



QUEEN OF POP CONSIDERING MACAU MANSIONS

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THE 'BLOOMING WOMEN' OF HONG KONG

Single women in the neighboring city have played a bigger role in reshaping its urban landscape than previously understood

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A PRICELESS TREASURE

Activists opposed to an extradition proposal with China warn that HK's greatest treasure, its "reputation for the rule of law," is under threat

P8 GREATER BAY

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Times



FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA A gauge of Chinese manufacturing improved in March in a possible sign government efforts to reverse an economic slowdown amid a tariff war with Washington might be gaining traction.

More on p11



NORTH KOREA said yesterday it wants an investigation into a raid on its embassy in Spain (pictured) last month, calling it a "grave terrorist attack" and an act of extortion that violates international law. A mysterious group calling for the overthrow of the North Korean regime has claimed responsibility.



PHILIPPINES 14 suspected communist rebels were killed after they opened fire during raids in a central province, but rights groups countered that the men were farmers and the latest victims of extrajudicial killings.

More on p13



JAPAN Quite a lot if you're a Japanese citizen awaiting the official announcement today of what the soon-to-be-installed new emperor's next era will be called. It's a proclamation that has happened only twice in nearly a century, and the new name will follow Emperor Naruhito, after his May 1 investiture.

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BLOOMBERG

TOURISM 2.0

Visiting Macau has never been easier

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Resident dies in Grand Canyon accident

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MDT EXCLUSIVE

Police to request China review legality of business visas from Taobao

Staff reporter

THE Macau police authority is referring the matter of Taobao shops selling business visa endorsements (Shangwu) to the relevant governmental department on the mainland for them to ascertain whether there are any illegal activities. The authority noted that, when in compliance with mainland laws and regulations, the acquisition of such a visa via Taobao online shops is legal.

Last month, the Times reported that mainland visitors were acquiring business visas from Taobao shops that grant them frequent access to both Macau and Hong Kong. Visitors can be listed as owners of ready-made companies and obtain these travel permits in exchange for tens of thousands of patacas.

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

Mainland residents may purchase a business visit endorsement from a non-governmental authority in compliance with mainland laws. However, a Times investigation revealed that many of these shops do not require evidence of business-related activities in Macau or Hong Kong to process a visa.

According to the Public Security Police Force (PSP), which oversees immigration matters in the Macau SAR, punitive measures will be applied if the activities of these visitors are found to be inconsistent with the purpose of their stay.

"If mainland residents with a Shangwu endorsement are [suspected] of having engaged in any illegal activity in Macau, the police will report them according to the law," the PSP wrote by email to the Times on Friday, following earlier requests for information on March 12 and 19.

Generally, "the bureau considers that the issuing of mainland travelers' access to Macau with a Shangwu endorsement should guarantee that the procedure to obtain such visas is in compliance with mainland laws and regulations," noted the PSP. "If the operation does not violate the law, it should be regarded as legal, and it should



be respected and accepted as well." However, "if there is any illegal occurrence, it should be handled by domestic authorities."

"At the same time, the bureau will adopt a series of measures, including entry-banning the above-mentioned people," added the Macau police authority. "Due to the fact that these people's purpose to stay in Macau is inconsistent with the status of tourist, the bureau will communicate and report to relevant mainland departments, in order for them to review the legality surrounding the obtaining of such visas, and impose the corresponding measures."

On March 13, the Times also contacted the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) for a comment with res-

pect to the aforementioned situation. IPIM, which is responsible for issuing different types of visas relating to 'investment migration' and 'technical migration', has not provided Times with any information, as of press time.

In the three weeks that have passed since the Times first published a report on the suspicious Shangwu endorsements services being offered on Taobao, a number of new shops have opened. As of Friday, some 25 Taobao shops were listed as selling the service.

One shop, named "Jin Yao Shi Shang Wu", which has no sales and is a newly opened Taobao store with zero accumulated credit, is charging RMB12,800 and RMB14,800 for a Shangwu endorsement to Hong Kong and Macau,

respectively. This shop requires only a mainland ID and a travel card.

Though this is not the case for many other Taobao shops on which the Times previously reported, Taobao issued a customer reminder for this particular store, clarifying that "this product does not provide an entry of review, this shop does not keep a record of sales. Be cautious before making an order."

Ten of the previously mentioned 25 search results were stores located in Zhuhai.

One of the 10 located in Zhuhai, asks for RMB16,000 from mainlanders who have a university degree in order to give them a Shangwu Endorsement to Macau. In turn, this shop is asking for RMB30,000 from mainland residents who do not hold a university degree or are under 40 years old. The price goes up to RMB42,000 for mainland residents who do not hold a university degree and are over 40 years old.

In response to the Times, the PSP said that the bureau does not currently have data to provide on the number of mainland residents who have travelled to Macau with a Shangwu endorsement.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



10 REASONS YOUR CAT SHOULD BE AN INDOOR CAT

AN indoor cat has several advantages over cats that spend time outdoors too; indoor cats are not exposed to infections, parasites, traffic accidents or poisonous plants and foods. Indoor cats live a longer life, due to the lower incidence of illnesses and accidents.

1. NO PARASITES

Skin and intestinal parasites such as fleas, tapeworms, hookworms are contracted from the outside, from other animals or the environment (by ingesting infected faeces or soil). Parasites cause vomiting, diarrhea, dry skin, dull coat, itchiness and scratching; parasites can be very stressful for a feline.

2. FEWER INFECTIONS AND DISEASES

Common infections and some of the most dangerous feline diseases such as rabies, the leukemia virus and cat AIDS are highly contagious. If your cat spends time outdoors, he may contract these diseases

from infected felines or other animals. Cats like to chase mice and birds, which are carriers of numerous infections.

3. PREVENT ACCIDENTS

Traffic accidents are often the cause of death or severe damage in many cats. An indoor cat is not exposed to accidents, so he is safer.

4. PREVENT POISONING

Outdoor cats may easily stumble on toxic plants and will chew on these out of curiosity, craving or hunger. Poisoning can be fatal in cats, especially if you don't get to the vet in time. You can eliminate the toxic plants, rat poison and other potential dangers from your home, so your cat will not be at risk.

5. PREVENT ANIMAL FIGHTS

A cat spending time outdoors can get into fights with other cats, dogs, raccoons or skunks. These fights can result in severe injuries and even rabies, contracted from stray cats.

6. CLEANER HOME, LOWER RISKS FOR OWNER'S HEALTH

If your cat doesn't wander outside, he won't bring dirt, dead animals and bacteria in your home, keeping it cleaner. The bacteria brought in by the cat could affect the owner, especially if the cat likes to spend time on couches or in the owner's bed.

7. REDUCE RISKS OF INHALANT ALLERGIES

Indoor cats that are sensitive will be less exposed to inhalant allergens such as pollens, so they have a lower risk of developing allergy symptoms.

8. EARLY DETECTION OF DISEASE SYMPTOMS

If your cat is always at home, you will notice any abnormalities with his skin, coat, urine or faeces as soon as these occur. You can detect any symptoms of possible diseases and get veterinary help so as to avoid any possible complications.

9. REDUCED STRESS

An indoor cat is less exposed to stress, having a stable environment. Stress may also be caused by parasites or diseases; being less exposed to these, an indoor cat may live stress-free. Having a well established routine, cats



live a happier life.

10. LONGER LIFESPAN

Indoor cats live more than stray ones, due to the lack of risks. A cat that spends all his life indoors lives up to 16 or 18 years, while feral cats hardly live 4 years. Cats that spend time both indoors and outdoors will live 12 to 14 years on average.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Julie Zhu

CHINA will streamline procedures surrounding the application for exit-entry permits by its citizens, according to information given by the National Immigration Administration (NIA) last week, which will allow Chinese citizens on the mainland, regardless of where they were born or where they live, to be able to apply for travel passes to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan at any immigration administration centers across the country. The new policy comes into effect today.

Citizens will no longer need to return to their birthplaces in order to apply for exit-entry permits, according to the new policy.

Prior to this policy, mainland residents' travel permits to the SARs were controlled by the country's Hukou, a household registration system which requires a person to have a permanent residence in order to be registered. Because of this system, mainland tourists had to visit their Hukou-registered residence to receive travel documents, such as passports, travel cards, or travel endorsements.

The new policy may result in more frequent visits of mainlanders to Macau at a time when over-tourism is a contentious topic in the legislative and public domain.

It is still unclear whether the mainland government will launch other visa restriction policies following this easing of the process to obtain travel endorsements to the SARs.

Before 2012, the restriction was completely based on Hukou-registered residences.

In February 2018, China relieved restrictions within each province, meaning that a mainland citizen could apply for these travel documents in another city aside from their Hukou city, however, still within the same province.

Besides the abovementioned restrictions, previously, even though mainland residents could apply for documents in other provinces, they were still not permitted to obtain these documents from self-service kiosks.

The Chinese immigration authority estimates that more than 21 million exit-entry permits will be issued to applicants outside their birthplaces in 2019, saving applicants more than 20 billion yuan (about USD3 billion) on transportation expenses.

Previously, mainland China adopted different SAR travel endorsement policies for Hong Kong and Macau and for different mainland provinces and even cities.

Mainland residents can apply for two travel endorsemen-

RENATO MARQUES



TOURISM BOON

Beijing lifts major restrictions for mainlanders to visit Macau

ts (for tourism purposes) for three months or one year, in order to visit Hong Kong, and one seven-day tourism endorsement to visit Macau within three months or one year after the issue thereof.

Several Macau lawmakers have called on the local and central governments to issue two travel endorsements to mainland visitors who want to visit Macau.

Currently, tourism endorsement restrictions mainly concern Guangdong province, which is geographically closer to both Macau and Hong Kong.

Guangdong residents can apply for a SAR tourism endorsement once every two months, while Chinese policies allow residents from other provinces to apply for unlimited endorsements to visit the SARs. But, once again, each tourism endorsement only allows the holder to visit each city for seven days, with

a new endorsement being needed once all previous endorsements had been used.

With the new policy, effective today, once a mainland visitor leaves the territory of Macau or Hong Kong, he or she can visit an immigration office

■ **The new policy may result in more frequent visits of mainlanders to Macau at a time when over-tourism is a contentious topic in the legislative and public domain**

in any mainland city, such as Zhuhai or Shenzhen, and immediately apply for a new endorsement, thereby returning to the SARs for another seven-day stay.

The service is available through the website s.nia.gov.cn, or through an NIA app and mini-programs attached to WeChat and Alipay, the NIA informed in a statement, released last week.

Through this online service, people will be able to submit application forms for travel permits to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, book interviews with authorities for application of travel documents and follow the review progress.

Chinese citizens can also inquire about their travel documents, such as passport number and expiry date, and their travel records in and out of the country, the statement revealed.

The results of such inquiries can be downloaded with the

digital signature of the NIA and can be used as a confirmation document for a third party, said Chen Yongli, an NIA official.

According to the Chinese immigration authority, the policy will address the continuously increasing demand for exit-entry travel documents by mainland residents, as the country's human flow continues growing, and because the number of residents who study, reside or retire in a place other than their Hukou-registered residence continues to increase as well.

The policy also aims at making travel more convenient for Chinese companies. According to the immigration authority, the policy will offer more convenience to employees of China-based companies who need a travel document. The new policy will allow these employees to save time while reducing costs for employers.

Package tour visitors soar 15.3 percent on account of Lunar New Year

THE number of visitors on package tours soared 15.3 percent year-on-year to reach 706,000 in February 2019, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The number of visitors originating from mainland China (529,000) and Taiwan (61,000) grew by 14 percent and 14.9 percent respectively, while those from South Korea (64,000) and Hong Kong (17,000) surged by 32.8 percent and 27.7 percent respectively.

DSEC attributes the rapid rise in package tour visitors in part to the long holiday of the Chinese Lunar New Year.

For the first two months of 2019, which together negate the monthly irregularities of the Chinese Lunar New Year, the-

re were 1,475,000 package tour visitors, marking an increase of 4.3 percent year-on-year.

The New Year was also the reason that outbound residents using the services of travel agencies rose by 15.5 percent year-on-year to 154,000 in February. Among them, residents travelling under their own arrangements increased by 21.4 percent to 99,000, with those going to mainland China (47,000), Hong Kong (15,000) and Taiwan (17,000) together accounting for almost 80 percent of the total.

Meanwhile, residents travelling on package tours grew by 6.3 percent to 56,000, and most of them went to mainland China (47,000), comprising 84.2 percent of the total.

In the first two months of 2019, outbound residents using the services of travel agencies totaled 286,000, up by 12.6 percent year-on-year.

A total of 1.08 million guests checked into hotels and guesthouses in Macau in February 2019, a growth of 5 percent year-on-year. Guests coming from mainland China (767,000), South Korea (47,000) and Hong Kong (111,000) increased by 4.6 percent, 23.4 percent and 1.1 percent respectively, whereas those from Taiwan (32,000) dropped by 10.6 percent.

In the first two months of 2019, guests of hotels and guesthouses totaled 2.33 million, up by 5.3 percent year-on-year, while the average length of stay of guests held stable at 1.5 nights. **DB**



Sports Bureau meets with youngsters

The Sports Bureau (ID) has organized an event with the aim of disseminating more information to the youth on the government's policies regarding sports. Over 250 young athletes representing several sports activities and associations participated in the event, as well as several school institutions. The president of the ID, Pun Weng Kun, outlined new developments regarding sports in the region, including a vision for the new professional athlete-training center being built in Cotai, which is scheduled to open later this year. In a statement, the Bureau said it hopes events of this kind will open a "bridge of communication" between policy-makers and the youth.

Imports value drops 12.3 percent

The value of merchandise imports dropped 12.3 percent year-on-year to MOP5.67 billion in February 2019, on account of significant declines in the import of constructions materials (-33.1 percent), gold jewelry (-32.6 percent) and handbags and wallets (-26.3 percent). However, the decrease was partially offset by a 25 percent rise in imports of beauty, cosmetic and skin care products. The value of merchandise exports in February amounted to MOP923, putting the merchandise trade deficit at MOP4.75 billion.



Tap Seac Craft Market returns April 26

The Tap Seac Craft Market returns this year from April 26 to 28 and from May 3 to 5 at the central square, featuring a total of 38 handicraft workshops, according to organizer the Cultural Affairs Bureau. Registration opens today for the workshops via the 'Activity Registration System' on the Cultural Affairs Bureau's website. Participation in the workshops is charged at MOP50 each.



MIECF attracts over 4,700 with 44 agreements signed

THE 2019 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum (MIECF) finished on Saturday after a three-day event that attracted over 4,700 people, according to the official figures provided by the organizers. A total of 44 agreements were signed, which resulted from 350 exchange and business contacts made.

Under the main theme of "Promoting Ecological Civilization and Green Development," this year's MIECF included a new section called the "Green Innovation Zone," a special area for the promotion of environmentally friendly products and services in the Greater Bay Area. As on previous occasions, one of the areas of interest was sustain-

able improvement, which features the integration of the participating entities into national policies, helping them to seize opportunities for ecological development at the international level.

During the "Green Forum," a total of eight forums were held and a special session was held with keynote speaker, the founder of Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Michael Liebreich. In addition, the other sessions counted the participation of around 70 environmental pioneers, leaders of multinational corporations and policymakers from seven countries and regions, including mainland China, the Netherlands, Portugal, East

Timor, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Macau.

The main exhibition area, named "Green Show," occupied this year a total area of over 16,900 square meters, with more than 500 exhibitors, mainly from the mainland, European countries and the Portuguese-speaking world.

As with previous years, on the last day of the event the "Green Public Day" was held, allowing the general public to participate in activities and performances including promotional and educational activities such as a lucky draw, an environmental workshop, family games, Eco Fun, an exhibition on waste reduction and recycling, and

an area of recycled articles. The mascots of the Environmental Protection Bureau, including Mr Earth, Brother Cloud, Sister Flower, and Baby Spoonbill were present to encourage youngsters in the practice of a green lifestyle. Another of the new additions of this year was the technical visits, in which guests were led on guided tours to the recycling and waste disposal sites at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge border crossing point, in order to observe and learn more about the infrastructure in terms of environmental protection.

The next edition of MIECF, the thirteenth, will run from March 26 to 28, 2020. **RM**

MIECF

Speaker praises Portugal, Luxembourg experience with green finance

THE president of the Sichuan Province Environmental Science Association has said that Luxembourg and Portugal have many institutional advantages to apply in the development of green finance, and that their shared experience will be helpful in the development of a similar field in the Greater Bay Area.

The remarks came as part of the Green Forum of the 2019 MIECF, the "Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Session" of which was held on Friday. Jiang Xiaoting, President of the Sichuan Province Environmental Science Association,

shared the findings of the mission of the "Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Delegation to Portugal and Luxembourg". According to him, this exchange experience has inspired members in the development of green finance.

In Jiang's opinion, Portugal and Luxembourg's institutional advantages include the establishment of professional banks with policy objectives, the establishment of reasonable regulations on financing risks, the establishment of innovative financial platforms, and the creation of financial products to

support environmental protection. In addition, the exchange made him realize that the mature development of green finance depends on the clear environmental awareness of Luxembourg and Portuguese enterprises, and that the two countries have mixed institutional advantages.

For example, he said, some of the local finance-related institutions are composed of the government and associations, where the government plays a goal-oriented role, while the associations are responsible for maintaining market sensitivity.

Huang Binhui, Deputy Secretary General of the China Association of Environmental Protection Industry, discussed the development of China's environmental protection industry.

He mentioned the market dynamics in different fields of pollution prevention and control in China and the new problems encountered, such as the excess supply of middle and low-end products and the insufficient supply of high-end products in the environmental protection industry, as well as the problem of price competition.

Huang believes that

there are still many opportunities for China's environmental protection industry. In particular, the country has clearly defined the strategic orientation for strengthening the construction of a ecological civilization, which will also bring investment opportunities.

In the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Eco-Corporate Pioneers Roundtable, different environmental protection enterprises in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region shared their opinions and respectively introduced their business scope and industrial technology. **JZ**



Local resident falls to death in Grand Canyon

The Skywalk hangs over the Grand Canyon on the Hualapai Indian Reservation

Renato Marques

A local resident visiting an Arizona State attraction in the U.S., the Grand Canyon, has died after falling from a height of 305 meters while attempting to take photographs near the rim at Eagle Point, a popular tourist destination, agencies and local media reported over the weekend.

The 50-year-old male was initially reported as a tourist from Hong Kong, as the man was part

of a tour group originating in the neighboring region. However, he was later confirmed by the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles as a Macau resident.

A spokesperson for the national park said that a helicopter recovered the body of the man from about 300 meters below the rim. His identity has not been released.

"The Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles expressed deep regret over the death of the tourist and will provide necessary assistance in the aftermath," a

spokesperson from the Consulate was quoted saying by Xinhua news agency.

Contacted by the Times, the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) confirmed that man is in fact a local resident, "who participated in a tour from Hong Kong and passed away in the USA."

"All parties involved in the case are duly informed of what happened. The GGCT has provided the family with the necessary information about the visa application for travel to the U.S. and is assis-

ting them [with] it."

According to the information provided by the same government department, "the Macau resident had acquired travel insurance, which will provide coverage according to the terms of the trip."

Facts ascertained by the American authorities say that the tourist slipped and fell to his death from a lookout while taking pictures, leading the authorities to immediately deploy a helicopter, which located the man's body at the bottom of the canyon and

transported the body to the nearest hospital.

Eagle Point is a remote site on the Grand Canyon, known for the Skywalk, a horse-shoe shaped glass bridge that juts out from the canyon wall and allows the best views over the canyon carved by the Colorado River.

Previously, the Chinese consulate general in Los Angeles has issued warnings to all Chinese citizens to be aware of security risks while travelling in Arizona, including traffic accidents, severe heat, drought and bush fires.

Fed up with Portuguese bureaucracy, Madonna plans on moving to Macau

Staff reporter

THE 'material girl' is said to be acquiring "one or two mansions" and other properties in Macau, Spanish media reported yesterday.

According to Atardecer (Madrid), the "mansions" in question could be Casa Garden (which was once sought by Steve Wynn) and/or a large Church-owned property in Cheoc Van overlooking the beach. Other unspecified number of properties are located in new luxury condos in the Macau peninsula and Cotai.

The Times was unable to contact the property owners by press time to confirm reports. A government insider, who asked to remain anonymous, said, speaking in riddles, "all I can tell you is where there's smoke,



there's fire."

The reports imply the Queen of Pop is "fed up" by constant clashes with greater Lisbon mayors despite the major investment and attention she has brought to tiny Portugal.

Madonna, who has two kids training at the Benfica football academy, has accused Portuguese authorities of "ingratitude" on several occasions.

In the latest incident, reported last week by tabloid Correio da Ma-

nhã, Madonna requested permission from the mayor of Sintra to ride a horse in a 19th century heritage palace in the exclusive coastal town near Lisbon for a video-clip shooting. The mega star's request was denied by mayor Basilio Horta – a political heavy weight of the center-right spectrum – on the grounds of heritage protection, fearing the ride could cause irreparable damage to the property.

The case was picked-up

by Vanity Fair's French edition. Under the title "A diplomatic incident," the celebrity magazine calls the incident "a joke" and concludes by teasing that "not even Madonna can do whatever she likes."

Madonna was in Macau in February 2016 during her "Rebel Heart Tour" with two debut performances that twice filled the 5000-seat Studio City Event Center.

The first time Madonna came to Macau was in 1986 to shoot scenes of the film "Shanghai Surprise," along with her then-husband Sean Penn, in the old quarters of the city in the Inner Harbor area. One of the reasons to move to Macau, said the Queen of Pop to the Spanish newspaper, was that "Macau is very cinematic."

GAMING

Another deadline missed for The 13 Hotel

A March 31 deadline for the opening of a casino at the "world's most luxurious hotel" has come and gone with still no news and no revised deadline. That follows years of missed deadlines for the distinctive, luxury resort that sits at Cotai's southern tip.

It appears that the USD1.4 billion expense was not enough to ensure that the casino at The 13 Hotel would be operational in time to reach promoter South Shore Holdings' March 31 deadline. As reported by Calvin Ayre, the lack of a new timetable is leading some analysts to suspect the operation is grossly behind schedule and could be delayed into 2020.

The hotel partially opened in August of last year, when 200 duplex suites and villas became available. However, the casino, which was expected to have 66 tables as well as shops, was not ready to open.

The hotel complex had al-

ready been a huge drain on South Shore Holdings. The company announced that in the six months prior to their September 30 filing that they had lost USD55.38 million. This loss was 18 times more than their loss at the previous point in 2017.

Several factors played a part in the reported loss, including "the increase in finance costs, depreciation and amortization charges and hotel operation expenses for the hotel segment compared with last year," according to a report filed with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

The company had already reached an agreement with a casino operator to manage the operations of the venture, and some analysts question whether this agreement is in jeopardy with the delay. They had also set aside \$44.8 million in equipment and supplies related to the opening of the casino, which now is on hold as they wait for the project to be completed. **DB**

Igor Vojnovic, & Minting Ye,
Michigan State University

How single women are driving

GENTRIFICATION is reshaping urban areas all around the world, displacing large segments of the population and making cities increasingly unaffordable.

In San Francisco, only 12 percent of households can afford a median priced home, which is over USD1.5 million. In Hong Kong, the world's most unaffordable city alongside Singapore and Paris, there are currently some 90,000 families living in inadequate housing conditions.

We study urban development and its social, physical and environmental impacts. We recently examined two decades of cultural transitions in Hong Kong with a focus on how the changing status of women and attitudes toward marriage have altered the real estate market.

What we found is that single women in Hong Kong have played a surprising and little-studied role in gentrification.

MARRYING LATER

Women have been marrying later in life around the world for many years. The extent

of this trend has varied globally, though, reflecting different levels of cultural change and resulting in different regional economic impacts.

‘Leftover women’ in Hong Kong are seen in a more positive light. There, they’re known as ‘blooming women’

Throughout the second half of the 20th century, East and Southeast Asia, in particular, witnessed a growing number of single men and women. From 1950 to 1990, the number of young single women across Asia – China excluded – increased almost fourfold, from 22 million to

82 million.

One reason this trend has happened outside of China is cultural. If you're a woman and you're single on the mainland, it's viewed negatively. Unmarried women over the age of 27 are called “sheng nu,” or “leftover women.” But in Hong Kong it's seen in a more positive light. There, they're known as “xing nu,” or “blooming women.”

This trend has produced a ripple effect throughout the economy, including the property market and local redevelopment, as the increased number of single women – who are also attaining higher-paid jobs – boosts demand for housing.

GENTRIFYING NEIGHBORHOODS

We analyzed standardized census data from 1986 to 2006 across all of Hong Kong, with a focus on exploring the impact of women on neighborhoods that were gentrifying. The analysis, which took four years to complete, identified about 34

percent of Hong Kong as experiencing gentrification.

The process of gentrification involves capital reinvestment into neighborhoods that encourages their physical upgrading, along with the displacement of groups of lower incomes who have traditionally occupied these communities.

A telltale sign of gentrification is the shift from rentals to owner-occupied housing. The share of units with owners living in them in these areas climbed from 45.5 percent in 1986 to 64.2 percent two decades later.

During the same time period, the number of people employed in traditional, working-class sectors like manufacturing more than halved, from 177,917 in 1986 to 73,870 in 2006. At the same time, the number of residents employed in finance, insurance, real estate and business services tripled, from 49,276 in 1986 to 150,237 in 2006.

But it is not only the occupational structure that is

changing within these neighborhoods. These gentrifying areas have been increasingly dominated by single women.

Single women increased by 53.2 percent over the two decades, compared with a rise of just 15.2 percent among single men. Similarly, the number of divorced and separated women in these neighborhoods rose at twice the pace of divorced and separated men.

As a result, the share of households led by single women, whether never-married or divorced, jumped to 47.1 percent in 2006 from just 25.8 percent two decades earlier.

GLOBAL TRENDS

Overall, not only are single women emerging as a growing and critical aspect of Hong Kong's economy, they are also driving the city's increasingly unaffordable real estate market.

While our study focused on Hong Kong, we believe there is reason to think the

AD



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gentrification in HK and elsewhere

same thing is happening in cities across the world, such as New York, London, Vancouver and Singapore. That's because these cultural trends – a rising number of single women in high-paying jobs and a delay in tying the knot – have been happening elsewhere for many years.

For example, in the U.S., Pew projects that when today's young adults reach their mid-40s to mid-50s, a quarter of them will never have married, compared with less than 10 percent a few decades ago. And in Iceland, some 70 percent of children were born to single mothers in 2016, more than double the share in 1970.

This is not to say that we should blame women for gentrification. We believe their growing representation and success in the workforce in Hong Kong and elsewhere is something to be celebrated. And women at the other end of the income spectrum, particularly single mothers, bear the brunt of gentrification. **The Conversation**

BLOOMBERG



AD



BBAM
澳門英國商會
British Business Association of Macao

Breakfast Briefing
Thursday 4 April
with
Guest Speaker: Eric Fong
Director of Marketing Department
CAM - Macau International Airport

Macau International Airport (MIA)
Future development and planning

Macau International Airport (MIA) has been growing rapidly with 2 digits increase during these few years, many airlines enter Macau Aviation Industry, serving new destinations and adding frequency during this few years. Currently, MIA is serving 54 destinations including 25 cities in Mainland China, 3 cities in China Taiwan and 26 cities in the SEA and NEA region. MIA accomplished North passenger terminal extension in 2018, in which can accommodate 7.8 million passengers annually; but in 2018, MIA received more than 8.2 million passengers, which exceeded its present capacity. In this session, Mr. Eric Fong will give you a thorough presentation on the development plans of MIA and how it succeeds in today's aviation market.

Jade 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
Vegetarian option to be requested in advance

Members – Complimentary | Non-Members – MOP/HKD 200

Complimentary self-parking for all guests (please inform if parking)
Inquiries and RSVP to
bbam@britchammacao.org

2019MIECF
Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition
2019年澳門國際環境合作發展論壇及展覽

Promoting Ecological Civilization and Green Development

Host
中華人民共和國澳門特別行政區政府
Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Special Supporting Organizations:

- National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China
- Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China
- Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China
- Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China

Co-organizers:

- People's Government of Fujian Province
- People's Government of Jiangxi Province
- People's Government of Hunan Province
- People's Government of Guangdong Province
- People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
- People's Government of Hainan Province
- People's Government of Sichuan Province
- People's Government of Guizhou Province
- People's Government of Yunnan Province
- Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Official Supporting Organizations:

- Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao
- Department of Ecology and Environment of Fujian Province
- Department of Ecology and Environment of Jiangxi Province
- Department of Ecology and Environment of Hunan Province
- Department of Ecology and Environment of Guangdong Province
- Department of Ecology and Environment of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
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- Portuguese Environment Agency, Public Institute (APA, I.P.)
- Macao Government Information Bureau, The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region
- Macao Government Tourism Office, The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region
- Macao Economic Services, The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

Industrial Supporting Organizations:

- China Association of Environmental Protection Industry
- China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Association
- China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products
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- Industrial Association of Macau
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- Macau Hotel Association
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- Independent Power Producers Forum
- European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
- Federation of Hong Kong Industries
- The Portugal-China Young Entrepreneurs Association (AJEPC)
- Macau Construction Industry Environmental Protection Society

Special acknowledgement from the 2019MIECF to the participation and support of all relevant local and overseas organizations, delegations, exhibitors, trade visitors.

Host Co-ordinators: 

Event Manager: 

Global bay areas to grow closer

An international forum for major global bay areas on Friday launched a new cooperation platform to exchange resources and development ideas. The Global Bay Areas Cooperation Council (GBACC) will serve as a bridge to assemble resources of the world's top bay areas and help them to address global challenges by working toward coordinated development. The forum was dedicated to exchanges and cooperation between China's recently established Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and bay areas in other countries, namely the San Francisco Bay Area, New York Bay Area and Tokyo Bay Area.

China urges UK to 'stop interfering'

China has urged the United Kingdom to respect China's sovereignty and stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang made the remarks after the U.K. government released its latest six-monthly report on Hong Kong. "We urge the U.K. to face the reality that Hong Kong has returned to China for 22 years, respect China's sovereignty, stop releasing relevant reports, and stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs," Geng said at a press briefing. It is undeniable that the "one country, two systems" policy has been successful, he said. "Hong Kong's affairs have been entirely China's internal affairs since July 1, 1997. The British side has no right to make irresponsible remarks or interfere with any excuses," Geng said.

Shenzhen launches liver diseases research institute

A liver disease research institute has been established in Shenzhen, integrating research resources in the Greater Bay Area, said the city's health commission. The Shenzhen institute aims to carry out comprehensive clinical diagnosis, treatment and scientific research of liver diseases, improve the diagnosis and treatment, establish an information resource bank and sample library of common liver diseases, and carry out innovative research on the diagnosis and treatment of liver diseases. Statistics from the World Health Organization show that nearly 55 percent of the world-wide patients with liver cancer came from China in 2012.



Protesters raise placards and flags against an extradition law during a march toward the government headquarters in Hong Kong yesterday

HONG KONG

Proposed extradition law sparking concerns even after backpedal

Business and human rights groups are expressing concern over proposed changes to Hong Kong's extradition law that would allow suspects to be sent to mainland China where they could be subject to torture and unfair prosecution.

They say the move would harm the Asian financial hub's attractiveness to international business.

Hong Kong currently limits such extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing extradition agreements or to others on an individual basis under a law passed before the semi-autonomous territory's handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997. China was excluded because of concerns over its poor record on legal independence and human rights.

However, changes to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance would expand the scope for the transfer of criminal suspects to China and remove the legislature's

right to scrutinize individual extradition decisions filed by Hong Kong's chief executive.

"These amendments would heighten the risk for human rights activists and others critical of China being extradited to the mainland for trial on fabricated charges," Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch, said in a news release yesterday.

"The amendments would tarnish Hong Kong's reputation for the rule of law, and should be scrapped," Richardson said, adding the legal changes would put Hong Kong people "at risk of torture and unfair trials."

Last week, Hong Kong scaled back the proposed law amid concerns by opposition lawmakers and Western governments that the legislation would further erode the city's autonomy.

The government agreed to remove nine categories including bankruptcy, securities and futures, and intellectual property from the proposed extradition

law, Hong Kong Security Secretary John Lee said. 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.

Further concerns have been outlined in a letter sent to Chief Executive Carrie Lam authored by Human Rights along with the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor and the local branch of Amnesty International.

The groups warned that fear of extradition to China — which routinely uses trumped-up charges of tax evasion or other economic crimes to punish political critics — could stifle civil society and freedom of speech in Hong Kong, where civil liberties are already under assault from pro-Beijing groups. In recent years, several people connected with a Hong Kong publishing house that produced unflattering books on mainland Chinese leaders have appeared in Chinese police custody after apparently being

abducted, along with a prominent business person wanted on the mainland.

Unlike China, Hong Kong is subject to the U.N. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as "customary international law," which "prohibit returning people to places where there is a real risk of torture and other ill-treatment, unfair trials, and other serious human rights violations," the letter said.

Separately, the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong issued a letter saying its member "continue to have serious concerns" about the proposed changes, saying they would "reduce the appeal of Hong Kong to international companies considering Hong Kong as a base for regional operations."

"Hong Kong's international reputation for the rule of law is its priceless treasure," said the letter. **DB/Agencies**

TECHNOLOGY

Huawei defies global storm with 25 percent jump in full-year earnings

HUAWEI Technologies Co. posted a 25 percent jump in annual profit even as the Chinese telecommunications giant faces a U.S.-led push to keep it out of next generation networks.

China's largest tech company by sales posted net income of 59.3 billion yuan (USD8.8 billion) in 2018 as it won customers for its smartphones and networking gear, according to a statement on Friday. Revenue for the year jumped almost 20 percent to 721 billion yuan.

Despite being at the center of global scrutiny, Huawei is winning customers for its equipment as it contends with Apple Inc. for the mantle of world's No. 2 smartphone label. The company has already disclosed accelerated growth in the first two months of

2019 as it develops cutting-edge chips and expands into cloud services. But its global prospects have been clouded by the Trump administration, which is waging a campaign to block the Shenzhen-based company from supplying equipment for the fifth-generation mobile networks.

"In 2019, we are cautiously optimistic about the growth in 5G business," Guo Ping, one of the company's three rotating chairmen, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. "The future of telecom industry lies in the opportunities that 5G and future generations of technologies can provide to other industries."

Revenue from its consumer business, which includes smartphones, jumped 45 percent to 348.9 billion yuan while sales in the carrier unit were little changed at 294



An employee is seen through a window displaying the Huawei Technologies Co. logo

billion yuan. Huawei said it invested more than 101 billion yuan, or about 14 percent of sales, in research and development.

After years of tension and accusations that the company makes it possible for Beijing to spy on the West, pressure on the Huawei has ratcheted

up. Canada detained Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou last December at the behest of the U.S. Meng, also Huawei-founder Ren Zhengfei's eldest daughter, faces potential extradition on alleged bank fraud linked to U.S. sanctions against Iran. And the Chinese company is grappling with criminal charges for intellectual property theft. Both Meng and Huawei have denied wrongdoing.

Huawei finds itself in the cross-hairs of the U.S. government just as it's pushing for leadership in 5G and countries prepare to spend billions on the potentially revolutionary standard. Still, nations accounting for more than 40 percent of the world's gross domestic product are either embracing Huawei or appear unlikely to restrict the Chinese vendor. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Mystery owner auctions USD26m of wines

A wine collection of almost 17,000 bottles from a single cellar - including grand cru Burgundies and first-growth Bordeaux - is expected to bring as much as USD26 million at auction, Sotheby's said.

The four-day sale that kicked off on Friday in Hong Kong features more than 275 lots of Domaine de la Romanee-Conti spanning more than five decades. Top Bordeaux including La Mission

Haut-Brion 1945 and Chateau Lafite Rothschild 1961 are also on the block, according to the catalog.

Although Sotheby's hasn't disclosed the seller's identity, there are hints in the catalog. The collector is described as a fifth-generation property developer, and the preponderance of Burgundies suggests a younger collector as older ones have favored Bordeaux, said Sarah Heller, a master of wine at Heller Beve-

rage Consultancy.

"You just don't see collections like these come along very often," Heller said. "People will look at it as a barometer of interest, and the rarefied world of top Burgundy collectors will be watching with bated breath."

Single-owner sales usually command a premium at auction because buyers can more easily check the wines' provenance as well as storage and transport history

when the seller's identity is known.

There's no mystery about the provenance of a special edition of five-bottle cases of Mouton Rothschild that go on sale today, the final day of the auctions. They've been stored at the Bordeaux chateau since bottling, and could earn prices 10 percent to 15 percent higher than wines not sold directly by the producer, said Ritchie.

Each of the 25 identical

lots includes an invitation for two to attend a dinner held at the Palace of Versailles, where the famous 1945 vintage will be served. The estimate per case is \$15,000 to \$25,000.

"Not only do you get some of the finest bottles of Bordeaux wine, but also the chance to experience firsthand an evening of French culture and history at the palace," said Philippe Serreys de Rothschild, chief

executive officer of Baron Philippe de Rothschild SA.

Today's sale will also include bottles of single-malt whiskey, as well as Kweichow Moutai, the Chinese sorghum-based liquor that has become sought-after by Asian collectors. The most expensive lot of the fiery drink is from the 1997 vintage, of which only 1,997 bottles were made to commemorate that year's handover of Hong Kong to China. The 12 bottles and original cardboard carton have an estimate of \$85,000 to \$140,000. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

GEG HOLDS INTERACTIVE PROTOCOL WORKSHOP FOR EMPLOYEES



Following last month's announcement of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) held an "International Protocol

and Affairs Workshop" last week at the JW Marriott Hotel Macau.

Former Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office Director Fung Sio Weng was the

workshop instructor.

During the workshop, Fung introduced participants to professional knowledge and useful skills involved in Chinese and Western protocol and illustrated the structures of Chinese leadership and principal government organs in the Greater Bay Area, as well as their vital functions. It also touched upon international etiquette, Chinese foreign affairs and the Greater Bay Area.

According to the gaming operator, upwards of 70 GEG employees working in relevant fields attended the workshop.

Many of the participants praised the multi-faceted workshop, saying that it was current, relevant and offered an abundance of practical advice and techniques for excellence in the field.

SHERATON, ST. REGIS HOLD BLACKOUT IN SUPPORT OF EARTH HOUR



Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel and The St. Regis Macao conducted one-hour blackouts on March 30 to shine a light on climate action in support of Earth Hour 2019. The hotels joined

millions around the world in turning off their lights at 8:30 p.m. local time to illuminate a powerful message about environmental awareness and action.

The World Wildlife Fund created the annual global environmental awareness event 12 years ago to emphasize the threat of climate change.

Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel and The St. Regis Macao participated by turning off exterior lighting, dimming or turning off non-essential interior lighting, and informing guests about Earth Hour observances through digital kiosks and screens.

"It's our honor to support such a meaningful movement," said Saurabh Bakshi, General Manager of Operations of Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel and The St. Regis Macao. "Earth Hour reflects a philosophy we try to practice all year-round: The small steps each of us take together every day can make a big difference in the long run."



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (right) arrives for a National Remembrance Service for the victims of the mosques terrorist attack in Christchurch

TERRORISM

HRW urges New Zealand's Ardern to discuss Muslims in China

A rights group has urged New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to raise concerns about reported Chinese government abuses of Muslims during her upcoming visit to Beijing that was shortened after the killing of 50 worshippers at two mosques in New Zealand.

Human Rights Watch said Friday that Ardern "spoke forcefully in defense of Muslims' rights" after the Christchurch attacks and should do so again in Beijing.

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese Muslims have been detained without charge in internment camps, where relatives and ex-inmates say they have been subjected to physical abuse and forced to renounce Islam.

Human Rights Watch said Ardern should publicly call on Chinese leaders to close the camps, end the abuses, and permit independent, international observers' access to the Xinjiang region that is home to China's largest mainly Muslim minority group, the Uighurs. Other members of Muslim groups, including Kazakhs and the Hui, have also faced internment and other forms of repression.

China has so far rejected calls for independent observers and after first denying the camps' existence, now says they are voluntary vocational training centers that provide job skills to ward off religious extremism.

Ardern is to meet with both President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang on her only day in Beijing on Monday.

Relations between China and New Zealand have been strained after New Zealand's spy agency in November stopped mobile phone company Spark from using Huawei equipment in its planned 5G upgrade. The agency said the Chinese tech

giant's equipment posed a "significant network security risk."

That brought indications of economic retaliation from China, New Zealand's largest trading partner and a key customer for its dairy and other agricultural products. Ardern said last month that no final decision has been made on whether Huawei equipment can be used in the country's slated 5G network.

New Zealand media quoted Ardern as saying that she couldn't justify extending her Chinese trip beyond Beijing because "We are still very much in an operational response to the terrorist attack and we are still making sure that we have the right care in place for those victims."

The gunman in the mosque killings cited China in his online manifesto as the country most aligned with his political and social values.

Although Muslim countries have remained largely silent over the camps and other abuses against Chinese Muslims, some European nations and the U.S. have become increasingly vocal in their criticism.

Last week, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with former inmates and family members, tweeting that he called on China to "end these counterproductive policies and release all arbitrarily detained."

"The world cannot afford China's shameful hypocrisy toward Muslims. On one hand, China abuses more than a million Muslims at home, but on the other it protects violent Islamic terrorist groups from sanctions at the U.N.," Pompeo wrote, in a reference to China's repeated refusal to designate Masood Azhar, the head of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad, as a terrorist. AP

Guangzhou offers cash for information in religion crackdown

A southern Chinese city is offering cash rewards for information about "illegal religious groups" as the ruling Communist Party continues to tighten its grip over faith communities.

A notice posted on the official website of the Guangzhou Department of Ethnic and Religious Affairs said up to 10,000 yuan (USD15,000) would be paid for verified information and assistance in hunting down key members and leaders of illegal foreign religious groups and revealing their structures.

The department said smaller rewards would be offered for reports about religious venues set up without permission and behavior encouraging "religious extremism."

"The meaning of this document is to protect the lawful, prevent the illegal, contain extremism, resist infiltration and crack down on crimes," the department said in commentary on the incentives.

Under President Xi Jinping, the officially atheistic ruling party has sought to eliminate all religious expression not under its direct control, especially by Uighurs, Kazakhs and other Muslim ethnic minority groups now being held in internment camps in Xinjiang where they are forced to swear allegiance to Xi and the party and condemn Islam and their traditional culture.

China has sought to defend itself against charges of cultural genocide, painting its critics as seeking to smear China's reputation. It originally denied the camps' existence, then said they were established to provide vocational assistance to steer people away from extremism. China has rejected any independent outside monitoring of the camps.

China's reputation for taking a hard line against religions — Muslims in particular — has drawn growing global attention. The man arrested in the March 15 New Zealand mosque attacks said in his online manifesto that China is the nation that most aligns with his political and social values.

Earlier this month, a U.S. envoy on religion called for an independent investigation of the detentions and for the release of those being held, describing the situation in Xinjiang as "horrific."

Sam Brownback, U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, said China has done nothing to assuage concerns from the U.S. and others over the detentions and accused it of being "at war with faith," drawing a furious response from Beijing.



Chinese Bishop Joseph Li Shan (center) walks down the aisle during a Holy Saturday Mass on the evening before Easter at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, a government-sanctioned Catholic church in Beijing

SURVEY

Manufacturing activity ticks up in March



A gauge of Chinese manufacturing improved in March in a possible sign government efforts to reverse an economic slowdown amid a tariff war with Washington might be gaining traction.

The statistics bureau and an industry group said yesterday their monthly purchasing managers' index rose to 50.5 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity increasing. That was up 1.3 points from February.

Chinese manufacturing declined last year as the fight with President Donald Trump over Beijing's technology ambitions weighed on exports and domestic consumer demand weakened. The government loosened lending controls and increased spending to reverse the slowdown, but authorities moved gradually to avoid igniting a rise in debt. The ruling Communist Party also has promised to give entrepreneurs who generate China's new jobs and wealth a bigger role in the economy.

Private sector forecasters expect the downturn to bottom out by mid-year say any growth rebound will be modest. Chinese leaders warned previously that a recovery would be "L-shaped," meaning the decline would end but there would be no return to

the previous decade's double-digit growth.

Last year's growth in the world's second-largest economy sank to a three-decade low of 6.6 percent. The ruling party set this year's official target at 6 to 6.5 percent as part of efforts to steer the economy to a more sustainable expansion based on domestic consumption and reduce reliance on exports and investment.

Exports in the first two months of 2019 fell 4.6 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. and Chinese negotiators met last week in Beijing for talks aimed at ending the tariff war that has weighed on sales of goods from soybeans to medical equipment. They ended Friday with no formal agreement but the two sides said they would meet again in Washington.

"The confidence of enterprises, production and operation activities are showing a recovery trend," said the National Bureau of Statistics and the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing in a statement.

Sub-indices for exports, employment and new orders all improved.

An index that shows expectations by companies of future new business rose 0.6 points to 56.8. AP

At least seven killed in latest industrial accident

At least seven people were killed and five injured yesterday when a container containing scrap metal exploded in the latest in a series of industrial accidents in eastern China.

The early morning blast in the city of Kunshan in Jiangsu province caused a fire that spread to a nearby workshop, the city government said on its microblog. The cause of the explosion is under investigation, it said.

China experiences frequent industrial accidents despite orders from the central government, including president and ruling Communist Party leader Xi Jinping to improve safety at factories, power plants and mines, on pain of prosecution. Skirting of safety regulations — sometimes with the collusion of corrupt local officials — is generally given as the cause.

In March, 78 people were killed

in a blast at a chemical plant in the Jiangsu province city of Yancheng that had numerous safety violations, in one of China's worst industrial accidents in recent years. A massive crater was formed, windows blown out for kilometers around, vehicles crushed and local residents forced to evacuate.

Earlier, in November, at least 22 people were killed and scores of vehicles destroyed in an explosion outside a chemical plant in the northeastern city of Zhangjiakou, which will host competitions in the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Among the worst accidents was a massive 2015 explosion at a chemical warehouse in the port city of Tianjin that killed 173 people, most of them firefighters and police officers. That blast was blamed on illegal construction and unsafe storage of volatile materials. AP

ADVERTORIAL



At MGM, we understand that is important to support equal opportunities and diversity in our workforce, knowing that a diverse team is a stronger team. To date, we have hired 49 employees with different disabilities and strive to create a supportive working environment for them.



Seminar on "Effective communication with persons with disabilities towards a barrier-free environment"

On March 25, Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and MGM co-organized a seminar entitled "Effective Communication with Persons with Disabilities Towards a Barrier-Free Environment" was held at MGM COTAI and attended by more than 150 participants. It brought together speakers and leaders of social enterprises to share their personal experience and their contribution to the journey of building a more inclusive and fair society for everyone.

Speaking at the launch ceremony and seminar, Mr. Bowie said this project is only "a start of a marathon" and it has a deeper purpose to raise awareness and create engagement in a wider society. "Today, it is our hope we all learn to find some compassion and understanding. And most importantly, overcome our natural barriers and prejudices. As we develop to be a leader in all facets of tourism, we understand we need to be welcoming and inclusive."



Launch of first e-learning program for sign language

The event also saw the launch of "Power in Our Hands" community e-learning program of Macao sign language in collaboration with Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Macau Deaf Association. It pioneers in offering the first community outreach online sign language lessons covering elementary knowledge of sign language, daily conversations, tourism vocabulary such as sightseeing in Macau, hospitality and city facilities. Locals are welcome to join the e-learning program for free, available in 3 languages, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese and English through this link at <http://industry.macaotourism.gov.mo>. This also supports the scheme of Macau SAR Government's initiative in optimizing the accessibility of the city. Leading from within

MGM has always been supportive in building an access-free environment in terms of both facilities provided in the property, and service for people with special needs. Our Hotel rooms offers barrier-free access and wheelchairs that are readily available.

In addition, we also provide training opportunities for the staff with the dedication to enhance service quality for people with special needs. This, together with many initiatives led by Macau Government will contribute towards building a world class, access-friendly Macau, for both locals and visitors.

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THAILAND

King strips fugitive ex-PM Thaksin of royal decorations

THAILAND'S king has stripped fugitive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of his royal decorations, citing his 2008 flight to escape serving a two-year prison term on a conflict of interest conviction and other legal cases against him.

Thai media reported that the royal command from King Maha Vajiralongkorn was published this weekend in the Royal Gazette.

The move follows a March 24 general election in which a party loyal to Thaksin claimed it won enough seats to form a coalition that would hold a majority in the House of Representatives. Final certified results will not be issued until May 9, and the Election Commission has warned there could be some disqualifications by then.

Last week, a military award Thaksin has been given was revoked by the army, with the explanation that he failed to deserve the honor.

Vajiralongkorn on election eve had issued a statement urging



Thailand's former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

voters to select "good people" for public office, a message taken as implicit support for Thaksin's opponents, mainly the military-backed Palang Pracharath Party, which won the highest number of popular votes.

Thaksin, a billionaire with populist policies, became prime minister in 2001 but was ousted by a 2006 military coup. Abuse of power and disrespect for the

monarchy were two of the accusations that were offered as justification for the coup.

The army staged another coup in 2014 against a government that had been formed by Thaksin's sister Yingluck Shinawatra, who was forced out of office on a controversial charge, later found guilty of negligence in her duties, and also fled into exile.

The 2014 coup was led by

then-army commander Prayuth Chan-ocha, who has been junta chief and prime minister since then, and is the candidate of Palang Pracharath Party.

The hostility of royalists toward Thaksin has been evident since he was in office

The 2006 coup set off a sometimes violent struggle for power between Thaksin's supporters and opponents, and pro-Thaksin parties staged several comebacks even though the military and other royalists have tried to dismantle his political machine.

These include changes in the constitution and election laws under the military government that were meant to handicap parties

loyal to Thaksin.

The hostility of royalists toward Thaksin has been evident since he was in office, though was never expressed directly by members of the royal family, including Vajiralongkorn's father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died in 2016. The royal family by tradition is above politics.

Vajiralongkorn's older sister, Princess Ubolratana, caused an uproar in February when the pro-Thaksin Thai Raksa Chart Party registered her as its nominee for prime minister. The move was initially seen as a clever ploy by Thaksin's political machine to immunize itself against charges that it opposed the monarchy. It backfired badly when the king declared it inappropriate and unconstitutional, and the party was dissolved by the courts before the election, hurting the pro-Thaksin forces.

Princess Ubolratana, however, made a high-profile appearance at the wedding reception of one of Thaksin's daughters in Hong Kong just two days before the election. Photos and video of the event showed Thaksin welcoming her warmly.

Thailand's monarchy is protected by strong lese majeste laws that make whatever is judged defamatory of the royal family punishable by three to 15 years' imprisonment. **AP**

AD

ALBERGUE SCM
 婆仔屋文創空間

Seminário
Mais com menos... Ou mais ou menos,
 Exemplos de Arquitectura Efémera ou de Baixo Custo

Orador
Prof. Eng. Marco Imperadori Ph.D.
 Professor do Politécnico di Milano

Data
 03 / 04 / 2019
 (Quarta - Feira)

Hora
 19:00

Língua
 Inglês

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 Albergue SCM - Espaço D1

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PHILIPPINE police said yesterday that 14 suspected communist rebels were killed after they opened fire during raids in a central province, but rights groups countered that the men were farmers and the latest victims of extrajudicial killings.

Dozens of police, backed by army troops, were to conduct court-authorized home searches Saturday in a city and two towns in Negros Oriental province when the 14 men violently fought back, police officials said. A police officer was shot in the leg and wounded in the anti-insurgency and criminality sweep that also led to the arrests of 15 other suspects, they said.

Regional police chief Debold Sinas said six suspected insurgents and rebel supporters escaped. Law enforcers seized three shotguns, 25 pistols, a homemade rifle, three grenades, ammunition and rebel documents in the simultaneous raids in Canlaon city, where eight suspects were gunned down, and the towns of Manjuyod and Santa Catalina, where the rest were killed in the reported gunbattles.

"There were 14 suspects that engaged the raiders in a shootout during the implementation of the search warrants resulting to their deaths," Sinas told the national police chief in a report.

PHILIPPINES

Police kill 14 men rights groups say were farmers



Masked members of the outlawed National Democratic Front of the Philippines, the umbrella organization of the Philippine communist movement

Human rights and farmers' groups condemned the killings of the men they said were farmers, including two village chiefs, and called for an independent investigation.

The Federation of Agricultural Workers cited the wife of one of the dead men, Edgardo Avelino, as saying that 10 men in uniform forcibly entered their home at around midnight saying they would serve an arrest warrant.

Moments after, the men reportedly gunned down Avelino and his brother, Ismael, the farmers' group said.

A Roman Catholic bishop, Gerardo Alminaza, said among those killed was a church minister known for his good character and some members of a church group. Atrocities committed by law enforcers, Alminaza said, "will make you best recruiters for the underground movement."

"The appalling conduct of these 'police operations' obviously aims to make peasants, activists and other ordinary citizens of Negros to cower in fear, surrender their rights, and accept the wave of terror under the de facto martial law," the Northern Negros Alliance of Human Rights Advocates said.

The group said six farmers were killed and more than 50 others arrested in similar police raids

in December in Guihulngan city in Negros Oriental, which lies on a sugar-producing agricultural island long known for its gaping divide between the poor and wealthy landowning families.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the country's south in 2017 to contain a deadly siege by Islamic State group-aligned militants and other insurgents. Although Negros Oriental lies outside the south, it is in a region about 590 kilometers (366 miles) south of Manila where military and police forces have intensified counterinsurgency raids in recent years.

Police denied the 14 men killed in Saturday's raids were victims of extrajudicial killings. Aside from unlicensed firearms, police were looking for suspected New People's Army guerrillas involved in a failed attack on a Canlaon city police station this month and other assaults on police officers, Sinas said.

Communist guerrillas have waged a rural rebellion in the Philippines for half a century, one of Asia's longest. The violence has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead. It also has stunted economic development, especially in the countryside, where the military says about 3,500 insurgents are still active. **AP**

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COMING HOME

Cold welcome for Afghans paid by Iran to fight in Syria

Kathy Gannon, Herat

Too poor to even buy pens and notebooks for school, Mehdi left his home in Afghanistan soon after his 17th birthday and headed to Iran, hoping to make his way to Europe and find work.

Instead, Mehdi ended up fighting in Syria's civil war, a conflict he had nothing to do with, 2,000 kilometers from home. He was one of tens of thousands of Afghans recruited, paid and trained by Iran to fight in support of Tehran's ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad.

There, he found himself thrown into one of the war's bloodiest front lines, surrounded by the bodies of his comrades, under fire from Islamic militants so close he could hear their shouts of "Allahu akbar" ("God is greatest") before each mortar blast.

Iran ran an extensive drive to bring Shiites from across the region and create a network of militias to help save Assad from the uprising against his rule — not only Afghans but also Pakistanis, Iraqis and Lebanese. Now with the 8-year war in Syria winding down, the question is what will Tehran do with those well-trained, well-armed forces.

Mehdi and other soldiers-for-hire from Afghanistan's impoverished Shiite Muslim communities are returning to their homeland, where they are met with suspicion. Afghan security officials believe Iran is still organizing them, this time as a secret army to spread Tehran's influence amid Afghanistan's unending conflicts.

"Here in Afghanistan we are afraid. They say we are all terrorists," said Mehdi, now 21 and back in his home city of Herat. He spoke on condition he not be fully identified for fear of retaliation. He wouldn't meet The Associated Press at home or in public — only in a car parked in a remote, mostly Shiite neighborhood. Even there, Mehdi kept his face obscured with a scarf, glancing suspiciously at every passing car.

Afghan veterans returning from Syria are threatened from multiple sides. They face arrest by security agencies that view them as traitors. And they face violence from the brutal Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, which views Shiites as heretics and vows to kill them. Last May, IS gunmen burst into Herat's Jawadia Shiite mosque, opening fire and setting off their suicide belt explosives among worshippers, killing 38 people.

Just knowing people who fought in Syria can land someone in jail, said a local elder in a village near Herat. He spoke on condition of anonymity for that reason. Eight



Afghans return to their country at the Islam Qala border with Iran, in the western Herat Province

men from his village were killed fighting in Syria, but there are no graves for them here. All were buried in Iran, he said.

Iran intensified its role in Syria when Assad appeared to be losing the fight against rebels in 2013 and 2014. Tehran sent hundreds of Revolutionary Guard troops and began bringing in allied militias. The most well-known and most powerful was Lebanon's Hezbollah.

But the largest was the force made up of Afghans, known as the Fatimioun Brigade, which experts have estimated numbered up to 15,000 fighters at any one time.

Over the years, tens of thousands of Afghans likely trained and fought in it. Most of them are from Afghanistan's ethnic Hazara minority, who are among the country's poorest.

Roughly 10,000 veterans of the brigade have returned to Afghanistan, says a senior official in Afghanistan's Interior Ministry who is familiar with government intelligence. The official was not authorized to brief reporters and so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Afghan government and many experts believe Iran could mobilize these ex-fighters once more to assert its influence in Afghanistan, particularly as the United States accelerates its efforts to end its nearly 18-year military intervention.

"Expect the Iranians to reconstitute their militias inside Afghanistan at some point," warned Bill Roggio, editor of the Long War Journal, a site devoted to coverage of the U.S. war on terror. "Iran does not discard assets in which it invests time, treasure and expertise."

Afghanistan is already tormented by an overabundance of armed groups, many divided on ethnic lines. They include militias loyal to several warlords, who are

aligned with the government but often at odds with each other. There are also the Sunni militants: Taliban insurgents rule in nearly half the country, and the Islamic State affiliate has proven to be a stubborn enemy, even in the face of relentless U.S. bombing raids.

All those factions could turn their massive arsenals on each other after a U.S. and NATO withdrawal. It has happened before. In the early 1990s, factions of the U.S.-backed mujahedeen who took power after the Soviet withdrawal turned on each other in fighting that leveled large parts of the capital, Kabul, and killed an estimated 50,000 people.

Afghan veterans face arrest by security agencies and they face violence from the brutal Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan

Iran will likely seize on any turmoil to mobilize the Fatimioun with the very real pretext that Afghan Shiites need a defender, said Michael Kugelman, Asia Program deputy director at the Washington-based Wilson Center.

If Afghanistan is plunged into more unrest, "the Iranians would have a strong motivation to help a Shia force that would face intensified threats from the Taliban and especially ISIS," he said, using an alternate abbreviation for the Islamic State group.

Iran is already supporting Syria war veterans living in Kabul and

in central Afghanistan's Hazara-dominated region of Bamiyan, said the Interior Ministry official. He said Afghan intelligence agencies have identified senior Iranian government officials who are "managing the activities" of returning fighters, including providing them arms and money and building a structure for quick re-mobilization if needed. Afghan warlord Abdul Gani Alipur, an ethnic Hazara, is also implicated in aiding Iran, he said. Alipur was arrested late last year on charges of having an illegal militia, but he was released after thousands of Hazaras protested.

Most of those who joined the Fatimioun Brigade were driven by hopelessness and poverty, not loyalty to Iran, said Reza Kasimi, a researcher with the independent Kabul-based research group, Afghanistan Analysts Network.

"The first thing is that most of these people don't see a future for themselves in Afghanistan," he said.

When Mehdi went to Iran in 2015, he worked, mostly on construction sites, to earn enough money to make a run for Europe. But by the time he did, Europe's borders had closed.

"I was very disappointed. I had come to Iran to go to Europe, to study, to have a better life, but I was still there, with nothing," Mehdi said.

An Afghan friend suggested they enlist for Syria. As a fighter for Iran, they could earn the equivalent of USD900 a month. At the time Mehdi was making barely \$150 a month.

"I thought about it and I made my heart strong, like a raging river," Mehdi said. "I decided, 'Live or die, I'll go.'"

They reported to a recruitment center in Tehran. There, officials gathered his personal details — the names of his parents and relatives and the street where he lived

in Herat. "I understood they wanted all that information if I died," he said.

He and other Afghan recruits were flown the next day to Iran's southern Yazd province, where they underwent 27 days of training under the Revolutionary Guard. Mehdi's marksmanship impressed the trainers, and he was made a sniper. When it was over, Mehdi was flown to Damascus with around 1,600 other new recruits.

In Damascus, the recruits opened bank accounts where their salary would be deposited. They were taken to the shrine of Sayeda Zeinab, a site outside Damascus revered by Shiites, for final blessings before battle. The next day, they were taken by bus to the northern city of Aleppo and sent immediately to the front.

There, Mehdi was thrown into one of the fiercest battles of the war — a campaign that began in the spring of 2016 against Islamic militant factions, including the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front, over the town of Khan Toman and nearby villages on Aleppo's edge.

It was a fight that showed the international nature of the war. Among the militants were Syrians, Iraqis, Chechens, Turkmens, Uzbeks and other foreign jihadis; on the other side were Syrian government troops, Iranian soldiers, Lebanese Hezbollah fighters, Iraqi Shiites and Afghans, backed by Russian warplanes — all battling for a piece of Syrian land.

The fighting went on for months and it is estimated hundreds on both sides were killed or wounded. On a single day, militants killed an estimated 80 pro-government fighters, including at least 13 Iranians and dozens of Afghans, Iraqis and Lebanese. In the end, the militants held Khan Toman, as they do to this day.

Mehdi described terrifying bloodshed. He said in one battle, 800 Afghans were sent to the front line and only 200 returned alive and unscathed. "Often in the morning I saw seven, eight dead bodies," he said. "For the first couple of days I was very scared. The explosions were so loud."

Another Afghan veteran of the same battle, Abdullah, said he still has nightmares of the dead, their limbs missing. He said the Afghans were sent as cannon fodder. "I saw Afghan fighters rolled over by tanks the way someone steps on ants," he told the AP in Kabul. "Dead bodies were scattered everywhere."

Mehdi returned to Afghanistan a year ago, and his life has changed little from when he left. He remains poor and unable to find a job.

After nearly 18 years and more than \$1 trillion spent by the United States, Afghans are only getting poorer. According to a 2016-17 Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey, co-sponsored by the European Union, 55 percent of Afghans live below the poverty level, compared to 38 percent in 2011-12. AP

Mike Schneider & Terry Spencer, Orlando

AP INVESTIGATION

Florida gets tougher on massage-parlor sex

WHEN Florida authorities shut down 10 massage spas last month and charged hundreds of men with buying sex, they broke a long-standing pattern of meting out minor charges and punishment for owners, letting patrons off scot-free and turning a mostly blind eye to signs of human trafficking.

An Associated Press review of state records over the past decade shows that while police officers and sheriff's deputies in Florida have investigated hundreds of individual massage parlors within their own counties for illegal sexual activity, it was usually low-level massage therapists who were arrested, while owners mostly were exempted or charged with misdemeanors resulting in fines and probation. Johns usually were not charged at all.

In stark contrast, the investigation announced last month spanned several jurisdictions between Palm Beach and Orlando and focused heavily on the possibility of widespread human trafficking. Several spa owners, most of them women originally from China, were charged with felony racketeering and money

AP PHOTO



laundering and could face years in prison.

Authorities also charged 300 men accused of being patrons, including New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and former Citigroup President John Havens. Authorities say Kraft was twice recorded on video engaging in and then paying for sex acts at the Orchids of Asia Day Spa, located in a shopping center in Jupiter. Both men have denied

wrongdoing.

Florida has more than 8,600 licensed massage therapy establishments. It's difficult to know how many of them sell sex, based on the records. Nationwide, the anti-trafficking advocacy group Polaris estimates there are 9,000 massage establishments with therapists who are trafficked from other places and forced to provide sex acts.

The AP reviewed records from

more than 150 Florida Department of Health cases involving massage parlors whose licenses had been revoked, suspended or voluntarily surrendered in the past decade.

Of the spas that lost their licenses, almost 40 percent had massage therapists involved in sexual activity, the AP found. Sex cases were found statewide, in 26 of the state's 67 counties, with the tourism-heavy Orlando area ha-

ving the most.

Few of the cases resulted in charges of human trafficking, and those that did ended with only minor punishments.

In 2017, Mi Cha Jones, owner of the Jee Jee spa in Miami Beach, was charged with two felony counts of human trafficking and one felony count of deriving support from the proceeds of prostitution. Jones was sentenced to only two years of probation after pleading guilty to the latter count in 2018.

Nearly five years ago, investigators found clear evidence of prostitution and a potential sign of human trafficking — women living on the premises — at the O Asian Wellness Spa and Massage in Boca Raton. The spa's owner was facing a minimum of four years and maximum of 35 years in prison, but was sentenced to only nine months in jail and probation after a plea deal. None of the johns who patronized the parlor were charged at all.

In 2013, an inspector found three rooms with beds, clothes, computers, cellphones, desks and a refrigerator full of food at Serenity Massage in Tampa. The owner admitted massage therapists were living there but was ultimately only fined. There was no indication any investigation into human trafficking was ever launched. AP

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what's ON



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TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays);
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UNTIL: April 14, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRY: (853) 2852 2550

CELEBRATING LIFE – JU MING LIVING WORLD SCULPTURE SELLING EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-11pm

UNTIL: April 7, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8806 8888

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS

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

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park

ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

THREE SUMATRAN TIGER CUBS EXPLORE JUNGLE HABITAT IN SYDNEY ZOO



Three boisterous 10-week-old rare Sumatran tiger cubs have play-wrestled and explored their jungle habitat in their first public appearance at a Sydney zoo.

Taronga Zoo manager Mandy Everett said last week the cubs were born on Jan. 17 to first-time mother Kartika.

The female cubs were named Mawar, or Rose in Indonesian, and Tengah Malam, which means Midnight. The male's name is Pemanah, or Archer.

Everett says Sumatran tigers are the most critically endangered tiger subspecies and are under increasing pressure as their jungle habitat shrinks.

She says the Taronga cubs will likely grow up to become part of breeding programs in other zoos around the world.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:00	Conversa da Treta
16:25	Grande Entrevista - Mário Centeno
17:20	Ministério do Tempo
18:15	Contraponto (Repetição)
19:20	Aqui Há História - Repetição
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Desporto
22:20	Impostores Sr.2
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Qualificação EURO 2020
00:10	Magazine Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

29 - 31Mar



DUMBO

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Tim Burton

Starring: Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min

EXTREME JOB

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

Director: Byeong-heon Lee

Starring: Gong-Myoung, Lee Hane, Jun-seok Heo

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 111min

US

ROOM 2
7:15pm

Director: Jordan Peele

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min



SHAZAM

ROOM 3
2:30pm

Director: David F. Sandberg

Starring: Zachary Levi, Djimon Hounsou, Michelle Borth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 132min

LOVE LIVE! SUNSHINE

SCHOOL IDOL MOVIE - OVER THE RAINBOW

ROOM 3
5:00, 7:15pm

Director: Kazuo Sakai

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

this day in history



2000 WARTIME CODING MACHINE STOLEN

A coding machine used by the Germans to encode messages during World War II has been stolen from the Bletchley Park Museum in Buckinghamshire, south-east England.

Police said the thief is thought to have carried the cipher machine, which looks like a large typewriter, out of the museum in broad daylight, on a day when the building was open to the public.

It is one of only three such machines in the world, and its value is estimated at more than £100,000.

Christine Large, the director of the Bletchley Park Trust, said, "This particular one was extra special because it was used by the German SS and was made to a higher standard than the ones which were used in the field. We can only hope we get it back."

It's thought the machine may have been stolen to order. It is thought more than one person may have been involved in a carefully-planned operation.

The machine was secured in a glass cabinet which had not been broken. There was an alarm system in operation as well as volunteers watching over the collections.

The theft comes just a week before a new security system was to be installed.

Bletchley Park, a stately home in 50 acres of grounds, was known as Station X during the war. There, British agents succeeded in cracking the Enigma code - a cipher with 150 million million possible combinations which the Germans thought was unbreakable.

By 1945 there were 10,000 mathematicians, linguists and chess champions working there, decoding up to 18,000 messages a day.

The methods they used - inventing machines which ran through large numbers of possible positions in a short period of time - meant the work at Bletchley Park paved the way for the invention of the modern computer.

Their work is said to have shortened the war by several years. Winston Churchill referred to the staff as "the geese that laid the golden eggs, and never cackled".

Station X was a secret until 1967, but is now a popular tourist attraction.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The machine's whereabouts remained a mystery until in September 2000, police began receiving letters from a man saying he was acting on behalf of someone who had bought it. The letter writer demanded £25,000 for its safe return.

The museum agreed to pay the money, but a 6 October deadline was not met.

Two weeks later, BBC television presenter Jeremy Paxman opened a parcel at his office at Television Centre, London. It contained the missing Enigma machine.

No ransom was paid. The machine was missing three of its four encryption rotor wheels, but they were later also returned safely.

Police arrested antiques dealer Dennis Yates in November 2000. The 58-year-old from Derbyshire admitted sending the letters to the police, and sending the Enigma machine to Jeremy Paxman. He was jailed for 10 months.

During his trial the court heard he had become involved in events which spiralled out of his control.

He had received death threats from those he was working for, and has never named the mystery buyer to police.

Those who carried out the theft have never been caught.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 This is not a good time to sit around waiting for things to happen...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You may find that something isn't quite what it appears to be today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your partners - in business, in love or in other parts of life - are calling in favors...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Take care of your own needs first - otherwise, you will never get around to them!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Small-minded people really get under your skin today...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Roll the dice - take a risk today. You need to believe in yourself...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Explore new territory today - whether it's online, out in the world or even in the middle of your most intimate relationship.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Trust your gut today - even if it's telling you some pretty weird things. Your energy needs all the help it can get...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're feeling quite jolly today - and it's easy to share this feeling with those around you.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your sense of discipline and rigor makes today more focused - but also more fun, if you can believe it!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You find new ways to use your talents and energy today, so make sure that you're reaching but into new fields...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You are in conflict with your boss - or someone else who's responsible for a project you care about.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8 1 7
4 5
2 9 8 3
5 3 6
3 4 5 2 9
6 1 5
6 9 8 4 7
2 3 7

Easy+

7 4 8
5 4 2
8 2 4 1
3 4 8
2 1
7 8 6
9 5 7 4
6 2 3
7 9 8

Medium

6 3 9
1 2 9
9 3 7
3 7
9 6 1 7 3 5
2 6
1 7 2
6 1 9 1 8 4

Hard

7 3 6
5 9 2 9
1 3 5
4
2
9 8 4 2
3

WEATHER

Table with columns: CHINA, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather for cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Scrapes (out); 5- Collector's goal; 8- Ebbets Field hero; 13- Actress Heche; 14- Soccer legend; 15- Steve of country music; 16- Network of nerves; 17- Lascivious look; 18- Take ___ for the worse; 19- Gazette; 21- Flop; 22- Samuel's teacher, in the Bible; 23- Naval rank, briefly; 24- Tool to break solid water; 28- Nissan model; 30- Headliner; 31- Skater Babilonia; 32- Tire feature; 33- Latin love; 34- Funny Foxx; 35- Work clothes; 38- Oscar winner Paquin; 41- Airport near Paris; 42- Gillette razors; 46- Feathery wrap; 47- Examine by touch; 48- Most loyal; 49- Gallery event; 51- Wager; 52- Fine hair; 53- Pro ___ (for now); 54- Muse of tragedy; 57- Look after; 59- ___ saw Elba; 60- Mother of the Valkyries; 61- Chilean pianist Claudio; 62- Require; 63- Hunt for; 64- Poles for sails; 65- Recipe amt.; 66- Ethereal;

DOWN: 1- Serious in intention; 2- One bent in reverence; 3- Fold; 4- Witnesses; 5- Oozes; 6- Robt. ___; 7- Region; 8- Person with a paper, perhaps; 9- Devour; 10- Learned; 11- Camera type, briefly; 12- Poet's dusk; 14- Primary strategy; 20- Lost in Paris?; 25- Have concern; 26- Structural engineer's software; 27- Rib; 29- And here it is!; 30- Little; 33- Mutual arrangement; 34- Queue after Q; 36- Christmas; 37- Keep an ___ the ground; 38- Attorneys' org.; 39- ___'easter; 40- Chats; 43- Arbitrator; 44- Into separate parts; 45- A poorly-wiped window?; 47- Renowned; 48- Lukewarm; 50- Went after; 51- Censor; 55- "___ Tu" ('70s hit); 56- City near Phoenix; 57- Friend of Frodo; 58- Pitching stat;

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers.

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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Property of the Week: PACIFICA - PERFECT LOCALITY \$9,888,000 1,226 ft² 3 2

FOR SALE: [Macau] Lakeview Tower 2 11 2 \$11,826,300; [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 11 2 \$8,800,000; [Taipa] Nova City 4 11 3 \$17,800,000; [Taipa] Choi Long Meng Chui 3 11 3 \$17,800,000

FOR SALE: [Taipa] Va Fat 1 11 1 \$4,580,000; [Taipa] The Buckingham 2 11 1 \$8,888,000; [Taipa] Supreme Flower City 4 11 2 \$14,980,000; [Taipa] The Manhattan 3 11 2 \$13,600,000

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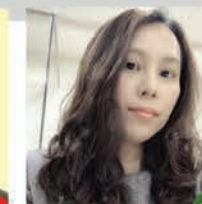
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Property of the Week



PACIFICA - PERFECT LOCALITY

\$9,888,000 1,226 ft² 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms

Rarely on the market this super apartment makes the most fabulous home, and in such a convenient location. Excellent condition, with lovely views over the Taipa mountain. Two double bedrooms with an ensuite bathroom off the master and shower room for the guest double and single bedrooms. Galley style kitchen with utility balcony. Spacious living area with great size balcony and lovely dining area upon entering the apartment. Fantastic management team taking care of the public areas and wonderful facilities such as swimming pool, gym, play areas available to for all residents. Close to supermarkets, bus stops and easy to a hail a taxi, and a stone throw from central Taipa with plenty of restaurants, cafes, banks, shops to choose from. A car parking space is available for rent only.

Property Hotlist



OCEAN GARDEN ELM COURT
\$10,800,000

1,610 ft²
3 bedrooms
3 bathrooms



VA FAT, TAIPA
\$4,680,000
580 ft²

1 bedroom
1 bathroom



NOVA PARK, TAIPA
\$16,400/mth
1,134 ft²

2 bedrooms
2 bathrooms



More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 2 bedrooms 1,497 ft² \$11,826,300 (ref: 19015572)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 bedrooms 1,663 ft² \$8,800,000 (ref: 19025577)
- [Taipa] Nova City 4 bedrooms 2,503 ft² \$17,800,000 (ref: 19015574)
- [Taipa] Choi Long Meng Chui 3 bedrooms 3,398 ft² \$17,800,000 (ref: 18045555)
- [Taipa] Va Fat 1 bedroom 550 ft² \$4,580,000 (ref: 18115566)

For Sale

- [Taipa] The Buckingham 2 bedrooms 1,186 ft² \$8,888,000 (ref: 18025544)
- [Taipa] Supreme Flower City 4 bedrooms 2,060 ft² \$14,980,000 (ref: 13105367)
- [Taipa] The Manhattan 3 bedrooms 1,720 ft² \$13,600,000 (ref: 16105507)
- [Taipa] Nova Taipa Gardens 3 bedrooms 2,500 ft² \$12,500,000 (ref: 18115570)
- [Taipa] The Manhattan Car park space \$1,590,000 (ref: 18095560)

Recent Movements

- Sold** Nam Long, Taipa Village
1 bed, 550ft² (ref: 18095561)
- Rented** Houston Court, Coloane
1 bed, 850 ft² (ref: 17090657)
- Rented** Vila Taipa, Old Taipa
2 bed, 800 ft² (ref: 19010698)

JML in the Community



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Andrew Dampf, Rome

JUVENTUS 1, EMPOLI 0

MOISE Kean can't seem to miss lately. Days after scoring two goals in his first two starts for Italy, the 19-year-old Kean came off the bench to secure injury-depleted Juventus a 1-0 win over visiting Empoli yesterday [Macau time].

Kean's three Serie A goals have come on his first three shots.

The latest goal was set up by Mario Mandzukic, who knocked down a long ball to leave it for Kean to strike in with a long, bouncing shot that appeared to be slightly deflected.

The goal came three minutes after Kean came on for Blaise Matuidi.

With Italy, Kean scored against Finland and Liechtenstein. He also had a brace for Juventus this month in a 4-1 win over Udinese.

Kean is the youngest player to score eight Serie A goals since Mario Balotelli accomplished the feat at the age of 18.

Juventus was without injured forwards Cristiano Ronaldo and Paulo Dybala.

Ronaldo injured a right thigh muscle during Portugal's 1-1 draw against Serbia on Monday in European Championship qualifying, while Dybala reported a right thigh issue during the warm-up for this match, having been scheduled to start.

Still, Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri preferred Mandzukic and Federico Bernardeschi at forward ahead of Kean to start this match.

"(Kean) scored a goal against Liechtenstein. With all respect to Liechtenstein, it seems like in an instant he's become Ronaldo and (Lionel) Messi," Allegri said on Friday.

However, Juventus was whistled off the pitch after a lackluster first half and was just coming to life when Kean came on, with Bernardeschi volleying off the bar.

Minutes after his goal, Kean nearly scored again, denied only by a reflex save from onrushing

AP PHOTO



Juventus' Moise Kean celebrates goal

FOOTBALL | SERIE A

Kean keeps up scoring form in Juventus win over Empoli

goalkeeper Bartlomiej Dragowski.

Even after the match, Allegri sounded notes of caution for the hype around Kean.

"It's only fair to have ambition when you are training with Juventus and surrounded by these champions," Allegri said. "The difference at this level is mentality and he needs to, above all, be professional over time, be ready to work hard, and improve every day.

"He's got the characteristics and the quality to be a great player, but so did many kids who lost their way over the years."

On course for a record-extending eighth straight Serie A title, Juventus moved 18 points ahead of second-placed Napoli, which visits Roma on Sunday.

SAMPDORIA 1, AC MILAN 0

AC Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma gifted Sampdoria a goal in a 1-0 loss that could hurt the Rossoneri's chances of qualifying for the Champions League.

In the opening minute, Donnarumma passed straight to Sampdoria forward Gregoire Defrel, who scored easily.

It was Milan's second straight defeat after losing the derby to Inter before the international break — having previously had a 10-match unbeaten run.

Milan remained fourth, four points ahead of fifth-placed Roma, with the top four qualifying for the Champions League.

UDINESE 2, GENOA 0

Udinese beat Genoa After stepping in at the end of last season to help Udinese avoid relegation, Igor Tudor is at it again.

Back in charge, Tudor won his

first game of his latest stint as Udinese beat Genoa 2-0 to move four points clear of the drop zone.

Tudor was recently rehired to replace the fired Davide Nicola, becoming the northern squad's third coach this season.

Last season, Tudor coached Udinese over its final four matches.

Despite a modest budget, Udinese has remained in Serie A continuously since the 1995-96 season — behind only Inter Milan, Roma, AC Milan, and Lazio in terms of consecutive seasons in the top division. AP

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opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



THE FIFTH DIMENSION

The truth is...until former Chief Executive Edmund Ho gave his cryptic reading on the selection of the candidate to replace Chui Sai On at the helm of the Macau Special Administrative Region...almost nobody dared to question that Ho Iat Seng would be the solo runner to the top job, even to the extent of discarding the idea of a sympathy candidate put in place to help the future incumbent shine politically.

With recourse to the fat lady singing, the apparent trust Ho Hau Wah placed in the wisdom of the people – being just those sitting in the 400-strong small-circle selection committee – seemed to have worked as a signal against the status of the CE selection as a unidimensional fait accompli. It thus gives room for a solid alternative to the president of the Legislative Assembly. And that signal (with hesitation, we add) seems to come from a divided opinion on what is needed in a Chief Executive for the next political cycle. Of course, we are not including anyone who does not meet the patriotic criteria, since they would not make the cut.

The new CE is supposed to perform in a complex landscape of soft integration into the PRD, and with special responsibilities to the MSAR's role in the Greater Bay Area and as a cooperative platform to the Portuguese Speaking world, all the while presiding over the renewal of its undisputed core business.

The question may be simplified to who would you chose to carry the MSAR? A pragmatist like Lionel Leong who makes the most of the national guidelines and overcomes any hurdle within the political framework of "One Country, Two Systems" and within the legislative outlook of the Basic Law? Or a voluntarist like HIS [Ho Iat Seng] who is apparently ready to cultivate the political situation and the regulatory environment in order to perform?

An old soundtrack of 5th Dimension and its "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In" comes to mind in an exorcism of the spooky words of the legal mind Luo Weijian and former member of the Macau Basic Law Committee leong Wan Chang.

Luo, a UM law professor, says that Macau's prosperity "stems" from the city's concept of Loving the Country, Loving the People of Macau. He also thinks that Hong Kong does an inferior job. For example, in not accepting the Central Government's overall jurisdiction in the SAR, and cites it as the main reason that the strength of Love the Country, Love HK still does not have a dominating position. The same concept (legal, philosophical, scientific, common sense?) explains the success of the executive-led model of Macau. The government's right to make legislative proposals and the exclusive right to propose budgets are being exercised "through the cooperation between the government and the Love the Country, Love Macau strength within the Legislative Assembly".

I admit to not grasping this so-called concept, much less its application. But the usual 3-dimensional space comes to mind, like the relativistic "time" being the 4th, and the Fifth Dimension being a theory that unifies everything. Our wonder and inability to grasp continues as we read leong Wan Chang's statement that the fifth CE election will be held and based on the experience of previous elections "we are absolutely confident in this one"... despite, leong quotes, that during some of the previous elections "the election committee was not created lawfully, which is a big violation of the constitution".

A final note to defy the readership to engage in some mind games: could the concept of Love as above mentioned be a substitute for the environmental disgrace and the incapacity to vote in a labor law, made mandatory by the 27th article of the Basic Law and international conventions to which MSAR is party. Legislator Pereira Coutinho is taking to the floor for the... what is it? 10th time in a row?

THE BUZZ US MAN CHARGED WITH TRYING TO STEAL ITEM FROM AUSCHWITZ

An American visitor to the former Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp attempted to steal a metal part of the historic rail tracks where prisoners were unloaded, officials said.

The 37-year-old man has been charged with attempted theft of an item of cultural importance, according to police sources in the southern Polish town of Oswiecim, which was under German occupation during World War II. The crime can be punished with up to 10

years in prison.

The man admitted his guilt but has been released as he awaits further steps.

The memorial site has faced multiple attempts of theft and vandalism in recent years.

In 2009 the sign with the Nazi slogan "Arbeit Macht Frei" ("Work Will Set You Free") was stolen at the death camp's main gate. It was found cut into pieces and was repaired and stored in a safe place. A replica is now in its place.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	50-70 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

RICH & FAMOUS TROUBLES

Wealthy parents appear in court in college admissions scam



Agustin Huneeus (right) a 53-year-old San Francisco resident whose family owns vineyards in California's Napa Valley and in Oregon

Philip Marcelo, Boston

FROM a Napa Valley vintner to a Hot Pockets heiress, a procession of wealthy parents made their first appearances in federal court on charges they paid bribes to get their children into top colleges.

The 15 parents, including CEOs, investment executives, real estate developers and Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, have been implicated in a college admissions scheme in which authorities say they paid a consultant to rig their children's test scores and bribe coaches at sought-after schools like Yale, Georgetown and the University of Southern California.

Prosecutors say the case, dubbed Operation Varsity Blues, is the biggest college admissions scam ever prosecuted.

Most parents didn't speak up other than to respond to a brief series of yes or no questions by the judge. Many lawyers also declined to comment both during the court appearances and after.

But Brian Kelly, a lawyer for former casino executive Gamil Abdelaziz, downplayed the charges as he requested permission for his client to travel to Mexico on business next month.

"This is not a strong case," he said in court.

"This is a one-witness case" that relies on a "deeply compromised" witness, Kelly said. "This is winnable."

Magistrate Judge Page Kelley granted Abdelaziz's travel request under the condition the former president of Steve Wynn turn in his passport after the trip.

Abdelaziz, 62, is accused of paying bribes to have his daughter named a basketball recruit at USC to boost her chances of acceptance.

But other defendants who sought special travel exemptions found less sympathy from Kelley.

William McGlashan, who co-founded an investment fund with U2's Bono in 2017, had his request to take a family vacation to Mexico denied after prosecutors noted his family had a number of domestic vacation options, including properties they own in Montana and northern California.

All told, 33 prominent parents are charged in the case

McGlashan, 55, is accused of paying bribes to get his son into USC as a recruit for the college's storied football team, even though his son's high school didn't have a team.

All told, 33 prominent parents are charged in the case.

The most familiar are actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, but they're not scheduled to appear in court until next week.

Among those appearing last week was Michelle Janavs, whose family developed the microwave snack line Hot Pockets before selling their company, Chef America Inc., to Nestle for USD2.6 billion in 2002.

Her lawyer spoke up to

specifically state on the court record that she's also a long-time homemaker who volunteers in her community.

Janavs, a 48-year-old Newport Coast, California, resident, is accused of paying at least \$100,000 to help her two daughters cheat on their college admissions exam and get into USC as beach volleyball recruits.

Agustin Huneeus, a 53-year-old San Francisco resident whose family owns vineyards in California's Napa Valley and in Oregon, is accused of paying at least \$50,000 to have SAT administrators correct his daughter's college entrance exam and to have USC officials designate her as a water polo recruit.

And Elisabeth Kimmel, a 54-year-old Las Vegas resident whose family owned a television station and other media properties in San Diego before selling them off in 2017, is accused of using bribes to get her daughter into Georgetown as a tennis recruit and her son into USC as a track recruit.

Other defendants were prominent Miami developer Robert Zangrillo; Gregory Abbott, the founder and chairman of International Dispensing Corp., and his wife, Marcia Abbott; and Marci Palatella, who founded bourbon maker Preservation Distillery in Kentucky.

Last week, former Yale University women's soccer coach Rudy Meredith became the third person to plead guilty in the case. Rick Singer, the admissions consultant at the center of the scheme, has also pleaded guilty. **AP**

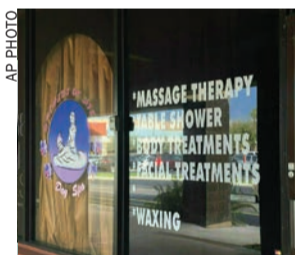
WORLD BRIEFS



AFGHANISTAN Veterans returning from Syria are threatened from multiple sides. They face arrest by security agencies that view them as traitors. And they face violence from the brutal Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, which views Shiites as heretics and vows to kill them.

More on p14

ISRAEL's prime minister warmly received President Bolsonaro yesterday, on the Brazilian leader's first state visit to Israel. Netanyahu's red carpet welcome for Bolsonaro comes days ahead of a tough re-election bid on April 9. The Brazilian president is widely expected to decide whether to follow Trump's lead and move the Brazilian Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.



USA When Florida authorities shut down 10 massage spas last month and charged hundreds of men with buying sex, they broke a longstanding pattern of meting out minor charges and punishment for owners, letting patrons off scot-free and turning a mostly blind eye to signs of human trafficking.

More on p15



MOROCCO Organizers say some 10,000 people attend Pope Francis' public Mass in Morocco, most of them foreigners representing about 60 countries. The liturgy held in a sports arena in Morocco's capital of Rabat yesterday was the final event for the pope's two-day visit.