Ian Ian, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) president whose organization oversees the Festival.

The closing program of the Festival is *The Soul of Macao*, a Cantonese opera production adapted by Chinese playwright Li Xinhua from an original play written by a Macau author. It is presented by actors from Macau and the Foshan Cantonese Opera Troupe. According to the IC, the production serves to bring the history of Macau to life and reflects the in-depth cultural collaboration in the Greater Bay Area.

However, the Macau author in question is Mok Ian Ian. The

play, titled "Mirror Sea Spirit" and originally designed as a Peking Opera production, was first presented in 2014 and shown at the Macau Cultural Center in the following year.

A separate production based on the same script was shown at the 28th Macao Arts Festival in 2017, before Mok was IC president, but when she was the head of the bureau's planning department.

The IC announcement of the Festival lineup yesterday referred to the writer of the original play merely as a "Macau author."

WHAT'S ON THIS YEAR

Perhaps the most celebrated cultural event in the Macau calendar, the Arts Festival is a one-month package of prestigious shows and exhibitions brought from both China and the West, as well as a sample from the local art scene.

This year's program comprises a total of 22 performances - four fewer than last year - in six categories: International

Highlights, Local Artist, Quintessence of Tradition, Family Entertainment, Melodious Music and Exhibition. In addition, an outreach program aimed at promoting arts in the community will be held, featuring nearly 100 events.

The Macao Arts Festival kicks off with dance performance *Vertikal*, jointly produced by renowned French choreographer and world-leading hip-hop troupe CCN Créteil & Val-de-Marne / Cie Käfig, which examines the ground, essential for hip-hop dancers, which is fundamentally modified in the piece.

Hailing from Belgium, Ontroerend Goed's *£Y€\$ (LIES)* presents a live rendition of the Monopoly boardgame with the purpose of opening audience's eyes to the real power of an economic bubble.

Meanwhile, adapted by BJAMC Drama (Beijing) from Lao She's classic novel, the play *Mr. Ma and Son* tells a love story in Macau with a combination of Beijing-style wit and English humor.

Presented by Thalia Theatre from Germany, *The Odyssey - A wandering journey based on Homer*, an adaptation of the epic poem by the Greek poet Homer, incorporates innovative ideas through music and dance performance as well as invented language.

In the dance show *Rain* by Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and her dance company Rosas, dancers occupy the stage, delineated by a curtain of fine strings, displaying an impressive succession of virtuoso dance phrases with pure dance and minimalistic music.

Motion by Compagnie Zahrbat from France turns the stage into a camera lens by merging the spirit of hip-hop and the body movements of modern dance.

The play *Karl Valentin Kabarett* by Teatro do Elétrico from Portugal, examines several works written by Karl Valentin, a 20th-century leading comedian in Germany, bringing an enthralling artistic and cultural gala.

'TRIBUTE TO THE CLASSICS'

This year's theme is "a tribute to the classics," which according to the IC intends to honor classical performances and show the Festival's "determination to create new classics." It will also serve as a means of continuing "to inject cultural vitality into Macau," the IC said in a statement released yesterday.

The theme of this year's event follows last year's, "Origin", representing continuity under the tenure of IC President Mok Ian Ian after a break from the ridiculed "Heterotopia" theme in the 28th edition, the last overseen by former bureau chief, Leung Hio Ming.

The budget for the event has increased to MOP24 million, MOP2 million more than last year on account of inflation and additional expenses, according to organizers.

The 30th Macao Arts Festival begins May 3 and will last until June 2.

Tickets are available at the Macau Ticketing Network from 10 a.m. on March 31, while reservations can be made by phone or online from 12 p.m. onwards on the same day. Various discounts are available for early bird buyers, holders of certain credit or debit cards, or those with a Macau Senior Citizen Card or Disability Assessment Registration Card.





The Old Gate at Tsinghua University, in Beijing, a symbol of the education institution

Tsinghua University prof says GBA will not unite SARs with mainland

THE Greater Bay Area may succeed in connecting Hong Kong and Macau with Guangdong Province, but it will fail in its attempt to unite the two SARs with the mainland, said Wang Zhenming, Director of the Center for Hong Kong and Macau Studies at Tsinghua University.

Wang said that "unification is a violation of the Basic Law."

The Tsinghua University professor said that Hong Kong is in "model positioning" in the Greater Bay. Accordingly, Wang understands that the Greater Bay Area plan means "Hong Kong-izing" the Greater Bay, not "mainland-izing Hong Kong and Macau."

The professor mentioned that in the past, the role of Hong Kong and Macau was of a "super connector" with foreign nationals,

who hoped they could enter mainland China through Hong Kong. Many of these foreign nationals never regarded Hong Kong as their final destination.

The SARs affairs expert believes that Hong Kong should become the destination to live and work for people from all walks of life, as well as become a permanent home for foreigners.

In addition, Wang stated that

the outline development plan of the Greater Bay pointed out that the governments of Macau, Hong Kong and the mainland needed to sign agreements on cooperation and then legislate with respect to said cooperation.

Wang further proposed that China's highest legislative body should grant Guangdong province legislative powers, in order for the province to be equal to Hong

Kong and Macau, as well as facilitate the implementation of the GBA outline development plan.

According to mainland law, Guangdong province does not have legislative powers over many matters written in the outline.

The mainland professor stressed that his statements do not represent the views of the government in Beijing, but are only his opinions as an academic. **JZ**

Macau to strengthen cooperation with Guangdong capital

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On met with the Secretary of the Guangzhou Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Zhang Shufu, and the Mayor of Guangzhou, Wen Guohui, while they were all on a visit to Beijing for the China Development Forum 2019 on March 24.

The aim of the meeting with the Guangzhou officials was to seize, on a mutual basis, opportunities arising from the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay

Area, and to enhance cooperation and exchange between the two cities.

During the meeting, Chui said that Macau-Guangzhou cooperation had always been a focus for Macau, as the city works to participate in regional collaboration.

Chui also expressed that it was hoped that Macau and Guangzhou would continue strengthening their cooperation against the backdrop of new opportunities arising from the Greater Bay Area, especially cooperation in technology and innovation,

as well as enhancing cooperation in tourism, trade, cultural and youth affairs matters, thereby building on existing foundations.

Chui stressed that Macau and Guangzhou would enjoy a bright future in terms of cooperation in multiple areas. The Chief Executive emphasized the importance of cooperation between Macau and Guangzhou regarding youth development.

Zhang said Guangzhou would follow the plan outlined by the Central People's Government, in order

to seize the opportunities arising from development of the Greater Bay Area, and would spare no effort in providing support and services for the development of the Macau SAR.

Guangzhou is also planning to create favorable conditions for young Macau people interested in engaging in the development of the Greater Bay Area, offering them fresh opportunities for establishing businesses, gaining employment, studying or pursuing practical training in Guangzhou. **JZ**

FORUM

Chui Sai On to visit Portugal in May

CHIEF Executive (CE) Chui Sai On is preparing for his third and final visit to Portugal as Macau's top official in May, TDM Radio Macau reported. During the visit, which is expected to take place in mid-May, Chui will have meetings with the President of Portuguese Republic, Rebelo de Sousa, and the Prime Minister, António Costa.

According to the same report, the visit includes a trip to city of Porto, where Chui will be honored with the "Keys of the City," the highest award of Porto, with the purpose of distin-

guishing people that, by their prestige and their action, have elevated the name of the city and country to a higher level in the world. The last time Chui visited Portugal was back in 2016 when he participated, by invitation of Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, in the Joint Portugal-Macau Commission to discuss issues regarding the furthering of the cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries as well as the Belt & Road initiative.

The final dates for the visit are expected to be known in a few days. **RM**

AVIATION

Airbus secures USD35b China deal in new blow to Boeing

Benjamin Katz, Gregory Viscusi & Helene Fouquet

AIRBUS SE secured a USD35 billion jet deal from China during a state visit by President Xi Jinping to the French capital, dealing a fresh blow to Boeing Co. as it grapples with the grounding of its best-selling jet.

The mammoth order consists of 290 A320-series narrow-body planes and 10 A350 wide-bodies, Toulouse-based Airbus said after the transaction was announced in Paris yesterday.

The deal's value is almost double that touted by French President Emmanuel Macron in January 2018 during a trip to Beijing.

The Airbus coup comes while Boeing's own 737 Max narrow-body - the chief global rival to the A320 - has been idled following two fatal crashes in five months. The U.S. planemaker is also struggling with the fallout from a China-U.S. trade war that's seen sales

BLOOMBERG



to the Asian nation dry up, just as Airbus bolsters its position with an offer to expand production facilities in Tianjin.

China has become the world's most important aviation market as its fast-growing middle class spurs demand for travel. The country has traditionally sought to keep a balance between the two western planemakers as it seeks to jumpstart manufacturing on its own soil, but Chicago-based Boeing's order

prospects have been complicated by the trade clash.

"I would see this as part of broader trade discussions," said Rob Stallard at Vertical Research Partners. "For the Chinese to put tariffs on Boeing aircraft would be nuclear, but you can send messages in other ways. This tells the Americans that you have got to play nice if you want us to reciprocate."

Macron originally put the value

of a likely order at \$18 billion. A firm order failed to materialize last year despite a second French state visit in June and a delegation of top Airbus executives in September.

The deal announced in Paris will include both Neo - for new engine option - and so-called classic or CEO versions of the A319, A320 and A321, though the majority will be A320neos and A321neos, according to officials. China typi-

cally orders planes in large batches and allocates them to airlines later.

The latest A320neo model has a list price of \$110.6 million and the A350-900 sells for \$317.4 million before discounts.

Airbus's incoming chief executive officer, Guillaume Faury, said at the press conference that construction of the A320s will take place both in Tianjin and Europe, adding that the deal is "a sign of the confidence" from China. Macron called the transaction "an excellent signal."

China will need 7,400 new passenger and freighter aircraft in the next two decades, representing almost 20 percent of total global demand, according to Airbus estimates.

The purchase provides a boost for Faury who takes over from Tom Enders in April. Airbus sales have had one of the slowest starts in the past decade, with the planemaker registering 103 cancellations and just four new orders in the first two months.

Separately, China is looking at excluding Boeing's troubled 737 Max jet from a list of American exports it would buy as part of a trade deal with the U.S., people familiar with the matter have said.

Airbus shares fell 0.5 percent in Paris yesterday, while Boeing climbed 2.3 percent in New York. **Bloomberg**

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BOAO FORUM

Beijing's tropical talk-fest highlights reform pace amid trade war

THE Boao Forum for Asia that started this week provides a yardstick to measure China's progress in implementing President Xi Jinping's promises to open the nation's economy more to outsiders, at a time when that's of critical importance in negotiations with the U.S.

Last year's pledges to liberalize the financial sector are being carried out, similar measures are underway in the auto industry, and the nation has overhauled its foreign investment law amid intense criticism of its handling of intellectual property and business practices.

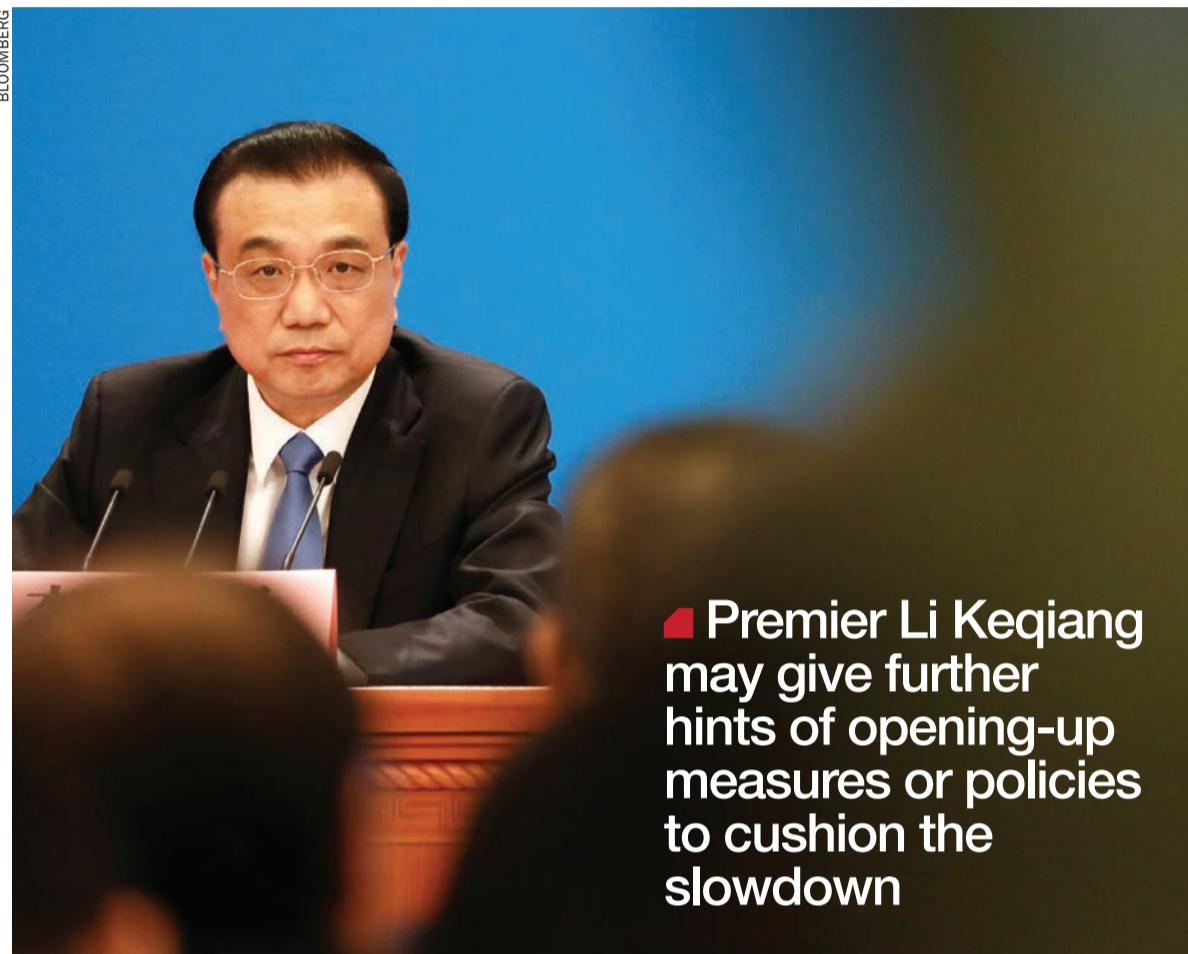
Those efforts haven't been successful so far in warding off Donald Trump's ire, though negotiators are back in Beijing this week in further efforts to hammer out a deal to end the trade war between the two rivals. Premier Li Keqiang is expected to travel to the tropical island to address the forum tomorrow and may give further hints of opening-up measures or policies to cushion the slowdown in the world's second-largest economy.

Li will be speaking to a much less high-powered crowd than last year, when at least six heads of state and government, the heads of the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund all gathered to hear Xi's address.

Here's what China's government has done to implement what it promised at 2018's Boao Forum:

FINANCIAL MARKET OPENING

Xi and central bank governor Yi Gang last year detail-



■ Premier Li Keqiang may give further hints of opening-up measures or policies to cushion the slowdown

led an historic opening-up of the financial sector. Foreign banks, insurers and securities companies are now allowed to hold majority stakes in their subsidiaries in China. However, the take-up by foreign companies has been slow.

UBS Group AG took control of its subsidiary and American Express Co. won approval to build a bank-card network in China. Mastercard Inc. is seeking a share of the payments market. Many other companies though are taking a wait-and-see approach.

The reaction to increased access to the domestic stock market has been similar. The

daily amount of mainland stocks that can be traded across the two stock links with the outside world was quadrupled to USD15.5 billion from May 1 last year. But trading rarely hit the quota even at the old level, and the increase in access hasn't led to an uptick in use.

CAR MARKET LIBERALIZATION

With China's car market now the largest in the world, Xi's promise to allow foreign manufacturers to hold majority stakes in their subsidiaries in China was seen as a boon for carmakers in

both Europe and the U.S. However, only Germany's BMW AG has moved to take over its joint venture, with the other companies continuing with the current structure. The problems in the domestic market, where sales dropped last year and rumors are swirling that some state-owned car companies will merge, may explain part of the caution.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

As part of efforts to answer critics of China's lax protection of intellectual property and protected markets, China recently passed a new law

on foreign investment which banned forced transfers of technology and opens up more of the economy to outside companies. The law, which comes into effect next year, is in addition to the shrinking list of sectors from which foreign companies are banned.

However, there was a lack of detail in the law passed last week, and representatives of foreign companies were unimpressed with it. How it will be implemented in practice and whether it will really lead to a more open economy remains to be seen.

STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

During the forum last year, the government promised to further overhaul its bloated state enterprises and push for more mergers in sectors such as power and coal, which are plagued by zombie firms, bankruptcy and debt defaults. However, so far, little more has happened on that front.

HAINAN

Boao is in the province of Hainan, which is looking to attract investment and tourism, including through becoming a free-trade zone and allowing horse-racing. It was reported in January that the island's government will submit guidelines to develop horse-racing projects, but the progress is going slower than many may have expected last year. While some hotels started quietly preparing for the legalization of gambling in 2018, there has been nothing announced from the government and no visible progress. **Bloomberg**

CHINA will scale back subsidies on electric vehicles as the industry develops and costs go down, trying to encourage local manufacturers to rely on innovation rather than government assistance to spur sales.

The subsidy for pure battery electric cars with a driving range of 400 kilometers and above will be cut by half, to 25,000 yuan per vehicle from 50,000 yuan, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement on its website yesterday. To qualify for any subsidy, electric cars need to have a range of at least

AUTOMOBILE

Gov't reduces subsidies for electric cars to spur innovation



250 kilometers, compared with 150 kilometers previously, it said.

The government had previously said it will scale back the subsi-

dies and phase them out completely after 2020, though it hadn't given details. While financial support for purchases has fueled the rapid growth of China's electric-car industry, there are also concerns that automakers have become overly reliant on them at the expense of developing new technologies and better vehicles.

The move aims to support "high-quality development of a new-energy automobile industry," the ministry said.

The finance ministry also urged local governments to remove subsidies on purchases of electric vehicles, including buses and trucks, after a three-month grace period starting yesterday.

Subsidies have been key to making plug-in hybrids and EVs of companies such as BYD Co., backed by Warren Buffett, more affordable to Chinese consumers and helping the country surpass the U.S. as the world's biggest market for such vehicles in 2015. On top of what the federal government spends, Chinese cities and provinces separately offer incentives to make electric cars more appealing in a country where automakers from Volkswagen AG to Ford Motor Co. are planning to increase EV offerings. **Bloomberg**

BLOOMBERG



HONG KONG

SAR scales back extradition law that spooked businesses

Blake Schmidt & Karen Leigh

Hong Kong scaled back a proposed extradition law amid concerns by opposition lawmakers and Western governments that the legislation could put people at risk of being sent to China and further erode the city's autonomy.

The government will remove nine categories including bankruptcy, securities and futures, and intellectual property from the proposed extradition law, Hong Kong Security Secretary John Lee told reporters yesterday. The proposed law would still include offenses like murder, polygamy and robbery that would be eligible for at least a three-year

jail sentence under Hong Kong law.

The proposed law would allow for easier transfer of fugitives to Taiwan, Macau, mainland China or any jurisdiction with which Hong Kong doesn't have an extradition agreement. It was spurred by the high-profile 2018 murder of a Hong Kong resident whose boyfriend authorities tried to prosecute for her death while they were vacationing in Taiwan.

The man, who subsequently returned to Hong Kong, has not been sent back to the island to face charges as Hong Kong's fugitive law doesn't apply there, according to Hong Kong authorities.

"The purpose of the amend-

ment is to deal with a murder case in Taiwan and to fill in the system's deficiencies, so as to prevent Hong Kong from becoming a hiding place for criminals and have criminals receive legal sanctions," the city's Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who has defended

■ **The proposed law would allow for easier transfer of fugitives to Taiwan, Macau, mainland China**

the law, said yesterday.

Though officials won't submit the amended law until April 3, it has already stoked fears that it could change Hong Kong's relationship with China by making it more susceptible to mainland political demands - and raised questions about whether people extradited to Hong Kong will face a greater risk of being handed over to Beijing.

A delegation of U.S. politicians to Hong Kong earlier this month highlighted the proposed extradition law as a major challenge to the "one country, two systems" principle under which the Asian financial hub was handed back to Chinese rule in 1997.

The report also cited the disqua-

lification of lawmakers from the Legislative Council and the refusal to renew a visa for a Financial Times editor last year as contributing to concerns about Hong Kong's sovereignty, as President Xi Jinping's government in Beijing expands its campaign of influence in the city.

The U.S. last week noted that the city maintains a sufficient - though diminished - degree of autonomy under "one country, two systems" to justify continued special treatment, a spokesperson for the U.S. consulate general in Hong Kong said Friday.

"This passage of the rendition-extradition mechanism will be like a Sword of Damocles hanging over Hong Kong," said Willy Lam, adjunct professor at Chinese University of Hong Kong's Centre for China Studies.

"It is highly conceivable that the CCP leadership might place a demand on Carrie Lam to extradite political prisoners or prisoners of conscience deemed to be 'criminals' under the PRC legal system," he said, referring to the Chinese Communist Party and the formal name for China.

Among the well-known cases that could be affected by a change in Hong Kong's extradition rules is that of property tycoon Joseph Lau, who is based in Hong Kong and considered a fugitive in neighboring Macau after it sentenced him to prison in 2014 as part of a land corruption scandal.

Five Hong Kong booksellers who hawked politically sensitive publications disappeared in 2015, eventually reappearing on the mainland - and raising questions about whether an extradition deal would play into the hands of Chinese authorities targeting individuals for political reasons. Chinese tycoon Xiao Jianhua was also abducted from Hong Kong's Four Seasons hotel by Chinese agents in 2017 - and hasn't resurfaced since. **Bloomberg**

CORRUPTION

Ex-internet czar sentenced to 14 years

CHINA'S former internet censor, who once held high-profile meetings with industry leaders such as Apple CEO Tim Cook and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, was sentenced to 14 years in prison on corruption charges Tuesday.

The Intermediate People's Court in the eastern city of Ningbo said Lu Wei had confessed to accepting USD4.6 million in bribes. It said he expressed remorse and vowed not to appeal his sentence.

Lu helped lead the ruling Communist Party's tightening of controls over domestic cyberspace and championed Beijing's

stance that governments have a right to filter and censor internet access.

China has 700 million people online, but authorities impose heavy controls on political content and sites related to gambling and pornography. Social media sites such as Facebook and Google also are blocked.

In its ruling, the Ningbo court said Lu had abused his authority in various positions, including as a deputy propaganda minister and as head of a government internet security advisory body, accepting gifts in return for favors.

Lu took a hard line in demanding tough securi-



ty checks on imported foreign tech products and censoring foreign internet companies and social networks like Facebook in the name of preserving so-

cial stability.

He worked his way up the ranks of China's official Xinhua News Agency from a reporting job in the southern city of Guilin in

the early 1990s to become the agency's vice president from 2004 to 2011. He was vice mayor of Beijing from 2011 to 2013.

A report by the government broadcaster CCTV gave few details. But earlier reports said Lu also had had engaged in factionalism and "selectively enforced" the party's "strategic arrangements on internet work."

President Xi Jinping has carried out a wide-ranging crackdown on corruption that observers say is calculated to strengthen party control while bringing down potential challengers to his authority.

One of the officials and

military leaders ensnared in the anti-graft campaign was the former president of Interpol, Meng Hongwei, who vanished after traveling to China from France, where the global anti-crime body is headquartered.

The government says Meng is under investigation for graft and possible other crimes. There are heavy suspicions he had fallen out of political favor with Xi.

Lu's sentencing also comes as China is locked in a trade war with the U.S. and competition over leadership in next-generation 5-G internet technology.

The U.S. has sought to block usage of equipment from Chinese internet giant Huawei, saying its links to the Chinese government and military pose a security threat. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Party accused of asking US gun lobby for money

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister yesterday accused an influential minor political party of trying to "sell Australia's gun laws to the highest bidders" by asking the U.S. gun lobby for donations.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison was responding to an Al Jazeera documentary that reported One Nation party officials Steve Dickson and James Ashby flew to the United States for meetings with pro-gun interests including the National Rifle Association and political donors Koch Industries in September last year seeking money to undermine Australian gun laws.

Dickson and Ashby later told reporters that they had not secured any U.S. money. They also said they had been quoted by Al Jazeera out of context and often after drinking.

The trip took place weeks before the Australian Parliament

banned foreign political donations with laws that took effect Jan. 1.

Morrison said the revelations were reasons why Australians should not vote for One Nation at general elections due in May.

"We have reports that One Nation officials basically sought to sell Australia's gun laws to the highest bidders to a foreign buyer and I find that abhorrent," Morrison said.

Morrison said his government had made laws to "criminalize taking foreign political donations so foreign lobbyists cannot seek to influence our politics."

Opposition leader Bill Shorten, whom opinion polls suggest will be prime minister after the election, accused One Nation of a "betrayal of the Australian political system."

"The idea of One National political party operatives going to the United States, seeking millions of dollars, promising to water-down gun law protection in Aus-

tralia — that was absolutely horrifying," Shorten said.

The Al Jazeera documentary used secret recordings made by a journalist posing as gun lobbyist Rodger Muller with a hidden camera.

One Nation, an anti-Muslim party that had four senators after 2016 election but has been left with two after defections, said in a statement that all party members "have always complied with the law."

One Nation also suggested the Qatar-owned Al Jazeera had breached new laws that prohibit covert foreign interference in Australian politics. The party said it had had complained to Australia's main domestic security agency and police "due to concerns of foreign interference into Australian politics in the lead up to the imminent federal election."

"Al Jazeera are a state owned propaganda arm of the Qatari government that supports Isla-



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

mic extremist groups and are not a legitimate media organization," the statement said.

"One Nation was invited by Rodger Muller, who has now been outed as a foreign agent working for Al Jazeera to meet with the NRA, American business leaders and attend the Congressional Sportsmen's Dinner" in Washington, the statement said.

The NRA did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

Ashby, who is party leader Pauline Hanson's chief of staff, is recorded saying that the party would "own" both the Australian Senate and House of Representatives with a USD20 million donation from the U.S. gun lobby. This means the party would

hold the balance of power in both chambers and influence a government's legislative agenda.

Ashby also warned that if such a donation became public, it would "rock the boat."

He told reporters yesterday that the U.S. trip had been a fact-finding mission to learn campaign tactics.

"These conversations with the NRA were to look at nothing more than their techniques. This was not about sourcing money from the NRA. This was about sourcing technology, sourcing an understanding of how they operate, but never was it about seeking \$20 million dollars from the NRA," Ashby told reporters. AP

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JAPAN

NISSAN Motor Co. paid tuition for all four of ousted chairman Carlos Ghosn's children when they attended Stanford University between 2004 and 2015, according to people familiar with the matter.

The perk was part of Ghosn's employment contract from 1999, when he was hired as chief executive officer of the Japanese carmaker, said one of the people, who asked not to be named because the information isn't public. The benefit, which isn't common among top executives, would have been worth at least USD601,000, according to fee schedules published by Stanford during the years his children were enrolled.

In a statement, Nissan declined to comment on the details of executive compensation packages. Ghosn's lawyer in Paris, Jean-Yves Le Borgne, declined to comment, while a spokesman for Stanford in California didn't respond to requests for comment.

Ghosn, 65, has been charged in Japan with under-reporting his income by tens of millions of dollars at Nissan and misusing company funds. He has denied wrongdoing and is awaiting trial on bail after spending 108 days in a Tokyo prison. The Stanford



tuition adds to a list of lavish extras Ghosn enjoyed as the head of Nissan and its alliance partners Renault SA and Mitsubishi Motors Corp., including luxury residences on four continents and a wedding party at the Chateau of Versailles.

'HIGHLY UNUSUAL'

While no such payments are alleged in Ghosn's case, it's "hi-

ghly unusual" that Nissan would pay his kids' university fees, according to Robin Ferracone, chief executive of Farient Advisors, an executive-compensation consulting firm based in New York City and Los Angeles.

"Typically you only see tuition reimbursements as part of expatriate assignments, and those are for kids below university age," Ferracone said.

Nissan's official filings in Japan and the U.S., where its shares trade as American depository receipts, didn't include any information about Ghosn's benefits. Under U.S. law, executives' benefits are treated as taxable compensation, and U.S. public companies must report them to investors. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has opened an investigation into whether Yokohama-based Nissan accurately disclosed executive compensation. Nissan has said it is cooperating.

LUXURY HOMES

In Japan, companies are required to disclose compensation for highly paid executives in their financial reports but aren't required to spell out the benefits they receive.

Nissan has said that Ghosn, besides collecting salaries totaling \$16.9 million in 2017 from Nissan, Renault, and Mitsubishi, received \$8.9 million in compensation from a Dut-

ch joint venture, Nissan-Mitsubishi BV, without approval from either company. Two other Dutch-based ventures financed by the alliance are under scrutiny for buying and renovating luxury homes for Ghosn in Beirut and Rio de Janeiro, and for subsidizing an extended weekend at Rio's Carnival celebration last year for Ghosn, his wife, and eight other couples.

Separately, Renault found that Ghosn received a "personal benefit" of \$57,000 for his Marie-Antoinette-themed wedding party at Versailles in 2016 after Renault made a charitable donation to the chateau. Ghosn has said he'll reimburse the expense.

The Renault-Nissan alliance also made philanthropic donations to a private high school near Paris attended by at least two of Ghosn's children and to a debutante ball where two of his daughters were presented to society. **AP**

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The mainstream media is under fire and being scorned all over the world as being corrupt and fake.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



USA

Trump says investigation abused him, led to 'evil things'

Mary Clare Jalonick, Washington

HOUSE Democrats pressed the Justice Department to provide the full report from special counsel Robert Mueller even as Republicans gleefully called for them to “move on” from the Russia investigation. President Donald Trump accused those responsible for launching Mueller’s probe of “treasonous things against our country” and said they “certainly will be looked into.”

Trump said the release of Mueller’s full report “wouldn’t bother me at all,” and Democrats quickly put that statement to the test, demanding that his administration hand over the entire document and not just Sunday’s four-page summary from Attorney General William Barr.

Six House Democratic committee chairmen wrote to Barr that his summary is “not sufficient” and asked to have Mueller’s full report by April 2. They also want to begin receiving the underlying evidence the same day. The information is “urgently needed by our committees to perform their duties under the Constitution,” they wrote, implying that the information would be subpoenaed if it is not turned over by the deadline.

Barr said in his letter to Congress that Mueller did not find that Trump’s campaign “conspired or coordinated” with the Russian government to influence

the 2016 presidential election — knocking down arguments from Democrats who have long claimed there was evidence of such collusion.

But he also said Mueller reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed the federal investigation, instead setting out “evidence on both sides” of the question and stating that “while this report does not conclude the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.” Absent a recommendation from Mueller, Barr stepped in and decided there wasn’t sufficient evidence to establish that the president obstructed justice. Democrats said Barr’s judgment is not the final word.

“All I’m interested in is them releasing the full report, the full Mueller report,” said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Despite Mueller’s refusal to exonerate Trump, his spokesmen and leading congressional Republicans all claimed total vindication for the president. Questioned by reporters, Trump said he welcomed Mueller’s results but complained he had been abused by the investigation occurring at all and taking too long.

“We can never let this happen to another president again,” he said. “There are a lot of people out there that have done some very evil things, very bad things, I would say treasonous things against our country.”

“Those people will certainly be

looked at. I’ve been looking at them for a long time. And I’m saying, why haven’t they been looked at? They lied to Congress. Many of them you know who they are.”

He didn’t name names, but Trump has railed against former Justice Department officials, including former FBI Director James Comey, accusing them of an illegal witch hunt for the purpose of delegitimizing his presidency. He has also falsely claimed that the investigation was based on memos compiled by former British spy Christopher Steele, and even blamed Sen. John McCain, who died last year, for passing the memos to the FBI.

The investigation began months before the FBI saw the dossier — and the FBI already had a copy by the time McCain turned it in.

Trump signaled yesterday that he also faults the media, tweeting that “For two years they pushed the Russian Collusion Delusion when they always knew there was No Collusion. They truly are the Enemy of the People and the Real Opposition Party!”

He said the “The Mainstream Media is under fire and being scorned all over the World as being corrupt and FAKE.”

On Monday, after a series of evening strategy meetings, Democrats vowed to continue their multiple investigations into Trump, perhaps with shifted focus. House Intelligence Commi-

tee Chairman Adam Schiff, the California Democrat who has become a focus of Republicans’ post-Mueller ire, said he is “circumspect about how much more we will be able to find on issues that he thoroughly investigated,” but said Mueller’s conclusion would not affect his own committee’s counterintelligence probes. “There may be other corrupt meetings between the Trump campaign and the Russians, there may be other profound financial conflicts of interest that are not mentioned in the Mueller report, and there may be unanswered questions even within what he did examine,” Schiff said.

Democrats signaled that they will curtail some public focus, at least, from their investigations of Trump and try to keep attention on their policy goals. Pelosi was scheduled to hold a news conference yesterday on health care legislation, Democrats’ top campaign issue.

Rhode Island Rep. David Cicilline, a member of Democratic leadership, said he has been encouraging colleagues to talk about those policy issues like health care and infrastructure.

“We need to talk about the work we are doing on these really important economic issues that matter in people’s lives,” Cicilline said. “We’re doing the work, but we need to be more effective about sharing that” and not just responding to questions about corruption and

Mueller’s investigation.

Democrats seem less likely to engage in the impeachment talk that has been amplified on Pelosi’s left flank. Pelosi has tried to scuttle that talk by saying she’s not for impeachment, for now.

But Mueller’s report hasn’t dissuaded some of Trump’s fiercest critics among the new Democratic lawmakers who helped flip the House from Republican control. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., is still planning to introduce her resolution calling for the Judiciary Committee to investigate grounds for Trump’s impeachment.

Meanwhile, GOP lawmakers called for Congress to move on. “This is done with,” said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy. “It is time for the country to move forward.”

At the same time, however, Republicans followed Trump’s lead in looking into how the investigation began. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham promised to “unpack the other side of the story” of the Russia investigation, including the actions of the Justice Department.

The South Carolina Republican also had a warning for Trump, saying that if Trump used his pardon power to help those who were ensnared by Mueller’s investigation, “it would not play well.”

Among those Mueller charged during the course of his investigation were the president’s former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and his first national security adviser, Michael Flynn. Five Trump aides pleaded guilty and a sixth, longtime confidant Roger Stone, is awaiting trial on charges that he lied to Congress and engaged in witness tampering. **AP**

Danica Kirka & Jill Lawless, London

UK

Gov't defiant as Parliament takes control of Brexit

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May's government remained defiant after Parliament took partial control of the stalled process of leaving the European Union, arguing yesterday that the maneuvering simply underscores the need for lawmakers to approve her twice-defeated deal.

The House of Commons voted late Monday to wrest the parliamentary timetable away from the government temporarily so that lawmakers can vote on alternatives to the withdrawal agreement May negotiated with the EU. The government, which usually controls the scheduling of votes in Parliament, said the lawmakers' move "upends the balance between our democratic institutions and sets a dangerous, unpredictable precedent for the future."

But Health Secretary Matt Hancock told the BBC that the government won't "pre-commit" to accepting the option backed by lawmakers because they may come up with a plan that is impractical.

"If the Commons voted for the sun to rise in the west, the government would not be able to implement that," he said.

"The best way through this impasse is the one deal that has been

negotiated with the EU that can be delivered quickly now," Hancock said, referring to the prime minister's agreement.

May's authority is hanging by a thread after 30 members of her Conservative Party defied her instructions and voted for Parliament to take control of the process. Three government ministers resigned rather than vote with the government.

Almost three years after Britons voted to leave the EU, the date and terms of its departure are up in the air. Last week the EU granted Britain a delay to the scheduled March 29 exit date, saying that if Parliament approved the proposed divorce deal, the U.K. would leave the EU on May 22. If not, the government has until April 12 to tell the 27 remaining EU countries what it plans to do — leave without a deal, cancel Brexit or chart a path to a new option.

May is continuing to push for approval of her deal with the EU even though the House of Com-

AP PHOTO



mons overwhelmingly rejected it during votes in January and March.

She has warned pro-Brexit legislators that continuing to reject the deal could lead to a "slow Brexit" that postpones the country's departure indefinitely.

Richard Harrington, who resigned as a business minister to vote in favor of Monday's motion, accused the government of "playing roulette" with people and businesses lives by failing to resolve

Britain's Brexit impasse.

Lawmakers who backed Monday's motion, which passed 329-302, hope to find an alternative that can command a majority in Parliament by holding a series of "indicative votes" on other options. Those alternatives could include a "soft Brexit" that maintains close economic ties with the EU or scrapping Brexit entirely.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, a leading pro-Brexit Conservative, acknowledged that "the choice seems to

be Mrs. May's deal or no Brexit." "I have always thought that 'no deal' is better than Mrs. May's deal, but Mrs. May's deal is better than not leaving at all," he said on the Conservative Home podcast.

Cabinet ministers gathering Tuesday for their regular meeting were expected to demand that Conservative Party lawmakers be allowed to follow their consciences, rather than vote the party line, during the debate Wednesday on alternatives to the prime minister's deal.

"Parliament should seek urgently to resolve the situation by considering alternatives freely, without the instruction of party whips, and government should adopt any feasible outcome as its own in order to progress matters," said Alistair Burt, who quit his role in the Foreign Office after defying May on Monday.

"I did not believe the government was prepared to do that, so had to vote to ensure this happens." AP

AD

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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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EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION – CHE HO

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

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TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays);

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: April 14, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRY: (853) 2852 2550

Offbeat

MIX-UP: BRITISH AIRWAYS PLANE LANDS IN SCOTLAND, NOT GERMANY

The flight on Monday seemed to go perfectly well, until passengers realized that their plane had landed in both the wrong city and the wrong country.

The British Airways flight from London City Airport was supposed to head to Duesseldorf, Germany, but ended up in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.

The airline said Monday the problem started when an incorrect flight plan was filed by WDL Aviation, which operated the flight on behalf of British Airways. Officials say the pilot followed the flight plan for Edinburgh, and that air traffic control officials also were following the same flight plan and saw nothing amiss.

WDL aviation said it was trying to determine the cause of the "obviously unfortunate mix-up."

The flight was refueled and set off again, this time directly to Duesseldorf.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Água de Mar

15:45 Zig Zag

16:20 Conversa da Treta

16:55 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:40 Palcos Agora

18:10 Ministério do Tempo

19:00 TDM Entrevista (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Montra do Lilau

21:50 LiteraturAqui

22:15 Network Negócios

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Resumo Qualificação EURO 2020

00:10 5 Para a Meia-Noite

01:50 Telejornal (Repetição)

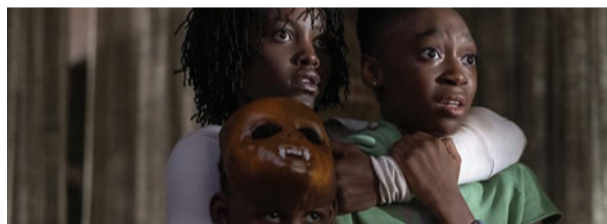
02:30 RTPi Directo

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

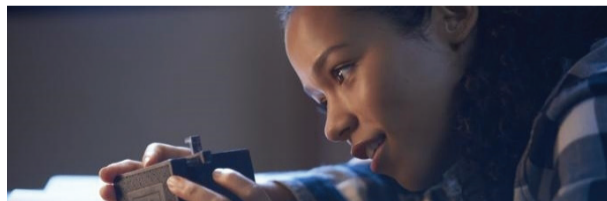
2:15, 4:45, 9:15pm

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 FPFEVER

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



1989 MILLIONS OF RUSSIANS GO TO THE POLLS

Millions of Russian voters have gone to the polls, with early results suggesting that a number of Communist candidates have been rejected by the electorate.

The Soviet parliamentary election was the first opportunity citizens ever had of casting their ballots for any but the official Communist Party candidates.

Election data available so far shows a net gain to unofficial candidates in the voting for 1,500 seats in the new Congress of People's Deputies.

Some Communist Party officials have failed to gain election and despite the absence as yet of many provincial results, there appears to be a swing against the party establishment.

These included five members of the central committee and one Politburo member.

President Mikhail Gorbachev has urged Russian newspaper and broadcasting editors "not to dramatise" the results, according to the official Tass news agency.

Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov described the results as a "victory for glasnost and perestroika".

Government newspaper Izvestia welcomed early results and referred to a new era of "the dictatorship of democracy".

In a predicted landslide, Boris Yeltsin has been elected as a representative to the CPD, which was established by Mr Gorbachev.

Mr Yeltsin won in the all-Moscow constituency against the official party candidate with 89% of the vote.

The biggest majority of all in the polls was won by Telman Gdlyan, a senior prosecutor who exposed a notorious corruption case in Uzbekistan in 1988, with 86.4% of the vote.

The next biggest majority in the polls went to Valentin Dikul, once a famous trapeze artist, with 72%.

Among other elected representatives are retired ice hockey champion Anatoly Firsov, who was seeking to improve health and sports facilities.

Tass described the defeat of one regional Communist party chief in Uzbekistan in Central Asia as a "vote of no confidence".

In the Ukraine, five regional party chiefs were rejected by the voters. Among others who failed to secure their seats were the party chief in Minsk, capital of the western republic of Byelorussia.

It is reported that a Central Committee inquest is under way into the election results.

Mr Gorbachev was reported as saying that economic problems, including the budget deficit and shortages of food and consumer goods, were reasons why the authorities were criticised during the election.

One Muscovite said: "There's been nothing like this for 72 years ... and for all that time it's been nothing but blood, blood, blood."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 1989 election saw many senior Community Party officials defeated. This was seen as revolutionary at the time because internal critics of the Soviet regime were able to receive a hearing and to get themselves elected. According to the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia, turnout in most regions stood at between 80% and 85%, which was not as high as official figures for previous elections.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your values are out in the open today -- and are likely being tested!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Indulge your whims today, no matter how decadent they may seem to you -- or to others, for that matter!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Take care of your bookkeeping today -- if that's a need of yours, of course. If not, it may be a good time to consider more formal financial arrangements, like retirement or investments.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Go wild today -- the crazier, the better! Your ideas shouldn't be measured against reality just yet, as they are still forming and might be game-changers if you give them time to grow up.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You have a brush with the law, though it may be as minor as a speeding ticket or even just a need to pore over the fine print. Don't let yourself be cowed by authority -- just do what you think is right.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Dig a little deeper into the history of your family, company or some other topic of personal interest -- your great mental energy ensures that you dig up something lovely! Share it if it's not too scandalous.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Try to be skeptical of first impressions today -- they are sure to lead you astray! You need to take a second look if you feel the urge to make a hasty decision. Better yet, give it a few days.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You may have bitten off more than you can chew -- so get ready for some discomfort! It may not be that bad in the long run, as you can handle almost anything that comes your way.

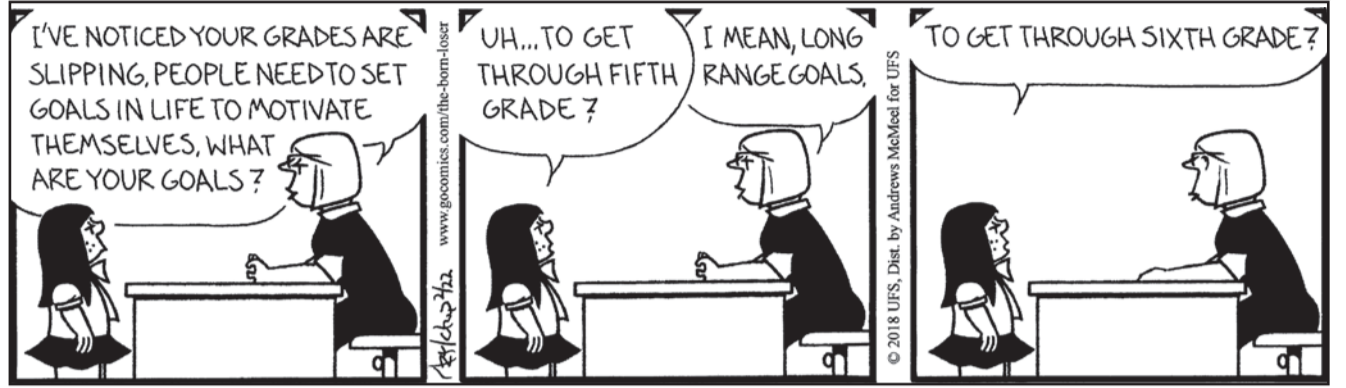
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The details of today's big business may get a little spooky -- but you can handle them! It's one thing to see that life has gotten complicated, but quite another to see the complexity as a new challenge.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You are feeling more conscientious today -- so make the most of this great energy and take care of some tasks that have fallen by the wayside. You should find it much easier to tackle them!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your parents or other older relations are important figures today -- even if you don't ever hear from them directly. You may find that you need to deal with genetic info or with an odd, endearing legacy.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're inspired to create something beautiful tonight -- maybe a four-course dinner for friends or family, maybe a wild rearrangement of furniture or art at home. You should get to it early!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists forecasts for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Ewer; 8- Made irate; 15- Dig up; 16- Where the head of Humanities lives, e.g.; 17- Give off; 18- Lord's estate; 19- Paris possessive; 20- Diving birds; 22- Cultivate; 23- "Who's there?" reply; 25- High time; 26- Mell Lazarus comic strip; 29- Alpine song; 31- Sung syllable; 34- Construction pieces; 36- Work with needle and thread; 37- Revenuers, for short; 38- Exit a railroad conveyance; 40- Most strange; 42- ___ spumante; 43- Hold up; 45- Skate blade; 46- Poivre's partner; 47- Office notes; 49- Davis or Midler; 50- Old-fashioned exclamation of surprise; 52- Brainy org.; 54- Blue book filler; 56- Up to it; 57- Health resort; 60- Drunk; 62- Unrealistic person; 65- Kettledrums; 66- Stuff oneself; 67- Raise a grade?; 68- Puzzle; DOWN: 1- Cat; 2- Arrow poison; 3- Gumshoes; 4- Elevator unit; 5- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 6- Kett and James; 7- Having a runny nose and eyes; 8- Totals up; 9- Formerly known as; 10- Frolic; 11- Diciembre follower; 12- Pique; 13- Fish-eating eagle; 14- Like Easter eggs; 21- Greek island in the Aegean; 23- Japanese porcelain; 24- Writer Janowitz; 25- More recent; 26- King with a golden touch; 27- Like Santa; 28- Courageous; 30- Gidget portrayer Sandra; 32- Bowler's button; 33- Cave; 35- Begat; 37- Fungal infection; 39- ___ de plume; 41- Massages; 44- Explosive weapon; 47- Perhaps; 48- Rarely; 51- Quebec's ___ Peninsula; 53- Hardly shy; 54- Ballpark figs.; 55- Narrow cut; 56- Score after deuce; 57- Hook's mate; 58- Fleshy fruit; 59- Pretentious; 61- U-turn from WSW; 63- Some M.I.T. grads; 64- Skill;

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

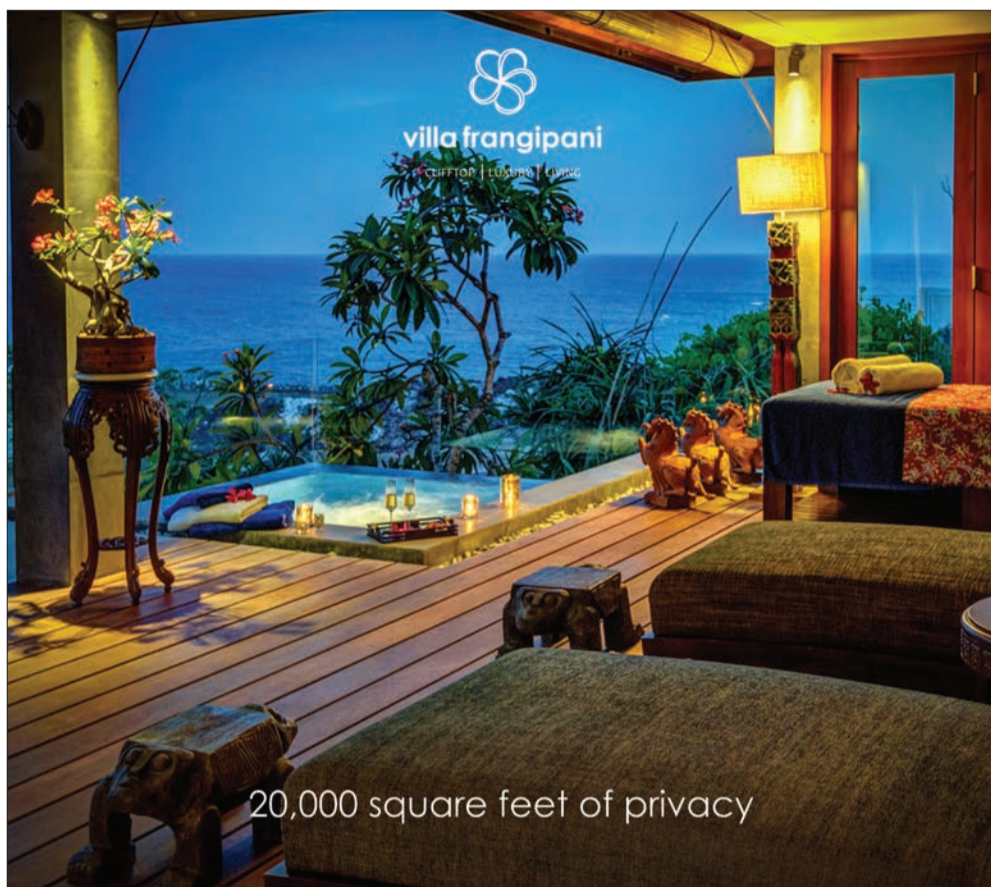
A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for clues.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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BBAM

澳門英國商會
British Business Association of Macao

Breakfast Briefing

Thursday 28 March
with

Guest Speaker: Pol Fàbrega
Co-founder of Rooftop Republic

Rooftop Republic has transformed over 45,000 square feet of underused space into 45 urban farms across Hong Kong and China and has organised more than 350 events around organic farming and sustainable living

Urban Farming: Wonders and Benefits

The potential of urban farming as an instrument of change - to transform our food system from the ground up and make it more sustainable, healthier while transforming and empowering communities at the same time. The talk will also include a brief introduction to the two organisations leading the way in Hong Kong, Rooftop Republic and ManaVida.

Silk Room, Level 5
The St. Regis Macao, Cotai
07:45 Registration
08:00 Breakfast
08:15 Presentation
09:00 Close

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation Policy applies for this event
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AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Aussie rules club produces video to tackle racism

AN Australian rules team has taken a stand against racist abuse of players by producing a video that features indigenous leaders at the club explaining why derogatory terms are hurtful to the people being vilified.

The West Coast Eagles launched their "When will it end?" campaign after young player Liam Ryan was targeted by trolls on social media following an Australian Football League game on the weekend.

The Perth-based Eagles said the treatment of Ryan wasn't isolated, and listed indigenous players from other clubs who'd been abused by "keyboard cowards" in the last month.

Sydney Swans star Adam Goodes, who has Aboriginal heritage and has won an Australian of the Year honor, has been a high-profile target of racist slurs throughout his long and decorated career.

Phil Narkle, a foundation player when the Eagles joined the national league in 1987 and an elder of the local Noongar people, fronts the Eagles' video along with the club's youth development coach, Chance Bateman.

"We are united at this club and we do not accept or tolerate racism," Narkle, the first indigenous liaison officer appointed to any club in the AFL, says at the start of the video. "When will this end?"

The two men are backed by Eagles head coach Adam Simpson and players.

Bateman, who is from Western Australia but spent most of his playing career at Melbourne-based Hawthorn, said the racist terms were particularly insulting because of Australia's history.

The British established colonies in Australia in the late 1700s after declaring it "terra nullius" — owned by no one — despite the presence of Aboriginal people on the island

continent for tens of thousands of years.

"For many, the term monkey, or ape, can be seen as just name calling. But for Aboriginal people, it cuts much, much deeper than that," Bateman said. "It is a throw-back to early settlement, when this land was settled under terra nullius — or no man's land. The reason for that is because Aboriginal people were not thought of as human beings. We were thought of as a sub-human species. And that decision to settle the land under those terms triggered some of the most horrific, degrading and inhumane treatment to our men, women, children and our babies."

The aim of the campaign is to ensure ignorance is no excuse for racism, and the Eagles want to spread the message on the platforms where the recent vilification has been most prevalent.

"So what we'd like to do is ask your support, so that whenever you hear that these players need to harden up and it's just name calling, we hope that you can educate others on why the term is so offensive to our people," Bateman said.

Other AFL clubs, including the Swans and Melbourne-based St. Kilda, responded with their support for the Eagles with messages such as "Enough is enough. We're with you."

The AFL issued a statement yesterday saying its investigation into Ryan's case had resulted in a two-year suspension for a supporter of the Richmond club who has posted on social media.

Tanya Hosch, the AFL manager for inclusion and social policy, said the league would continue to identify people responsible for racist comments and work with clubs to have them banned, and would also report cases to the police for investigation. **AP**



FOOTBALL | EUROPE QUALIFIERS

Ronaldo injured for Portugal; big wins for England, France

Steve Douglas

AN injury to Cristiano Ronaldo exacerbated Portugal's frustrating start to its European Championship title defense.

Things couldn't be going much better for free-scoring England and France.

Ronaldo hobbled off in the first half with an apparent right hamstring injury in Portugal's 1-1 draw with Serbia in Lisbon, which came three days after the titleholder's 0-0 draw with Ukraine also at home.

They are the Juventus forward's first games for his country since last year's World Cup, since when he was accused of rape in the United States. He has denied any wrongdoing.

While Portugal has made a slow start to qualifying, England and France are already well on their way to topping their groups.

England beat Montenegro 5-1 away to follow up its 5-0 thrashing of the Czech Republic on Friday in Group A. It is the first time England has scored five or more goals in successive games since 1984.

The match was marred by apparent racist chanting toward England's black players from Montenegro fans. England coach Gareth Southgate said the English Football Association would be making a complaint to UEFA.

After opening Group B with a 4-1 win over Moldova, France had a more impressive 4-0 win over Iceland with Kylian Mbappe and An-

toine Griezmann scoring second-half goals.

RONALDO OPTIMISTIC

As Ronaldo limped off the field, thoughts inevitably turned to Juventus' upcoming Champions League quarterfinal with Ajax. The first leg is on April 10, and Ronaldo said he could be back in time.

"I'm not worried, I know my body," Ronaldo told Portuguese media. "I should be back in one or two weeks."

Ronaldo pulled up hurt at the Stadium of Light while sprinting to try to reach a long pass. After leaving the field, the 34-year-old forward sat by the sideline and removed the captain's armband before doctors arrived and treated his leg.

Ronaldo stayed on the bench throughout the match, cheering on his teammates who came from behind to earn a point.

Daniilo Pereira scored a goal of which Ronaldo would be proud, driving forward and curling a finish in off the crossbar from outside the area. That canceled out Dusan Tadic's penalty in the seventh minute.

Also in Group B, Ukraine beat Luxembourg 2-1 thanks to an own-goal in the third minute of injury time, and move into first place on four points.

ENGLAND WIN OVERSHADOWED

England players Danny Rose and Callum-Hudson-Odoi heard monkey chants. Southgate said he heard racist chanting, too.

England's latest five-star display ended up being overshadowed by matters off the field.

"In this day and age, you are ashamed that it can happen," Southgate said.

In a response to the apparent actions of Montenegro fans, Raheem Sterling celebrated his goal — England's fifth — by cupping his ears in front of the home supporters, who jeered the winger. A lighter was thrown onto the field.

Sterling, one of the superstars of the Premier League with Manchester City, has been vocal about racism in recent weeks, highlighting what he perceived to be negative press coverage toward black players and saying there needed to be more done to combat it.

Speaking after the Montenegro game, he called for stadium bans for teams with fans who racially abuse players.

"It's now time for the people that are in charge to put a real stamp on it," Sterling said, "because you can fine someone but what's that going to do?"

Ross Barkley scored twice, while Michael Keane and Harry Kane added the others in another encouraging display by England, which reached the World Cup semifinals last year and will play in the inaugural Nations League final four in Portugal in June.

In the group's other game, Kosovo marked its first Euro qualifier since becoming a member of UEFA in 2016 by drawing with Bulgaria 1-1 at home. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



CHANGING CHILDHOODS

I grew up feral compared to the kids of today, and most of my generation in the developed world could say much the same. Dad worked and mum was a “homemaker” and grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins all lived nearby and were seen frequently. From early primary we made our own way to and from school, walking, riding bicycles or using public transport without any adult oversight. We did little homework and after school and at weekends we roamed the neighborhood with friends making our own fun in the abundant open spaces, without a parent to be seen. We often ate at each other’s homes. It was another world that is rarely seen today.

This rose-colored past was not all good though, because kids today are noticeably better off. Infant mortality rates are much lower and today’s kids are much healthier, albeit overweight from too many calories and not enough exercise. Parents now put much more effort into child-rearing, and kids today are much less likely to be neglected or to smoke or have alcohol/drug problems or become delinquent or teenage parents.

Women (and men) are now having much fewer children at an older age and often living in non-traditional (single parent) households. Children are growing up with “time poor” working parents in more dangerous urban environments and little extended family support and relatively little free interaction with other children or the natural world. To compensate, parents are investing money in their children and chauffeuring them between many professionally organized activities. They also provide the equipment and let their children spend a lot of time online.

Our understanding of the growth and development needs of children is much better now, and the strong links between education and subsequent life success are much clearer. And, unfortunately, the world has become much more competitive and this trend is set to continue. In recent decades communities have invested much more into education with good returns, eg nowadays many more children have the opportunity of getting a university degree.

We are still learning and the latest research is highlighting the crucial importance of each child’s initial home environment. At age 0-5 children are learning most rapidly and their brains are most plastic and weaknesses in their early development are very difficult to recover from later in life. We are starting to see a refocusing of community investment in this area. In particular, maternity and paternity leave is becoming much more common. Paternity leave is particularly important in strengthening the active involvement of fathers in raising their children. We are also starting to see universal day care and pre-school facilities that emphasize play and the physical and social development of 0-5 year olds.

I believe that we need to be doing more in both these areas in Macau. Many local families have both parents in full-time work, and often on shift. Extended family support for childcare while parents are working is also becoming less common. Unfortunately, paternity leave is still rare in Macau and most professional childcare does not operate for the extended hours needed for shift-work, and the quality of the childcare is often poor. This also extends to primary education, where teaching staff are often poorly paid and untrained. When do you think we will start to see some of Macau’s annual government surpluses used to extend maternity/paternity leave and expand and improve our local 0-5 childcare and kindergarten resources? Hopefully, soon!

In the last 20 years, secondary and tertiary education in Macau has greatly expanded and improved. I believe it is time to “double down” and also put much more effort and resources into pre-school and primary education in Macau.

THE BUZZ **UBER ACQUIRES MIDEAST COMPETITOR CAREEM FOR USD3.1 BILLION**

Ride-hailing service Uber announced on Tuesday it has acquired Mideast competitor Careem for USD3.1 billion, giving the San Francisco-based firm the commanding edge in a region with a large young, tech-savvy population.

Uber said the \$3.1 billion purchase consists of \$1.7 billion in convertible notes and \$1.4 billion in cash. It marks the largest technology transaction in the Middle East — outside of Israel —

and propels the Dubai-based firm to legendary status among the region’s budding tech startup scene.

Under the deal, Careem will keep its brand and app unchanged, at least for now. It will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Uber and be led by its original founders. The deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2020 and is subject to regulatory approval in several countries.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	55-75 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good	😊
Ambient	55-75 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

Dutch art sleuth recovers Picasso stolen 20 years ago

Mike Corder, Amsterdam

A Dutch art detective said yesterday that he has recovered a valuable painting by Pablo Picasso 20 years after it was stolen from a wealthy Saudi’s yacht in France.

Arthur Brand told The Associated Press that he took possession two weeks ago of the 1938 painting “Buste de Femme” after trailing it for years in Amsterdam.

Brand, a renowned sleuth whose previous finds include a pair of bronze horses sculpted for Adolf Hitler, has since handed over the painting, which he estimates to be worth around 25 million euros (USD28 million), to an insurance company. It wasn’t immediately clear what would happen to the painting.

Brand said he knew it was the real thing as soon as he got his hands on it and peeled away two plastic bags covering the canvas.

“You know it’s a Picasso because there is some magic coming off it,” he said.

But that wasn’t the only reason he was convinced of its authenticity.

In cases of stolen art, he said, the back of a painting can tell experts more than the front.

He said that since the theft from a yacht moored in the



Dutch art detective Arthur Brand with “Buste de Femme”, a recovered Picasso painting

swanky French Riviera port of Antibes, a number of forgeries had been offered to insurers and rejected.

“But a forger never knows how the back looks,” Brand said, without specifying what was there. “When I saw the back of the painting, I knew it was the real one.”

Brand began his latest hunt after hearing rumors about a Picasso stolen from a boat.

“Finally, I tracked somebody down who had had it in his possession 10 years ago and he told me which one it was,” he said. “And then it still took me three years to get near it.”

Brand said the painting had circulated in the criminal underworld of the

Dutch capital.

“It was used as some kind of money as payment for drug and arm deals,” he said.

Eventually a person who had the painting in their possession decided to turn it in and reached out to Brand.

Martin Finkelberg, head of the Dutch national police’s art and antique criminality team, welcomed the recovery. No arrests have been made.

Finkelberg told Dutch national daily De Volkskrant that having such a painting can be a burden and taking it to Brand is a way out.

“Done. Everybody happy,” Finkelberg said. “The most important thing is that the artwork is back.” AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi



Beira. Submerged huts near Nhamatanda, about 130km from Beira, Mozambique. An unknown number of people remain without aid more than 10 days after a cyclone ripped across the country.

WORLD BRIEFS



THAILAND The Asian Network for Free Elections criticized vote counting in Thai’s first election since a 2014 military coup, saying yesterday that the “tabulation and consolidation of ballots were deeply flawed” though it had no reason to believe the issues affected overall results. Preliminary results that were “wildly inaccurate” damaged the “perceived integrity of the general election.”



INDIA Facebook is taking steps to reduce the spread of false information on its platforms ahead of India’s general election. Facebook listed a variety of measures it is taking, from blocking fake accounts to employing third-party fact-checking organizations, through the campaign and voting, with polling scheduled to take place in stages from April 11 to May 19.

UK Prime Minister Theresa May’s government remained defiant after Parliament took partial control of the stalled process of leaving the European Union, arguing yesterday that the maneuvering simply underscores the need for lawmakers to approve her twice-defeated deal. More on p15



VATICAN The founder and all-female editorial board of the Holy See’s women’s magazine have quit after what they say was a Vatican campaign to discredit them and put them “under the direct control of men,” that only increased after they denounced the sexual abuse of nuns by clergy. The Women Church World is a monthly glossy published alongside L’Osservatore Romano.