



### HEALTH BUREAU TO TEST FOR MEASLES IMMUNITY

Filipinos are being called upon as first of the city's non-residents to be tested, even as the majority of cases have been detected in locals

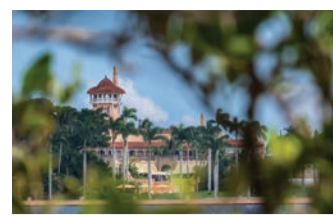
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### A LESSON IN LANDING

An investigation into the aborted Capital Airlines landing at the airport last year finds room for both airport and airline to improve

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### CHINESE WOMAN ON SPECIAL MISSION ARRESTED AT MAR-A-LAGO

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

### WORLD BRIEFS



**BRUNEI** New Islamic criminal laws that took effect in Brunei yesterday, punishing gay sex and adultery by stoning offenders to death, have triggered an outcry from countries, rights groups and celebrities far beyond the tiny Southeast Asian nation's shores. [More on p12](#)

**PHILIPPINES** A bomb injured at least 18 people yesterday in a southern Philippine town in an attack believed to be either an extortion attempt or retaliation by Muslim militants targeted in recent military offensives, officials said. [More on p12](#)



**THAILAND** The country's ruling junta has filed a complaint accusing the leader of a popular new political party of sedition and aiding criminals, a move that its target described as politically motivated.



**ISRAEL** In a charged election campaign that has been heavy on insults and short on substance, Israel's conflict with the Palestinians has been notably absent from the discourse. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party has offered no plan for what many believe is the country's most existential problem.

More on backpage

BLOOMBERG

# Steve Wynn claims manicurist played him for millions

P6-7 GAMING



BLOOMBERG



TO THE LEGISLATURE

## Carrie Lam will not cave on extradition

P8 GREATER BAY





## ENVIRONMENT

# DSPA outlines campaign roadmap for 2019

Staff reporter

**T**he Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) continues its work on the conservation, reuse, and recycling of resources, the Bureau noted yesterday at a press conference at the CEM building.

Similar to previous years, the Bureau is organizing a series of events to promote the works, adding new elements and enhancing existing events.

With more premises and public facilities turning to LED illumination, which uses plastics, a campaign on the recycling of used fluorescent, conventional, and LED lights will debut this year.

Collection boxes will be placed at commercial and residential buildings, as well as at points of sale. Citizens are advised to wrap used light bulbs and tubes before disposing of them using the boxes.

Detoxification and separa-

tion work will be conducted at plants nearby Macau. Afterwards, usable materials will be recycled.

The method of plastic bottle collection will be upgraded in the third quarter this year. Machines for plastic bottle collection will be introduced to maximize the efficiency of collection.

The machine can recognize emptied bottles by measuring their weight.

In order to encourage recycling, incentives will be offered. Citizens disposing of plastic bottles using the machine will be rewarded with points that can be redeemed for rewards.

Only types 1 and 2 plastic can be collected by the machine. The Bureau, however, did not provide a roadmap regarding educating citizens about this.

Upgrades will also take place in another campaign to encourage people to refuse

the use of disposable utensils. The campaign, which started in December last year and was set to end in May this year, has been extended to end in May 2020. In the campaign, consumers can collect stamps every time they refuse disposable plastic utensils when they buy takeaway food. With 28 stamps, consumers can redeem a set of reusable utensils, and rewards will be upgraded.

Currently, each consumer can only get a set of utensils, but they will be able to receive five sets in the new phase of the campaign. Consumers refusing plastic utensils 268 times or more will be given credits of appreciation at the World Environment Day ceremony in 2020.

Today, the Bureau is starting a collaboration with the Public Security Police by distributing reusable plastic bottles to police officers as part of their regular gear.

## HEALTH

# SSM to test Filipino measles immunity in new survey

Lynzy Valles

**T**he Health Bureau (SSM) is set to commence a sample survey on the immunity of measles, opening the application to Filipino domestic helpers. According to a statement, the research is being conducted due to the lack of concrete data on the immune status of these employees – although reports suggest that most have already been vaccinated.

Blood will be collected from the workers this Saturday at the region's health centers, following a registration process that began yesterday. The report will be released a week after the blood collection.

To date, there have been 11 imported cases and 17 proliferated cases of measles registered in the SAR – representing a record high for the city.

The latest patient, reported last night, is a 32-year-old local resident who visited Bangkok and Pattaya last month. He was previously vaccinated but it is likely that he never acquired the immunity. The SSM says its staff are monitoring the patient's friends, family and colleagues who accompanied him on the trip.

Prior to last night's case, the second-most recent recorded infection was a 32-year-old local nurse in the pediatric section of the Conde S. Januário Hospital. The bureau said that an 11-month-old infected baby, who had been to Switzerland and had not yet been vaccinated due to his or her young age, infected the nurse.

The SSM remarked in its statement that “the overwhelming majority of non-resident workers in Macau come from regions where there are epidemic areas of measles, notably in Southeast Asia and South Asia.”

“In this context, SSM decided to carry out a survey of measles antibodies to selected groups of non-resident workers from different countries and regions,” it noted.

The SSM said that, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a total of four Filipino nationals were infected with measles – three of which are imported, while one case was related to the spread of measles in Macau.

Meanwhile, 22 of the infected were not from the Philippines, with the majority of them being from the Macau SAR.

In reply to the Times, the SSM noted that the imported cases originated in mainland China, Malaysia, Switzerland, Taiwan and Nepal.

The bureau said that the study would be extended to other non-resident communities after the initial survey. In a separate statement, the SSM announced that approximately 200 people are being vaccinated against measles everyday, adding that there are still some 1,000 Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccines in stores as of Sunday.

The bureau said that immunity rates for local residents exceed 95 percent for age groups above two years old.

## EDUCATION

# MUST student wins national English-speaking contest

Staff Reporter

**A** third-year student of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) won the first prize of a China-wide English-speaking competition.

Winner Cheng Xue-

rong is a student of the School of Business of the university, who is currently in his third year of studies.

This edition of the competition started in September last year, attracting approximately 100,000 university stu-

dents from around the country to compete for the trophy. The competition went through several phases before Cheng brought the prize back home, beating 11 other contestants.

The final was held in March in Hangzhou,

and was organized by the China Daily. Its first edition was held in 1996. This year is the 24th edition of the competition.

According to MUST, the competition has long been highly regarded in both China

and around the world by educational institutions and government departments. It is the top-tier English competition in China.

Professionals from international institutions, media organizations, foreign embas-

sies and consulates in China, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are invited as jurors at the final.

Apart from Cheng's success, his instructor in the competition, Dr. John Lei Kai Cheong, assistant professor of the university's International College, was also awarded first-tier instructor by the competition.

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Renato Marques

**T**HE Civil Aviation Authority of Macao (AACM) published yesterday its final report on the investigation into an incident in August last year, when a Beijing Capital Airlines aircraft aborted a landing over the Macau International Airport. It eventually made an emergency landing at Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport.

According to the AACM report, the flight, JD5759, which was headed to Macau from Beijing, encountered "severe low-level wind shear at the runway with rapid tailwind increase and downdraft tendency, that led to the reduction of airspeed and lift, resulting in the higher-than-usual vertical acceleration at the touch-down." In other words, the aircraft dropped down suddenly during the later stage of the landing.

As a result of this "uncontrolled" descent, all landing gears touched down at almost the same time, resulting in damages to the nose landing gear.

After the failed landing attempt, the pilots performed a "go-around" in order to attempt a second landing but "the thrust lever of the right engine was erroneously moved to the idle position triggering the stall warning twice," according to the report.

The flight was diverted to Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport where the aircraft finally landed safely. In addition to the erroneous moving of the right engine to idle position, the report points out that the Macau airport "does not have equipment to detect low-level wind shear."

Besides the factors which contributed to the incident, the report also listed safety recommendations for both the airport and the airline in order to prevent



This screenshot, courtesy of Flightradar24, shows the flight path of JD5759, from the approach to Macau to the decision to land at Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport

CAPITAL AIRLINES CRASH-LANDING

# Aviation Authority report points to flaws in airport and airline

similar occurrences in the future.

The airport "should determine the necessity to install appropriate equipment to detect hazardous weather conditions," as well as "review and amend the current operation procedures on the FOD (Foreign Object Debris) presence on the runway, including

the need to conduct mandatory runway inspections."

In the last of the recommendations made to the airport, the AACM noted that the airport "should assess the need to install automatic equipment to detect FOD on the runway."

The airline should "incorporate

ground and simulator sessions on bounce identification and bounce recovery in the training for the flight crew," as well as "enhance pilot training to ensure that in case of a need to perform key changes to critical flight controls/systems, necessary cross-checks should be performed between the pilots be-

fore such changes are made."

The incident involved a total of 166 people, including crew members and passengers on board, and resulted in five minor contusions during evacuation procedures at the Shenzhen airport. None of the injured required medical treatment.

## Police investigating cases of illegal loans

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) is investigating crimes related to illegal loans, according to the Office of the Secretary for Security.

The PJ's statement came in reply to lawmaker Song Pek Kei's inquiry regarding advertisements for property and vehicle loans.

The lawmaker wrote an inquiry to the local government, pointing out the occurrence of illegal loans. Song noted that the illegal loans had defrauded a number of residents.

The lawmaker pointed out that loan advertisements, which appear at bus stops, on road light pillars, on external walls of buildings, and on parking

meters, have created severe disturbances in the lives of residents and resulted in big financial losses for them.

Song proposed to the government that it should not only crack down on this illegal situation but should also remove in due time all illegal loan advertisements.

Some of Song's questions were related to investigation procedures regarding suspected illegal loan cases, and difficulties in cracking down on such cases. She also proposed that the government increase the penalties for illegal loans, establish a report mechanism, and enhance cooperation with local communities.

The reply, which came from Secretary Wong Sio Chak's office, pointed out that if illegal loans relate to enormous profits and gambling, they are a criminal offence, and in relation to specific cases which are being investigated by the PJ, no further information can be disclosed due to the principle of judicial secrecy.

Wong also quoted the advice of the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM), saying that the AMCM is promoting the revision of the legal regulations for the financial system and that it hopes to increase the penalties for illegal loans in addition to considering the criminalization of such practices. **JZ**

## Fiscal reserves recorded loss of MOP2.9 billion in 2018

**T**HE fiscal reserve of the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) registered losses amounting to some MOP2.9 billion in (USD360 million) in 2018, corresponding to negative growth of 0.6 percent. A report published yesterday in the Official Gazette attributed this to difficult international financial conditions.

However, despite such conditions, the financial reserve saw continued growth in 2018, rising from MOP490 billion at the start of the year to about MOP508.8 billion at year-end. This was made up of

MOP147.6 billion in the basic reserve and MOP361.2 billion in the extraordinary reserve.

The AMCM wrote in the Official Gazette that "there was an adverse environment and more difficult investment conditions in the international financial market [in 2018], which had not been seen since the 2008 financial crash." "In this situation, the financial reserve adopted a number of measures for risk control and preventative measures, which effectively minimized the accounting losses."

The AMCM said that

most of its investments from the financial reserve focused on the traditional money market, involving the U.S. dollar, the Chinese yuan and the Hong Kong dollar. It said that "timely exchange rate hedging" was performed to accommodate a 4.4 percent rise in the U.S. dollar index over the course of 2018, as well as a significant depreciation in the onshore and offshore yuan.

In summary, it said that "the return performance of all asset classes in 2018 was more favorable than the market benchmark."



## Macau Taxi hopes to receive government subsidies

Macau Radio Taxi Services Limited (Macau Taxi) hopes that the Macau SAR government can provide the company with subsidies to support it in providing accessible services. During yesterday's TDM radio program, the general manager of Macau Taxi, Kevin U Kin Lung, expressed this hope. According to U, the company currently has five taxis which offer accessibility for handicapped or mobility impaired persons, which are currently fully booked. Moreover, even if the number doubles, it would not be enough to meet the city's demand. U noted that these specialized taxis lose money, and that the government should therefore consider providing subsidies.

## 1,602 illegal smoking prosecutions

In the first quarter of this year, a total of 1,602 prosecutions for illegal smoking were registered, according to statistics released by the Health Bureau (SSM). Of this number, 1,590 cases were instances of illegal smoking, while 12 were related to sales of non-conforming tobacco products. In 32 of these cases, police assistance was called for. During the same period, the SSM, jointly with the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, prosecuted 446 illegal smoking cases in casinos, an increase of more than 10 percent year-on-year. In addition, the SSM reported that it has received a total of 35 applications from casinos to establish 588 smoking lounges, of which 503 were approved.

## Top political aide meets Macau advisors

China's top political advisor Wang Yang met with a visiting delegation of an association of provincial political advisors on the mainland, who are also Macau residents. Wang, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee, said the association had carried forward impressive work and achieved commendable results over the two years since its founding. Wang said he hoped the association would take an active part in the development of the Greater Bay Area. He also encouraged them to improve the association's activities and make greater contribution to the lasting prosperity, stability and development in Macau.

### PUBLIC WORKS

# Flooding prevention projects stranded at AL committee

Renato Marques

**T**HE 10 measures announced by the government that aim to fix or at least relieve the effects of severe storms and high tides have not yet moved forward to their implementation phase. The projects are stranded, awaiting further studies and analysis.

This is the major conclusion that came out from the latest meeting of the Follow-up Committee for Land Affairs and Public Concessions of the Legislative Assembly, held on Tuesday.

The acknowledgement was made after the meeting by the Committee president, lawmaker Ella Lei, who speaking with the media said there had been no advances in regards to these public works projects.

"Regarding the works for increasing the height of the walls, these are all [still] in the study phase or even preliminary study. We are aware of the risks to residents living in low-lying areas [but] some members of the committee are not satisfied with the replies from the Government," Lei said, as quoted by Radio Macau.

The committee president took the opportunity to criticize the lack of communication between different government departments, and the lack of transparency regarding the plans and the timeline for their implementation.

"We call attention to the lack of coordination between the different services," she said. "This issue is probably due to the lack of a mechanism for information disclosure [on the timetable for the execution of the works] so that at least the population can know what the government is going to do and what [is the current situation] in the event of a disaster."

In the bundle of measures that the government presented as solutions to severe weather conditions – for example the flooding of low-lying areas of the peninsula and islands – were works such as the construction of flood barriers (levees). This includes in the Inner Harbor district, which the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) acknowledged in October last year could only be done after 2021. The DSAMA noted that analysis and scientific research on the flood prevention improvement measures had been concluded. It noted that for the time being, the works to be advanced would only include, "the installation of over 10 drain valves on the lower walls in the Inner Harbor," which would be opened to facilitate faster water drainage after a storm surge accumulation.

According to the bureau, the installation of such valves wou-

RENATO MARQUES



A flooded street in the Inner Harbor district during Typhoon Hato in August 2017

ld only be possible in the second half of this year.

As for the flood barriers, which are to be built between piers number 23 and 26, the DSAMA said in the same statement, "it can only be built after the conclusion of the construction works of the 'Box-Culvert' of the Rainwater Collection and Pumping Station of the Northern area of the Inner Harbor." The work is expected to finish during 2021 and is included in the "mid-term measures."

Citing the same research and analysis ordered by the government, the bureau said that the studies concluded that the solution of deepening the riverbed in the area would not contribute to solving the flooding problem.

## Ká Hó Port new contract to be written soon

**T**HE new concession contract for the renovation, update and operation of the Ká Hó Port has been already settled and the contract will be written soon, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, said on the sidelines of the Follow-up Committee for Land Affairs and Public Concessions of the Legislative Assembly.

To the media, Rosário said that the new contract has no major changes

from the previous one, and that the only relevant change relates to the transport of hazardous materials.

"Two or three years ago, the transport of dangerous products by road was banned. The major change was to find a way [together] with Macau port to ensure the entry of such materials, especially of fireworks and other products, by sea," the secretary said in a report by Radio Macau. **RM**



CHINA EUROPE INT'L BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

# 'Macau is not suitable for entrepreneurship'

Julie Zhu

**M**ACAU is not a good place for people to start a business, said Derio Chan, President of China Europe International Business Association (CEIBA), during yesterday's seminar at City University of Macau.

"The opportunity cost is too high in both Macau and Hong Kong. Macau is not suitable for entrepreneurship. There are no ancillary facilities; you cannot find a break point, you cannot find good talented people in IT to form a team," listed Chan, adding that "even if you have a good concept, you cannot find good people to write the program for you. The city itself is good, but it's difficult to find a good commercial mode."

During his talk, Chan said that Portugal, especially Lisbon, may be a good place to start an IT business, because the country is spending to import high-technology and already has a certain degree of knowledge in terms of innovation.

Comparing young people from



Macau and the youth of Portugal, Chan noted that the education of Portuguese youngsters in addition to the country's art history and traditions is what makes Portugal stand out in respect to science. In his opinion, the artistic background of Portugal is an advantage that Portuguese youngsters have over the Macau youth.

"[While] a website designed by a Portuguese person and a web-

site designed by a Macau person show the same scientific ability and scientific concept, the color and design make you feel they are not at the same level [the Portuguese-designed one is better]," said Chan, adding that "this is their invisible advantage, which we don't have."

As of today, much bilateral cooperation between Macau and Portugal has been announced, however, in Chan's opinion, Ma-

cau-Portugal cooperation has not really begun.

The next few years represent the beginning of the actual cooperation between Portugal and Macau, according to Chan. However, he says, it will be dependent upon Portugal making a decision whether or not to work with Macau.

"Despite the fact that Portugal has a historical relationship with Macau, it is still not absolutely

necessary for Portugal to work with Macau," said Chan.

"We need to work with other regions. However, it should not just be about signing papers. There needs to be some actual cooperation," Chan elaborated.

Talking about Macau's competitiveness when compared to China in terms of working with Portugal, Chan, who is a believer in the market economy, voiced that Macau's environment is "not letting people feel very free."

"Industry-academia-research is not happening in Macau. The government should not tell people [to do business], we [the industry] will tell the government. The government's dominance is too strong," said Chan, adding that "the government is not necessarily wrong, but the government's [instruction] can be right for three months and yet not for one year."

When talking about cooperation across Macau, China and Portugal, the CEIBA president argued that "there is a [lot of] room for cooperation between China and Portugal."

AD

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## GAMING

## King of Las Vegas claims manicurist played



**F**OR years, executives at Wynn Resorts concealed allegations of sexual misconduct against company founder Steve Wynn, according to a long-awaited report by Massachusetts casino regulators released Tuesday (yesterday, Macau time).

The 200-page report by the state's Gaming Commission doesn't make a recommendation about the fate of the company's Massachusetts casino license or its nearly USD3 billion Boston-area resort slated to open in June.

But it said recent reforms touted by the company — notably the resignation of Steve Wynn as CEO and the ousting of every official who knew about the allegations but failed to report them — do not “erase the fact that the corporate failures revealed in this investigation are significant, repetitive and reflective of the company's historical governance practices.”

“Inaction and failures,” the report concluded, contributed to a culture “where employees were reluctant to report allegations against Mr.

Wynn to management.”

**MADDOX ‘DEEPLY REMORSEFUL’**

Steve Wynn, the company's founder and former chief executive officer, stepped down in February 2018 following reports that he sexually harassed a number of employees over his career. He later sold all his holdings in the company.

Wynn wasn't in attendance Tuesday and did not submit to interviews with investigators. He acknowledged in a statement to investigators that he had “multiple consensual relationships” with employees while leading the company, said Karen Wells, head of the commission's investigations unit, as she broke down the report for the five-member gaming commission.

Brian Kelly, a Boston-based lawyer who represents Steve Wynn, stressed his client isn't the focus of the hearings. Regulators are considering how long company officials were aware of the allegations and how they responded, rather than the truth behind the claims.

“Mr. Wynn denies all allegations of nonconsensual sex and nothing in this report changes that,” Kelly said in a statement. “In fact, the Commission and its investigators have acknowledged today that it's not their role to decide the truth or falsity of those allegations and that Mr. Wynn's conduct is not the focus of their hearing.”

The report was released as the commission opened a series of hearings this week on whether Wynn Resorts can continue to hold a state casino license. The hearings, which will continue Wednesday with further testimony from Wynn Resorts officials, have implications for Encore Boston Harbor, the company's Everett casino.

Casino officials Tuesday didn't dispute the facts of the report, and new CEO Matthew Maddox told the commission he's “deeply remorseful” for the harm inflicted on the accusers.

“I am sorry that our company did not live up to its values,” he said in brief opening remarks to the commission. “The transformation

that we've gone through and the changes that we've made, I hope, will help all of you regain trust in us. We want to make you proud as a licensee here in Massachusetts.”

## Regulators are considering how long company officials were aware of the allegations and how they responded, rather than the truth behind the claims

**A SERIES OF ALLEGATIONS**

The state commission launched an investigation last year after The Wall Street Journal published a report

chronicling allegations of sexual misconduct against Steve Wynn, many by former casino cocktail servers and spa workers.

Many of the incidents detailed in Tuesday's report were previously reported by The Wall Street Journal and a subsequent investigation by Nevada casino regulators, who recently handed down a record \$20 million fine to Wynn Resorts but allowed the company to keep its casino license.

Similar to Nevada's findings, Massachusetts regulators largely found company officials were aware of many of the allegations but failed to report them to internal investigators or take other steps mandated in the company's policies. Wynn officials also failed to disclose to state regulators settlements reached with some of the accusers as it sought a casino license in 2013, the report found.

Among the incidents the company failed to disclose was a USD7.5 million settlement that Steve Wynn paid in 2005 to a former salon employee who alleged she'd



# him for USD7.5 million



In this January 2 file photo, construction continues on the Encore Boston Harbor luxury resort and casino in Everett, Massachusetts

become pregnant after Wynn raped her.

The former chief executive officer, now 77, said he was sitting in a T-shirt and loose-fitting shorts when the manicurist, who hasn't been named, started rubbing his leg. "I realize now I should have reported it," he said. Instead, Wynn said, he had sex with the woman.

Why though did Wynn pay all that money when he was the victim?

"Along comes this gal who had a turn with me, obviously being advised on what to do," Wynn said in the deposition. "Anybody who is over 10 years old and knows what goes on in the world knows what happens next. The story gets sensational [...] So in this context, 7 1/2 million was not a significant number. And I paid it."

Steve Wynn also paid a cocktail server \$975,000 in a private settlement after she alleged he'd pressured her into a non-consensual sexual relationship around 2006. The company paid a \$700,000 settlement in 2008 to another former cocktail server over a sexual relationship she had with Steve Wynn.

And in 2014, just weeks before Massachusetts would award the com-

pany a casino license, it paid out \$9,000 to a former cocktail waitress who alleged Steve Wynn had raped her in 2005. Company executives were also aware of at least three other complaints against Steve Wynn from casino massage therapists at the time, investigators found.

"I deny ever having a relationship that is not consensual," Wynn has said, adding that he knew his company had policies regarding relationships and harassment. "I was not, however, familiar with the detail of those policies," he said.

## A NEW ERA FOR WYNN RESORTS

Wynn Resorts has made attempts to restore its image: Under CEO Matt Maddox, the company added women to its board and overhauled its policies.

At the start of Tuesday's session, Maddox apologized and told the commission the company is changing from one that was "about a man" to one that has values. "Our company was shaken to its core," he said. "We were in crisis and many of us were in denial."

Maddox said he later realized there were many victims and many

of them felt powerless. "For that, I am deeply remorseful," he said.

The investigators recommended that the commission consider what Elaine Wynn knew in 2009 about Steve Wynn's \$7.5 million settlement over a 2005 rape allegation, "and evaluate whether or not her communication to the company's general counsel adequately satisfied her fiduciary obligations as a director, given the documents in her possession at the time," according to the report.

Elaine Wynn is a former board member, ex-wife of Steve Wynn and largest individual shareholder in the company. A spokesperson for Elaine Wynn didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The report also recommended that commission examine the conduct of board members Patricia Mulroy and Clark Randt, as well as current Chief Executive Officer Matt Maddox, after Elaine Wynn first mentioned misconduct in a 2016 court filing. The investigators said executives "bearing the most responsibility for the corporate failures have been replaced."

Margaret "Dee Dee"

Myers, a White House Press Secretary for former President Bill Clinton, was among the newly appointed members of Wynn Resorts' board of directors who testified Tuesday.

Gaming commission members asked her specifically how her time in the Clinton administration, which faced its own sexual misconduct scandals, compared to the crossroads Wynn Resorts now faces.

"It was a different time, but I will say that the personal behavior of leaders has a tremendous effect on the organizations they lead. That was true 25 years ago and it's true today," said Myers, who is now an executive at Warner Bros. Entertainment. "One of the things we need to do as a board is to set an example of how you can move forward. How do you take a company that wants to be better and make it better?"

The commission has scheduled hearings over the next three days. The commissioners will later enter closed-door deliberations. Once a decision is made on the license, the commission will issue a written finding, although exactly when that happens hasn't been decided. **DB/Agencies**

## Net gambling gang busted on mainland with 17 arrested

**POLICE** in central China's Hunan Province busted an online gambling gang and captured 17 suspects, with the amount of money involved exceeding 100 million yuan (MOP120.5 million).

A special investigation team launched raids and caught the suspects in Hunan and neighboring Jiangxi and Guangdong provinces, as well as Zhejiang Province in the east.

The suspects had called in gamblers via social network chat groups and organized them to play in virtual poker gaming rooms since May 2017. The stakes involved in a single hand were between 2,000 yuan and 5,000 yuan, with 5 percent of the biggest winnings at the table withdrawn by the gang.

So far, one of the suspects is on bail pending trial, and the other 16 suspects are under criminal detention for allegedly committing casino crimes, said the public security bureau of Xinning County in Hunan. The case is under further investigation.

The Macau Special Administrative Region is the only place in China where casino gambling is legal, although illegal betting is reportedly very common on the mainland. **DB/Xinhua**

## Cyprus' first integrated casino resort construction contract awarded

**MELCO** International Development, the Hong Kong-based owner of the Integrated Casino Resort Cyprus (ICR), said it has awarded the construction of City of Dreams Mediterranean to Avax-Terna JV, a partly Cypriot-owned construction company.

A statement by ICR said that construction is set to begin this month and is scheduled to be completed within 2021. The investment for the creation of the resort totals 550 million euros (MOP5 billion).

City of Dreams Mediterranean, reportedly the region's and Europe's largest Integrated Casino Resort, will be located in western Limassol.

The statement said the building will be adapted to the natural environment - a reply to criticism by environmental organizations that no environmental survey had been carried out prior to the issuing of the building permit.

Environmentalists said the bright lights of the casino will disorient migratory birds using a nearby wetland as their winter habitat.

City of Dreams Mediterranean will be featuring a 16-storey hotel tower with 500 guest rooms including multi-bay suites with garden balconies, an exposition center, an extensive area with four large outdoor pools.

According to ICR, the resort will offer a wide range of attractions and entertainment options beyond gaming. The project is expected to attract an additional 300,000 tourists per year to Cyprus.

The statement said the casino will create an estimated 4,000 local job opportunities during the construction phase and approximately 2,400 permanent jobs once it is fully operational. **DB/Xinhua**



## opinion

## BELT AND ROAD WITHOUT CHINA? YES, IT'S POSSIBLE

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

Italy's new role in the Belt and Road Initiative has alarmed G-7 allies fearful of China's expanding reach. Give it time: This project is going to look a lot less Chinese as it unfolds.

At the moment, the heft of the funding for President Xi Jinping's global infrastructure project comes from policy banks, such as China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China. The USD40 billion state-backed Silk Road Fund, and to a lesser extent, the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank also contribute.

Global competitors may soon join the fray. Standard Chartered Plc said it plans to allocate as much as \$20 billion in coming years to Belt and Road projects. That's just a drop in the bucket considering the \$1 trillion tag on Xi's ambition to connect China by land and sea to cities as far-flung as Nairobi and Rotterdam. But more could be coming.

Chinese banks could use the help. The currency of the global construction industry is dollars, and Beijing doesn't have an endless supply of them. With the country heading into a current account deficit and the economy slowing down, cash isn't flowing as freely as it once did. Martin David, the Asia Pacific head of Baker McKenzie's projects group, says the growing involvement of international banks is inevitable: "There isn't a bottomless pit of Chinese bank money."

Chinese banks aren't the only patriots facing stiffer competition. As the funding net widens, the country's construction firms may lose their hitherto guaranteed pipeline of work. Mainland companies tend to secure waivers on foreign-worker quotas, which has enabled them to import laborers from home — a sticking point for locals in countries where projects are based. (European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said he doesn't object to Chinese projects "if you don't only meet Chinese workers on these construction sites but also European workers.") In contrast, multilateral banks follow strict procurement rules that forbid awarding work to preferred contractors, according to Citigroup Inc. Even Beijing-based AIB abides by such restrictions.

For the large swath of Chinese construction and engineering giants, many of them state-owned, the overseas market is crucial — particularly as their domestic market slows. Hong Kong-traded Metallurgical Corp of China Ltd. posted a whopping 167 percent surge in overseas new orders in January and February from a year earlier; Shanghai-listed Sinoma International Engineering Co (China) made 81 percent of its revenue in 2017 from abroad, according to China International Capital Corp.

For borrowers, a more diversified source of lending would be a good thing. The weighted average interest rate of Chinese funding for Belt and Road countries was between 3.5 percent and 5 percent; borrowing costs can reach as high as 6 percent in countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The World Bank, meanwhile, tends to lend at 100 basis points to 200 basis points over Libor, according to Moody's Investors Service Inc. These exorbitant rates prompted Malaysia's Prime Minister, in his first few months of office, to suspend work on one of the biggest of Belt and Road projects, the \$20 billion East Coast Rail Link. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence referring to the program as "a constricting belt and one-way road."

Chinese government statements indicate that 50 state-owned firms have invested or participated in almost 1,700 projects in countries along Belt and Road's path over the past three years, according to Baker McKenzie. The wider the road, the more drivers are bound to crowd in.

## Over concerns, HK introduces revised extradition laws



Protesters raise placards against Hong Kong's extradition law at the city's Legislative Council

Katie Tam, Hong Kong

HONG Kong introduced revised extradition laws before the legislature yesterday despite concerns they would allow suspects to be sent to face torture and unfair trials in mainland China.

The amended Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance were heard before the Legislative Council and now head toward passage at a later date.

Business, legal, human rights and journalists groups have expressed concern over the proposed changes, saying they will damage the territory's reputation for legal independence.

The amendments 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.

Hong Kong's Beijing-appointed Chief Executive Carrie Lam has said earlier revisions to the proposed amendments were sufficient to allay concerns and has ruled out further changes.

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. In recent years, mainland authorities have gone after opponents by accusing them of dubious crimes such as tax evasion, crystallizing worries among critics and others.

Lam's government argued the revisions were needed to close legal loopholes, while opponents say that is merely an excuse to pursue China's agenda of reducing Hong Kong's legal independence.

The Hong Kong Journalists Association and a dozen other groups issued a letter yesterday saying the amendments would "not only threaten the safety of journalists but also have a chilling effect on the freedom of expression in Hong Kong."

"The amendment will make it possible for mainland authorities to demand the surrender of journalists in Hong Kong, citing all kinds of unfounded charges," the letter said.

It said that threat would "muzzle both journalists and whistleblowers, dealing a further blow to the already limited freedom of speech that Hong Kong still en-

joys."

Thousands marched to government headquarters on Sunday to show their opposition to the amendments and further protests were held outside the legislature, known as Legco, yesterday.

"Most likely there will be more actions from different civil society groups and also from the citizens," said Jeff Au, co-organizer of the protest. "So, I think the government, they need to really need to think about aborting the entire law and the entire proposal."

Standing amid placards reading "withdraw the evil law," pro-democratic councilors, who are firmly in the minority, repeatedly voiced their opposition inside the council chamber during the first and second readings of the revised laws, although they were not given a formal opportunity to register comments. AP

## Guangdong cities to pilot skilled migration system

GUANGDONG has proposed a more preferential permanent residence policy for talent and will pilot a skilled migration system in nine cities in the Pearl River Delta and shorten the approval period for foreign talent to apply for permanent residence.

Li Shiwei, director of the Exit-Entry Administration Bureau of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security

Department, said at a press conference that Guangdong would implement the pilot skilled migration system in nine cities of the Pearl River Delta and shorten the approval period for foreign talent to apply for permanent residence.

The Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department and

other departments are stepping up research on the skilled migration system to quickly formulate an implementation plan for the skilled migration system.

As for the entry and exit of foreign talent, there are two channels for foreign talent to apply for talent visas: one is the regular channel to apply to

visa agencies stationed overseas, and the other is to apply for visas directly at visa agencies in Guangdong.

At the same time, foreigners who come to work in Guangdong for a short-term within 90 days can apply for visiting visas. After entering China, they are exempted from applying for work

permits and residence permits, according to Li.

For high-level foreign talents who have obtained work and residence permits to come to China, their foreign team members and scientific research assistants can apply for work and residence permits for corresponding periods, Li said. DB/Xinhua



## Fortnum & Mason launches first overseas store in HK

**F**ORTNUM & Mason Plc, the London retailer known for its Christmas gift hampers and royal warrant to supply groceries to the queen, is opening its first overseas store later this year in Hong Kong.

The 312-year-old brand will sell tea, biscuits and other British goods from a 7,000-square-foot store at Victoria Dockside, a new USD2.6 billion waterfront development, according to a statement. While rival department stores in North America, Asia and Russia stock Fortnum products, this will be the chain's first stand-alone store outside the U.K. It follows the company's most recent

opening in London last year as it continues to expand its brick-and-mortar presence.

"We have seen significant appetite for the Fortnum's brand and products in the region, with impressive year-on-year sales growth," Chairman Kate Hobhouse said in a statement. "Our latest expansion in Asia is an important next step for us, as we extend our reach further across the world."

The concept store will also feature a Fortnum restaurant overlooking Hong Kong's harbor, where they'll serve English afternoon tea. The venture will create around 90 new jobs in the city, according to the statement. **Bloomberg**

# China soy sauce maker's shareholders explore sale

Vinicy Chan

**S**HAREHOLDERS of Honworld Group Ltd. are exploring a sale of the Chinese soy sauce maker, which sells products under the "Lao Heng He" brand, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Owners are working with an adviser on a possible sale of more than 49 percent of the Hong Kong-listed firm, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private. The adviser reached out to potential buyers including China's Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food Co. and Hong Kong's Lee Kum Kee Co., the people said.

Any deal would add to the USD18.3 billion of announced acquisitions of Asia-based food companies over the last 12 months, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Japanese seasoning company Ajinomoto Co. last November sold Amoy Food Ltd., a century-old firm that makes Hong Kong's most popular soy sauce, to Citic Capital Holdings Ltd.

Honworld founder Chen Weizhong has pledged most of his 49 percent



stake in the company to China Construction Bank Corp., Honworld's latest interim report shows. Chinese tycoon Xie Zhikun owns about 13 percent.

Deliberations are at an early stage, and the shareholders of Huzhou-based firm could still decide against a sale, the people said. Representatives at Honworld and Lee Kum Kee didn't respond to requests for comment, while a representative

for Haitian had no immediate comment.

Shares of Honworld rose 6.9 percent yesterday, giving the company a market value of HKD2.3 billion (\$296 million). The benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 1.2 percent.

In addition to soy sauce and vinegar, Honworld's products include Hunan-style hot sauce, cooking wine and fermented bean curd, according to its website. **Bloomberg**



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# Gov't bars human rights lawyer from US State Dept. program

A prominent Chinese human rights lawyer said he was blocked on vague national security grounds from leaving the country to participate in a U.S. State Department-sponsored studies program.

Chen Jiangang said he was pulled aside Monday at Beijing airport and told by a customs agent that he was forbidden to leave but he was given no detailed reasons or a written explanation.

He said he was told in an earlier conversation with Beijing police that it was because he had represented another lawyer, Xie Yang, in an earlier case, and that the U.S. government's acceptance of him as a visiting scholar also made him suspect.

"Who knows what they are up to in getting you to come to the U.S.?" Chen said he was told by the officer.

His remarks and a video of him at the airport were posted to an overseas-based dissident website where past such content has consistently been verified.

In the remarks, Chen said he had planned to fly to the U.S. to study English prior to joining the Humphrey H. Humphrey Fellowship Program. The program "brings young and mid-career professionals from designated countries to the United States for a year of non-degree graduate-level study, leadership development, and professional collaboration with U.S. counterparts," according to its website.

As Xie's former lawyer, Chen had helped release his client's account of torture, for which he was himself detained. Xie was among those scooped up in China's "7-09 crackdown," in which authorities on July 9, 2015, detained hundreds of independent lawyers and human rights campaigners in a coordinated sweep that sent a chill through the country's activist movement.

Xie was released in mid-2017, along with another lawyer, Li Heping, after the two allegedly confessed in court to collaborating with foreign organizations and media to smear and subvert Communist Party rule. Four months prior to his release, Xie's family released a jailhouse statement from him saying he had been tortured and that if he publicly confessed at any point in the future, it would be because he broke down under enormous government pressure and coercion.

Exit bans like Chen experienced are a frequent form of punishment imposed on party critics. China justifies them by saying the presence of such individuals abroad could compromise national security.

Chen, who has never been charged with a crime, said he has been barred from leaving China since before the 2015 crackdown, and that the ban was extended in 2017 to cover his wife and two children. Chen said he would continue to demand the right to exit the country, calling the order "an abuse of power by the government."

"It is not only a denial of the basic human rights of a citizen, but also an instance of bias against lawyers and the legal profession. It is the opposite of 'governing the country according to law,'" Chen said in his comments posted to chinachange.org, quoting a popular government catchphrase.

Chen could not immediately be reached for additional comment yesterday.

Under president and Communist Party leader Xi Jinping, China's internal security forces have relentlessly pursued a wide range of critics and independent voices, from religious minorities to lawyers, scholars, writers, artists and advocates for workers and women's rights. **AP**



## Duterte calls china a friend amid South China Sea tensions

Andreo Calonzo

**PHILIPPINE** President Rodrigo Duterte is maintaining a friendly tone toward China, even after defense officials raised concerns over an increased Chinese presence around a disputed island in the South China Sea.

China isn't after Philippine territory and hasn't asked for anything in exchange for the weapons and aid it's given the Philippines, Duterte said in a campaign speech in Manila late Tuesday.

"You know, Red China or Communist China just wants to be friends with us," Duterte said. He ad-

ded that he wouldn't confront China over the two countries' competing territorial claims in the South China Sea because it would result in war.

More than 200 Chinese ships have been spotted near the Philippine-occupied Thitu Island in the South China Sea since the start of the year, triggering a diplomatic protest from the Philippines.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana earlier this week voiced alarm over China's actions in the sea, describing Beijing's island-building activity in waters claimed by Manila as "very concerning" after meeting with acting U.S. counterpart

Patrick Shanahan at the Pentagon, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported.

Diplomats from the Philippines and China held their regular biannual meeting in Manila, where they raised recent issues on the South China Sea, according to a joint statement issued yesterday.

Both nations reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting regional peace and stability as well as freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea. They also committed to address disputes and discuss oil and gas development, the statement read. **Bloomberg**

### CORRUPTION

## Beijing formally arrests Xinjiang ex-governor in bribery case

**T**HE former governor of the restive Xinjiang region has been formally arrested on accusations of taking bribes following a monthslong investigation, the government said yesterday, showing no letup in President Xi Jinping's drive to bring the bureaucracy to heel.

Nur Bekri, who most recently headed the National Energy Administration planning agency, will proceed to prosecution and almost certain conviction at trial.

The nation's top prosecu-

tor said the step was taken Tuesday after the combined Communist Party-government investigatory body had completed its work. Bekri has already been expelled from the party, stripping him of his last protection against prosecution.

Bekri is accused of using his authority to aid others in job placement, business operations and mineral resource development in exchange for large amounts of money and property. He allegedly abused his power by arranging free rides in luxury vehicles, special dri-

vers and other services for his family members, while living an "extravagant life, coveting greed." He is also accused of not being truthful to investigators.

As governor of the vast, resource rich northwestern region of Xinjiang and in his later role, Bekri was one of the most senior officials from the predominantly Muslim Uighur ethnic minority.

There is no indication that his arrest was connected to a sweeping security crackdown in Xinjiang, where an estimated

1 million Uighurs and Kazakhs have been incarcerated in reeducation camps.

Thousands of officials at all levels have been ensnared in Xi's signature multi-year campaign against corruption that has brought down numerous high-profile political rivals.

Bekri became director of the National Energy Administration in 2014, and was also deputy chairman of the Cabinet's economic planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission. **AP**





# Woman arrested for unauthorized entry at Mar-a-Lago

Andrew Harris

A woman carrying two Chinese passports illegally entered President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, Saturday and lied to a Secret Service agent, according to U.S. authorities.

The suspect, Yujing Zhang, also had four mobile phones, a laptop computer, an external hard drive and a thumb drive found to contain malware, a Secret Service agent said in an affidavit filed in support of the charges against her. The passports were from China, not "Republic of China" - the formal name of Taiwan - as was written in the affidavit, said Marlene Fernandez-Karavetsos, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida.

Zhang appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge William Matthewman Monday, according to the court's electronic docket. He scheduled a bail hearing for April 8 and her arraignment for one week later. She remains in federal custody.

China Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular



briefing in Beijing yesterday that he had no information on the case.

Passing signs informing her that she was entering a Secret Service-restricted area, Zhang told the first agent she met that she was headed to the Mar-a-La-

go pool, presenting her passports as proof of identity, according to the affidavit submitted by Secret Service Special Agent Samuel Ivanovich.

Cleared through that checkpoint after a Mar-a-Lago employee said she might be related

to a member with the same surname, Zhang was picked up by a golf-cart-driving valet whom she was unable to tell where she wanted to go. The driver brought her to the main reception area where Zhang said she had come for a United Nations

Chinese-American Association event, even though none was scheduled.

The receptionist then let Ivanovich know that the woman wasn't authorized to be on site and she was arrested. Zhang later told agents she had been told by a friend to go to Mar-a-Lago and talk to a member of Trump's family about U.S.-Chinese economic relations, according to the agent. Ivanovich said Zhang was conversant in English.

"The Secret Service does not determine who is invited or welcome at Mar-a-Lago; this is the responsibility of the host entity," the agency said in a statement Tuesday night. "This access does not afford an individual proximity to the president or other Secret Service protectees."

The statement, which did not mention Zhang by name, said that she was allowed onto the property "once Mar-a-Lago staff determined an individual was to be granted access."

At the next screening checkpoint, the statement added, the reception staff "determined that the individual should not have been authorized access," and she was arrested. **Bloomberg**

## TARIFF WAR

# Trump team and China resume uphill effort to end trade rift

Paul Wiseman, Washington

THE Trump administration will resume negotiations with China toward ending a trade war that has deepened uncertainty for businesses and investors and dimmed the outlook for the global economy.

The two sides are to meet for the ninth time, with analysts expressing optimism that the world's two biggest economies might be near some kind of agreement. Negotiators met in Beijing last week in talks that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin described as "constructive." Now, Vice Premier Liu He, a close confidante of President Xi Jinping, is leading a Chinese team to Washington.

"We have been encouraged by the tone of the negotiations," Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber

of Commerce, told reporters Tuesday.

Brilliant estimated that the two sides are 90 percent of the way to an agreement but cautioned that "the last 10 percent is the hardest part, the trickiest part."

At the heart of the dispute are the Trump administration's allegations that China steals technology and coerces U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets — all part of Beijing's zeal to overtake U.S. technological dominance. To pressure China, the United States has imposed tariffs on USD250 billion in Chinese goods. The Chinese have counterpunched by taxing \$110 billion in U.S. imports.

Forecasters at the World Bank and International Monetary, among others, have downgraded their outlook for the global economy, partly because the U.S.-China rift is dama-

ging trade and causing businesses to slow their investment until they know how the dispute will end.

Tensions have eased somewhat since President Donald Trump met Xi in Buenos Aires late last year and the administration ended up suspending its plans to raise tariffs on \$200 billion of the Chinese imports to buy time for negotiations.

"We're making headway," Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, said Tuesday, describing the talks as "a larger, grander discussion than anything we've ever had in U.S.-China relations."

Analysts say two major sticking points, in particular, stand in the way of any agreement.

First, Trump wants to preserve at least the 25 percent tariffs he has imposed on \$50 billion in Chinese imports as a way to maintain leverage over

Beijing. China wants those sanctions lifted.

Second, the two sides must develop a mechanism to ensure that China honors any commitments it makes in an agreement. The administration complains that China has repeatedly failed to keep promises it made in previous trade talks.

The Chinese are widely expected to agree to buy substantially more American products — likely including soybeans and natural gas — to help narrow the United States' trade deficit in goods and services with China, which hit a record \$379 billion last year. America's trade deficit with China has been a chronic complaint of Trump, although many economists say a bilateral trade gap is relatively insignificant.

Congressional Democrats and others have warned Trump against



reaching any agreement that settles for more U.S. exports to China without also requiring Beijing to adopt serious economic reforms.

"Stand firm" Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Tuesday. "Skip the political photo op and make good on your promise to stand up for American businesses and workers when China takes advantage."

Christopher Adams, a former China specialist at the Treasury Department and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative who is a senior adviser at the Covington & Burling law firm, added: "There

has to be something substantive on the structural issues. Otherwise, the criticism will be severe."

Whatever negotiators agree to, analysts say, they are unlikely to end the long-standing tensions between America's mostly open, capitalist economy and a Chinese economy in which the Communist Party and the central government command the dominant role.

Even with a deal, Adams said, "a lot of the underlying issues will still be with us unresolved because they're rooted in fundamental differences between the US and Chinese systems." **AP**



AP PHOTO



Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah

## SHARIA

# Brunei invokes laws allowing stoning for gay sex, adultery

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

**N**EW Islamic criminal laws that took effect in Brunei on yesterday, punishing gay sex and adultery by stoning offenders to death, have triggered an outcry from countries, rights groups and celebrities far beyond the tiny Southeast Asian nation's shores.

The penalties were provided for under new sections of Brunei's Shariah Penal Code. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah instituted the code in 2014 to bolster the influence of Islam in the oil-rich monarchy of around 430,000 people, two-thirds of whom are Muslim.

Even before 2014, homosexuality was already punishable in Brunei by a jail term of up to 10 years. The first stage of the Shariah Penal Code included fines or jail for offenses such as pregnancy out of wedlock or failing to pray on Fridays.

But under the new laws — which apply to children and foreigners, even if they are not Muslim — those found guilty of gay sex can be stoned to death or whipped.

Adulterers risk death by stoning too, while thieves face amputation of a right hand on their first offense and a left foot on their second.

"Living in Brunei, we already knew that our sexual identity is taboo and should not be expressed. We already felt belittled before the law came to place," said a 23-year-old member of the LGBTQ community who wanted to be identified only as Kun out of fear of reprisal from the authorities.

"Now with it, we feel even smaller and the ones who could potentially oppress us have more opportunity to harass us to say and do what they want," he said.

Celebrities including George Clooney, Elton John and Ellen DeGeneres have voiced opposition to the new laws, and have rallied a boycott of nine hotels in the U.S. and Europe with ties to Hassanal, who is still sultan.

"Are we really going to help fund the murder of innocent citizens?" Clooney wrote Thursday on Deadline Hollywood.

Clooney said that while you

can't shame "murderous regimes," you can shame "the banks, the financiers and the institutions that do business with them."

There has been no vocal opposition to the new penalties in Brunei, where the sultan rules as head of state with full executive authority. Public criticism of his policies is extremely rare in the country.

## Those found guilty of gay sex can be stoned to death or whipped

Hassanal, who has reigned since 1967, has previously said the Penal Code should be regarded as a form of "special guidance" from God and would be "part of the great history" of Brunei.

On Tuesday, the United States joined the United Kingdom, Germany and France in urging Bru-

nei to halt its plans.

"The United States strongly opposes violence, criminalization and discrimination targeting vulnerable groups, including women at risk of violence, religious and ethnic minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons," State Department deputy spokesman Robert Palladino said in a statement.

Brunei's Southeast Asian neighbors, some of whom have laws banning sex between men, were silent.

But LGBTQ citizens of other nearby Muslim-majority countries were concerned about the broad penalties.

"I am very worried that Indonesia or Malaysia may follow the lead," said a 24-year-old man from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, who wanted to be identified only by his first name, Ludwig. "I think people nowadays, especially the younger generation, are quite OK with LGBT, but those who are not make the loudest noise and they are the reason why it seems like everyone

is against it."

Nearly two-thirds of Malaysia's 32 million people are Muslim. They are governed by Islamic courts in family, marriage and personal issues. Last year, two Malaysian Muslim women were convicted under Islamic laws and caned for attempting to have sex with each other.

Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, urged Brunei's government to "stop the entry into force of this Draconian new penal code."

"Any religion-based legislation must not violate human rights, including the rights of those belonging to the majority religion as well as of religious minorities and non-believers," she said in a statement on Monday.

Phil Robertson, the deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, called on the sultan to "immediately suspend amputations, stoning, and all other rights-abusing provisions and punishments."

"Brunei's new penal code is barbaric to the core, imposing archaic punishments for acts that shouldn't even be crimes," Robertson said in a statement on Wednesday.

Rachel Chhoa-Howard, Brunei researcher at Amnesty International, decried the "vicious" laws and asked the international community to condemn them. **AP**

**A** bomb injured at least 18 people yesterday in a southern Philippine town in an attack believed to be either an extortion attempt or retaliation by Muslim militants targeted in recent military offensives, officials said.

Regional army commander Maj. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said the bomb went off outside a small restaurant in Isulan town in Sultan Kudarat provin-

## Bomb injures at least 18 people in southern Philippine town

ce. Unidentified people had recently tried to extort money from the restaurant owner, who refused to pay up, he said.

The attack also may have been carried out by Muslim militants belonging to the Bangsa-

moro Freedom Fighters who have been targeted by military offensives, Sobejana said.

The explosion injured at least 18 people, including children, and damaged chairs and tables and scattered broken glass and other

debris over the floor of the restaurant.

"The owner received an extortion letter last week but it was not reported to authorities. The ultimatum [to pay] is this week," Sobejana said.

Isulan in Sultan Kuda-

rat province has been hit by bombings by suspected Muslim militants in recent months despite tightened security in an impoverished southern region where the government and the largest Muslim rebel group are implementing a new

Muslim autonomy deal. About 12,000 fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are to be demobilized under the peace accord brokered by Malaysia starting this year.

The Bangsamoro Freedom Fighters and smaller allied groups which have aligned with the Islamic State group reject the peace deal and have vowed to continue fighting government forces. **AP**



Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

CORRUPTION

# Prosecutor says ex-Malaysian PM abused his 'absolute power'

**F**ORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak sat in the dock yesterday at the start of his corruption trial, with the chief prosecutor alleging he wielded "near absolute power" for nearly a decade during which he stands accused of pilfering millions of dollars from the 1MDB state investment fund.

"The accused is not above the law and his prosecution and this trial should serve as precedents for all future holders of this august office," Attorney General Tommy Thomas said in his opening statement.

The trial was originally due to start in February but was delayed by procedural matters. Najib's lawyers filed an urgent motion to challenge the charges, which include criminal breach of trust, money laundering and abuse of power. The High Court judge said he will hear the application at a later date and ordered the trial to proceed.

Ten years ago, Najib became Malaysia's sixth prime minister but anger over the 1MDB scandal led to his spectacular electoral loss last May. U.S. investigators say more than USD4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014. They say the ill-gotten gains were laundered through

AP PHOTO



Najib Razak (center)

layers of bank accounts in the U.S. and other countries to finance Hollywood films and buy hotels, a luxury yacht, art works, jewelry and other extravagances.

Some \$700 million from the fund that Najib set up for Malaysia's economic development allegedly landed in his own bank account.

According to Thomas, Najib was the real power behind 1MDB and its fully owned subsidiary SRC "in directing and man-

aging their affairs" instead of the board of directors. Thomas told the court that evidence will show that part of the 42 million ringgit (\$10.3 million) funneled from SRC was used by Najib for a shopping spree at Chanel in Honolulu, renovation works at two of his private homes and also disbursed to political parties in the then ruling coalition.

One of only a few Southeast Asian leaders to be arraigned after losing office, Najib, 65, has

denied any wrongdoing.

Wearing a dark blue blazer and tie, Najib smiled when he arrived at the court building and bowed his head in prayer with his supporters.

Yesterday's trial is the first of several against Najib, who has been charged with 42 counts in one of Malaysia's biggest criminal proceedings. His wife, Rosmah Mansor, also has been charged with money laundering and tax evasion linked to 1MDB. She

has also pleaded not guilty and her trial has not been set.

The first witness, an official with the Companies Commission of Malaysia, took the stand yesterday. He testified about the directorship and records of SRC and two other companies used as intermediaries to channel the fund to Najib's bank account.

The trial will resume April 15.

Najib's son, Norashman Najib, praised his father for his "tremendous strength and resolve." He wrote on Instagram late Tuesday that the trial will be an "excruciatingly difficult period" for his father but that "with the right attitude, even the most trying of situations can be a blessing from Allah."

The patrician Najib, whose father and uncle were Malaysia's second and third prime ministers respectively, has fought back with a political makeover on social media that aims to transform his image from an out-of-touch elitist to a leader for the working class. AP

AD

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US

# Democrats vote to demand Mueller's full report, setting up clash

Billy House

**H**OUSE Democrats voted yesterday to authorize a subpoena demanding that Attorney General William Barr turn over Special Counsel Robert Mueller's full Russia report and all the evidence behind it, potentially touching off a legal clash that could reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The Constitution charges Congress with holding the president accountable for alleged official misconduct," Democratic Representative Jerrold Nadler of New York said before the 24-17 vote along party lines in the Judiciary Committee that he heads. "Congress is entitled to all of the evidence."

A deal could still be negotiated between Democrats and Barr before the committee issues such a subpoena. "I will give him time to change his mind," Nadler said. "But if we cannot reach accommodation, then we will have no choice but to issue subpoenas."

The attorney general has pledged to provide Mueller's report on Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, and any links to President Donald Trump or those around him, by mid-April. But he has indicated that he'll omit sections from its more than 400 pages that deal with classified information and grand jury proceedings.

Republicans have said Democrats are flailing to keep alive their inquiries into Trump even though Barr already has said



Mueller didn't find that the president or those around him conspired in Russia's election meddling.

Representative Doug Collins of Georgia, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel, said Democrats are "desperately searching for something on the president."

Trump has tweeted that Democrats "have become totally unhinged and would like to go through the whole process again."

According to a summary by Barr, though, Mueller didn't exonerate Trump on the question of whether he obstructed the investigation, finding evidence "on both sides of the question." Nonetheless, Barr said that he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein concluded that the evidence di-

dn't establish obstruction.

Nadler said that "we have reason to suspect this administration's motives. The Mueller report probably isn't the 'total exoneration' the president claims it to be." He said "it is our job, not the attorney general's, to determine whether or not President Trump has abused his office."

But Republican John Ratcliffe of Texas, a former U.S. attorney, asked, "Where in the special counsel regulation does it say the attorney general must turn over an unredacted, full special counsel report? The special counsel regulation doesn't say that. No law says that."

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said on MSNBC that "it's inevitable that Bob Mueller is going to have to

testify before Congress."

The Judiciary Committee's hearing on a subpoena is part of a concerted push by Democrats who now control the House to move forward with investigations of Trump on many fronts.

On Tuesday, the House Oversight and Reform Committee served subpoenas in two inquiries: whether the White House improperly granted top-secret clearances over the objections of civil service workers, and whether Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross gave inaccurate testimony on the motives for placing a question about citizenship on the 2020 census.

The resolution approved by the Judiciary Committee also authorizes subpoenas for documents from former White House Coun-

sel Don McGahn, former White House strategist Steve Bannon, former communications director Hope Hicks, former Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and former White House aide Ann Donaldson.

The Democrats' insistence that Congress has a right to all of Mueller's findings and evidence may be challenged on several legal grounds. The Justice Department regulation providing for special counsels requires that the attorney general inform Congress only of any action taken to block a special counsel from pursuing evidence, which Barr has said wasn't the case with Mueller.

While Barr has indicated that he isn't giving the White House an advance look at Mueller's report, the attorney general or the president's lawyers could assert that some information in it must be redacted to protect executive privilege.

Barr also told lawmakers in a letter last Friday that he may black out information that would be damaging to "peripheral" figures in the Mueller probe, a description that presumably wouldn't apply to the president or his top aides.

Some House Republicans - who pushed successfully last year for Justice Department and FBI documents that they said showed anti-Trump bias in the Justice Department and FBI - have acknowledged that they set a precedent for full disclosure of Mueller's findings now. **Bloomberg**

Alanna Durkin Richer, Boston

**A**CTRESSES Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman are expected in court to face charges that they participated in a wide-ranging college admissions cheating scam yesterday.

The actresses along with Loughlin's fashion designer husband Massimo Giannulli and dozens of others were charged last month in a scheme in which authorities say parents paid an admissions consultant to bribe college coaches and rig test scores to get their children into elite universities.

Neither Huffman nor Loughlin and Giannulli has publicly commented on the allegations. They and other parents are

US

## Loughlin, Huffman due in court in college admissions scam



Actresses Felicity Huffman (left) and Lori Loughlin

scheduled to make their first appearances in Boston's federal court.

Loughlin, who played

Aunt Becky on the sitcom "Full House" in the 1980s and '90s, and Giannulli are accused of

paying USD500,000 to have their two daughters labeled as recruits to the University of Southern California crew team, even though neither participated in the sport.

Giannulli, whose Massimo clothing had long been a Target brand, is also scheduled to appear in court.

The Hallmark Channel - where Loughlin starred in popular holiday movies and the series "When Calls the Heart" - cut ties with Loughlin a day after her arrest.

Loughlin and Giannulli's daughter, social

media star Olivia Jade Giannulli, has also been dropped from advertising deals with cosmetics retailer Sephora and hair products company TRESemme.

Huffman, the Emmy-winning star of ABC's "Desperate Housewives," is accused of paying \$15,000 that she disguised as a charitable donation to cheat on her daughter's college entrance exam.

Among the other parents expected in the Boston court is Gordon Caplan, former co-chairman of the international

law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher, based in New York.

Caplan is accused of paying \$75,000 to get a test supervisor to correct the answers on his daughter's ACT exam after she took it. Caplan's firm said after his arrest that he has been placed on a leave of absence.

The consultant at the center of the scheme, Rick Singer, has pleaded guilty and is cooperating with investigators. Former Yale women's soccer coach Rudy Meredith has also pleaded guilty.

Several coaches have pleaded not guilty, including tennis coach Gordon Ernst who's accused of getting \$2.7 million in bribes to designate at least 12 applicants as recruits to Georgetown. **AP**



Aomar Ouali, Algiers

ALGERIA

# With the president gone, officials plot next steps

**A**LGERIA'S Constitutional Council met yesterday to confirm President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's resignation, as rattled international partners watch closely to see what's next for this gas-rich country and key player in the global fight against terrorism.

Algerians woke to a new and uncertain era, after the departure of a man who had ruled Algeria for 20 years and had been a fixture in the Arab world's political landscape for decades.

A discreet, 77-year-old Bouteflika ally — the upper house of parliament's president, Abdelkader Bensalah — is expected to take over as interim leader while Algeria plans presidential elections. But that might further anger the protesters who drove Bouteflika from power, and who want to overhaul a political elite seen as secretive and corrupt.

"Our session today is related to establishing the vacancy of the post of president of the republic, following the resignation of Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika yesterday," said Constitutional Council president Tayeb Belaiz as he opened the meeting of the 12-member body.

A much-diminished Bouteflika, 82, appeared on images shown

on national television Tuesday night handing his resignation letter to Constitutional Council president Tayeb Belaiz. Bouteflika, who hasn't spoken publicly to the nation since a 2013 stroke, appeared pale and weak and wore a traditional robe instead of his habitual suits.

Algerian protesters who drove Bouteflika out celebrated his departure with songs and flag-waving in the capital Tuesday night — but it might not be enough to satisfy their demands for an overhaul of the political elite, seen as corrupt and secretive.

Algeria's Constitution says that when a president dies or resigns, the Constitutional Council confirms the leader's absence and both houses of parliament convene. The president of the upper house is named as interim leader for 90 days while a presidential election is organized.

The upper house has been led for the past 17 years by Bensalah, a one-time journalist and former



A crowd celebrates after ailing Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika resigned after 20 years in power

ambassador who has held senior political positions for the past 25 years but has kept a low profile, rarely giving interviews or appearing at public events.

He's known as a politician who works behind the scenes to strike compromises and solve problems, and who avoids controversial debates — and is very much part of the political elite.

Demonstrators worry that those

who would play a role in the political transition are too close to the distrusted power structure, including Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui, accused of contributing to fraud in the last presidential election in 2014 and cracking down on past protests.

New protests are already planned for Friday, after six straight Fridays of mass, peaceful gatherings that surprised the entren-

ched leadership by their strength and persistence.

However, the protest movement doesn't have a single, unifying alternative to the current political system.

Another question is what the influential military and Bouteflika's entourage will do next.

Countries around the world are watching Algeria's political crisis, wondering whether a transfer of power could impact gas and oil deliveries to Europe, Cuba and around Africa — or crucial security cooperation with Europe and the U.S.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov warned against foreign interference in Algerian politics and said that "we hope the internal processes in that country [...] will by no means affect the friendly nature of our relations." Algeria's foreign minister recently visited Russia, and the countries have been economic and geopolitical allies since the Soviet era.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian expressed hope that Algerians would "pursue this democratic transition in the same spirit of calm and responsibility" that has marked the protests that drove Bouteflika from office. France, Algeria's former colonial ruler and a key trading partner, had come under fire for seeming to support Bouteflika earlier in the movement. AP

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## what's ON



## SEE SAW ZINE?

TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on Tuesdays)  
UNTIL: July 12, 2019  
VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6212/ 2857 6118

## 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

## EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION – CHE HO

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: April 14, 2019  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## MEMBER JOINT EXHIBITION OF 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF CAC – CÍRCULO DOS AMIGOS DA CULTURA DE MACAU

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays);  
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)  
UNTIL: April 14, 2019  
VENUE: Albergue SCM  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRY: (853) 2852 2550

## Offbeat

## CREEPY CARGO: PHILIPPINES SEIZES 757 TARANTULAS FROM POLAND



Philippine customs officials were astonished when they opened nicely gift-wrapped boxes of cookies and oatmeal flown in all the way from Poland and found a hair-raising contraband: hundreds of live tarantulas.

Bureau of Customs personnel seized the 757 tarantulas at a mail exchange center near Manila's international airport Monday and later arrested a Filipino man who tried to claim the long-legged and venomous spiders, which were declared as "collection items."

Many of the baby tarantulas were concealed in small plastic vials punctured with holes for air while bigger spiders were shipped in see-through plastic containers. Officials estimated the value of the unusual shipment at 310,000 pesos (USD5,900).

Philippine wildlife laws prohibit the trading, collection and possession of such spiders, which are popular pets among arachnid enthusiasts, without permits.

Despite threats of hefty fines and imprisonment, a startling array of wildlife have been seized by the hundreds by airport customs inspectors in Manila since last year, including geckos, iguanas, chameleons and a popular reptile called bearded dragons.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Conversa da Treta
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Moda Portugal Sr.3
18:05	Estórias do Tempo da Outra Senhora
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Justiça de Chicago Sr.1 - Fim
22:45	Todas as Palavras
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Arquivos do Entendimento - O Poder 'A Imposição do Domínio Português'
00:15	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:05	RTPi Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

04 - 10 Apr



## SHAZAM

ROOM 1  
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 pm  
Director: David F. Sandberg  
Starring: Zachary Levi, Djimon Hounsou, Michelle Borth  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 132min

## P STORM

ROOM 2  
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm  
Director: David Lam  
Starring: Chrissie Chau, Louis Koo, Kevin Cheng  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)  
Duration: 96min

## US

ROOM 2  
7:15pm  
Director: Jordan Peele  
Starring: Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 116min



## DUMBO

ROOM 3  
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm  
Director: Tim Burton  
Starring: Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 112min

## MASQUERADE HOTEL

ROOM 3  
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



## 1968 MARTIN LUTHER KING SHOT DEAD

The American black civil rights leader, Dr Martin Luther King, has been assassinated.

Dr King was shot dead in the southern US city of Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a march of sanitation workers protesting against low wages and poor working conditions.

He was shot in the neck as he stood on a hotel balcony and died in hospital soon afterwards.

Reverend Jesse Jackson was on the balcony with Dr King when the single shot rang out.

"He had just bent over. I reckon if he had been standing up he would not have been hit in the face," said Mr Jackson.

Police in Memphis were put on alert for a "well-dressed" white man who is said to have dropped an automatic rifle after the shooting and escaped in a blue car.

There were early signs of rioting in Memphis after Dr King's death and 4,000 members of the National Guard were drafted into the city.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been ordered to ward off disturbances.

The US President, Lyndon Johnson, has postponed a trip to Hawaii for peace talks on Vietnam.

The president said he was "shocked and saddened" by the civil rights leader's death.

"I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has taken Dr King who lived by non-violence," Mr Johnson said.

Dr King, 39, had previously survived several attempts on his life including the bombing of his home in 1956.

The charismatic civil rights leader joined the crusade for equal rights for black people in America in the mid 1950s.

He first came to national prominence as one of the leaders of the Alabama bus boycott in 1955.

In 1963 Dr King led a massive march on Washington DC where he delivered his now famous "I have a dream" speech.

Dr King advocated the use of non-violent tactics such as sit-ins and protest marches.

In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel peace prize.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Martin Luther King's assassination led to riots in more than 100 US cities. James Earl Ray was convicted of his murder and sentenced to 99 years in prison.

But he later retracted his confession and said he had been only a minor player in a conspiracy.

However, his appeals for a new trial were rejected and he died in prison in 1998.

Ray was supported by some members of Martin Luther King's family who believed the US Government may have been involved in Dr King's death.

Their case was strengthened in December 1999 when a jury in a wrongful death case brought by the King family, decided the civil rights leader was the victim of a murder conspiracy.

However, in June 2000 after an investigation the US Justice Department said it had uncovered no reliable evidence of a conspiracy.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You're heading home in one way or another. You may be on your way to a reunion, or you may just be finding a place that is more comfortable and will work better for you in the long run.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

Your transportation issues come to a head today — and while it may be frustrating, it's for the best. If your car breaks down, just remember that you do have other options. Make the most of them!

**Gemini**

May 21-Jun. 21

You are having a hard time coping with the pace of change today — but it's not as bad as you think! You just need to find one safe place and stick to it for the day, as things should settle down soon.

**Cancer**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You are so sure that you've got what it takes that you may find it easier to convince others. You've got twice the energy of anyone else in the room, so make the most of it and shine!

**Leo**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You really just want people to get along together — why does it have to be so hard? You can hardly believe the lengths people go to when they want to keep fighting, but you can calm them down.

**Virgo**

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You need to help out today — someone really needs you, and your energy is just better spent on outside activities. You may want to volunteer, ring up an elderly neighbor or just clean house.

**Libra**

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You need to deal with today's situation with a little more flexibility than you may realize. Try not to just fall back on your old standby routines, or you could find yourself extremely confused!

**Scorpio**

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You need to travel — but even if you're stuck at home for a while, you can still dream and make plans. Your great energy needs exposure to new things and new people, and you can make it happen.

**Sagittarius**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You can't quite come to terms with that one person who's almost always on your side — sometimes it's just not a good match. That doesn't mean it's worth throwing out, though, so just move on for a bit.

**Capricorn**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your people are all freaking out over something that seems trivial to you, but you can tell that they are just enjoying a little drama — there's no reason for you to join them. Just watch and wait.

**Aquarius**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your health is all-important, so make the most of today's willpower and start on a new health kick. It could just be a dedication to whole grains and fresh fruit, or a whole new way of living.

**Pisces**

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You need to express yourself today in the best way you know how. That could mean freestyle poetry or something softer and more direct, but you should know when it works for you.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

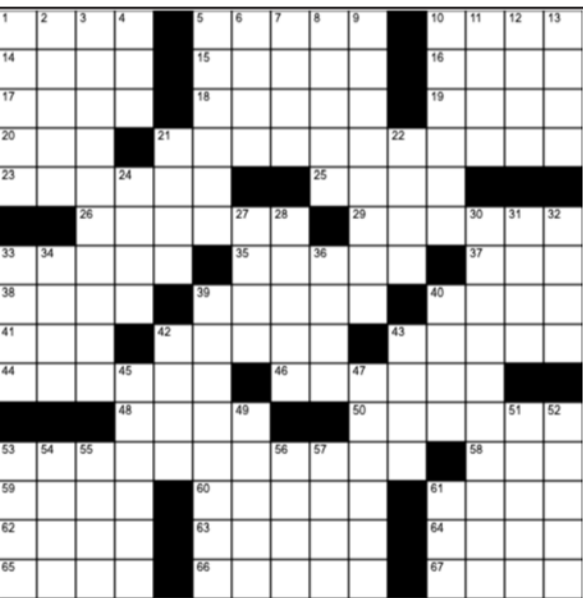
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	9	28	clear/cloudy
Harbin	-2	7	cloudy/sleet
Tianjin	10	28	clear
Urumqi	9	22	clear
Xi'an	10	25	cloudy
Lhasa	1	11	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	12	21	drizzle/cloudy
Chongqing	14	19	drizzle
Kunming	9	24	cloudy
Nanjing	10	20	cloudy
Shanghai	11	16	cloudy/drizzle
Wuhan	10	20	cloudy
Hangzhou	11	17	overcast/drizzle
Taipei	18	25	cloudy/drizzle
Guangzhou	20	26	thundershower
Hong Kong	21	24	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-2	7	sleet/drizzle
Frankfurt	6	11	moderate rain/drizzle
Paris	4	12	drizzle/cloudy
London	1	9	drizzle/moderate rain
New York	2	14	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Acting part; 5- Largest country in Africa; 10- Freeway access; 14- Cupid, to the Greeks; 15- Me too; 16- Robt. \_\_\_; 17- Donated; 18- Put a new price on; 19- Moat; 20- Mineral suffix; 21- Prudence; 23- Sailor; 25- Let \_\_\_; 26- Very cold; 29- Chinese tea; 33- Thin, crisp biscuit; 35- \_\_\_ there yet?; 37- Wine container; 38- Old-fashioned exclamation of surprise; 39- Pilfer; 40- Office note; 41- Wreath of flowers; 42- Defraud; 43- Green \_\_\_ is the place to be; 44- Abject fear; 46- Lunatic; 48- Israel's Barak; 50- Gibson of tennis; 53- Produced in the bone marrow; 58- \_\_\_Margret; 59- Oscar \_\_\_ Renta; 60- Conductor Solti; 61- Gaelic; 62- Hissy fit; 63- "Love Story" author Segal; 64- A shivering fit - often a precursor to malaria; 65- In \_\_\_ (actually); 66- Clear of vermin; 67- Prepared to drive;

**DOWN:** 1- Philbin of TV; 2- Give a valedictory, say; 3- Romantic relationship; 4- Computer ending; 5- Loose-fitting skirtlike garment; 6- Computer owner; 7- Go with; 8- Fine fiddle; 9- Person who stays up late; 10- Gas up again; 11- Sleep like \_\_\_; 12- Interlock; 13- Nuisance; 21- So-so; 22- Bassoon relative; 24- TV horse; 27- Must've been something \_\_\_; 28- Fantasize; 30- Gouge; 31- Appoint; 32- Pontiac muscle cars; 33- Lash mark; 34- "A Death in the Family" writer James; 36- I could \_\_\_ horse!; 39- Drew up shoulders; 40- Future doc's exam; 42- Small salmon; 43- Feels off; 45- Tell; 47- Nothing; 49- Tractor pioneer John; 51- Come after; 52- On \_\_\_-to-know basis; 53- Gds.; 54- Itches; 55- Yalies; 56- Pinot \_\_\_ (wine); 57- Killer whale; 61- Devour;



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- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- 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
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



tried to  
**E.T. phone home**

**Then he phoned JML**

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[Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 1/2 2 1/2  
1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,800,000** (ref: 19025577)

[Taipa] Nova City 4 1/2 3 1/2  
2,503 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$17,800,000** (ref: 19015574)

[Taipa] Choi Long Meng Chui 3 1/2 3 1/2  
3,398 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$17,800,000** (ref: 18045555)

**FOR SALE**

[Taipa] Va Fat 1 1/2 1 1/2  
550 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$4,580,000** (ref: 18115569)

[Taipa] The Buckingham 2 1/2 1 1/2  
1,186 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,888,000** (ref: 18025544)

[Taipa] Supreme Flower City 4 1/2 2 1/2  
2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$14,980,000** (ref: 13105367)

[Taipa] The Manhattan 3 1/2 2 1/2  
1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$13,600,000** (ref: 16105507)

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Brazilian football legend Pele (left) and French footballer Kylian Mbappe

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

# Football legend Pele meets rising star Mbappe in Paris

**W**HEN Kylian Mbappe netted France's final goal in a 4-2 win over Croatia last July, the rising star became only the second teenager to score in a World Cup final — emulating soccer great Pele.

After exchanging praise for one another for months, the pair finally met on Tuesday at an event organized by a Swiss watchmaker in a lavish Parisian hotel. Their meeting had initially been planned for last November but was canceled because of the 78-year-old Pele's poor health at the time.

"I think he is envying me, that's why he is trying to emulate me," a relaxed Pele joked after they were introduced on a small stage. "His style, the way he is playing, is Latino. Even Brazilian I would say. It's a shame he did not play for Santos [Pele's former club]. But it's not too late."

Mbappe's rise to the top has been meteoric. After impressing with his former club Monaco, he received his first call-up with France in March 2017. He was sold to Paris Saint-Germain that summer for 180 million euros (\$210 million) and won the World Cup less than 12 months later. Mbappe's most memorable game in Russia was in a 4-3 victory against Argentina where he scored twice, earned a penalty and showed off his blistering speed under the eye of a powerless Lionel Messi.

Mbappe said he knew that he would "enter history" alongside Pele with a goal in the World Cup final.

After scoring twice in Brazil's 5-2 win against Sweden in the fi-

nal of 1958, when he was just 17, Pele went on to win another two World Cups with Brazil.

It remains to be seen if Mbappe will do the same, but the French forward believes it's "statistically possible."

**■ Mbappe said he knew that he would 'enter history' alongside Pele with a goal in the World Cup final**

"But it would be unreal," he said. "Of course, as long as I will be able to win World Cups, my goal will be to win them because France is a great nation of football," he said. "We will be back in 2022 to try and win again."

Pele said Mbappe and his French teammates reminded him of Brazil's great national teams from the 1960's.

"Mbappe said France will prepare to win the next World Cup, but he should know that we [Brazil] are also going to get ready," Pele said.

Mbappe was also named the World Cup's best young player in Russia, like Pele in 1958.

Mbappe has often been compared to the Brazil great for his precocity, but in terms of style,

with his devastating speed and skills, he is closer to France great Thierry Henry.

Asked about Mbappe's main qualities, Pele said he was impressed by his pace and intelligence.

"And he is unpredictable. He is changing his game all the time. It's his main advantage," said Pele, who scored more than 1,000 goals during his career.

That's a tally that Mbappe does not expect to match.

"It might be possible if you count the goals scored on PlayStation," Mbappe said. "But even if with the goals scored at training, it will be difficult."

Journalists were invited to attend the meeting but were not allowed to ask questions. **AP**

AD

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opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



A CHANGE IN LONG WEEKEND CULTURE

With the Cheng Ming Festival falling on a Friday this year, we are blessed with another long weekend in Macao. As I was thinking about how to use this gift of “no need to go to work for three days”, I started pondering our “long weekend culture” in Macao. I noticed that we seem to have gone through some changes over the last two decades.

I do not know when the change happened, but enjoying long weekends has changed from spending quality time with family and friends, to travelling, to individual peace and wellbeing. One and a half or two decades ago, whenever there was a long weekend or even a weekend without work, we would plan for meals with family and relatives, or shopping or karaoke with friends. Between 10 to 12 years ago, our long weekend family and friends gathering rituals changed.

Around the time when Macao's economy started skyrocketing, instead of hanging out with family and friends, we went to Thailand for the beaches, or for street food in Taiwan, or to Japan for shopping. The last 10 years or so have witnessed lots of travelling by people in Macao. Almost always when there was a long weekend, we got out of Macao. The increase in spending power was one reason, the other was to escape the crowded town. So, on long weekends when tourists from nearby cities came rushing into Macao, we “Macaoians” rushed out. However, I have noticed this long weekend culture of travelling is starting to change too.

Lately, whenever the topic of what to do during public holidays, especially long weekends, has been discussed, most people seemed to voice a preference for staying in Macao. But instead of returning to our original custom of going out with friends and family for lunches or dinners, we seem to have moved towards having more “me” time, or quiet time. More often than not, we (mostly ladies) filled up our long weekends with spa, facial, mani-pedi, and hairdressing appointments. The next most popular activity after beautifying is exercise. Some may sign up for a dancing or yoga classes in advance, some may have plans for jogging or hiking. I even know someone who has scheduled time for meditation in their calendar. Why is there a sudden change in how we spend our holidays?

One reason is perhaps that we are tired of travelling. In the last decade, I believe a lot of people have travelled to almost every popular place close to Macao. Short three-day trips do not seem much fun now, so I guess we are saving up, both time and energy, to travel further during longer holidays. Another reason is a change of priority. People in Macao are focusing more on personal fitness and wellbeing instead of socializing. While small food and beverage businesses seem to be suffering and closing down one by one these years, more beauty parlors, spas and yoga or dance studios seem to be opening up. Areas for running are also getting more crowded. Rather than for keeping fit and beautified, I notice most people exercise and go to the spa to relieve their stress and enjoy the quiet.

So, probably, the main cause for the change in our long weekend culture is that life is becoming too “noisy”. Our lives are so filled with meetings, networking, and celebratory activities of one kind or another. Even when we are alone, there are tons of emails and messages to read and reply to. Sometimes, we seem to just not want to be surrounded by people. So, when we see long weekends now, we see an opportunity for peace and quiet. Well, except for those who have small children at home; peace is still yet to come for them.

THE BUZZ CHUI RE-APPOINTS BROTHER TO COUNCIL OF PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

Chief Executive Chui Sai On has re-appointed his brother, Chui Sai Cheong, as well as architect Eddie Wong to the Council of Public Prosecutors for another three-year term. The appointments take effect from today.

Chui Sai Cheong, lawmaker and vice president of the Legislative Assembly, has

served on the board since 2003, while architect Eddie Wong, a member of the Executive Council, has held a seat for 19 years.

The Council of Public Prosecutors is presided over by the prosecutor general and is responsible for disciplinary measures against magistrates and judicial officials of the Public Prosecutions Office.

Jho Low's 1MDB-linked yacht sold to Genting



Elffie Chew

A superyacht seized by Malaysia's government from fugitive financier Low Taek Jho, a central figure in the 1MDB scandal, has found a buyer in casino company Genting Malaysia Bhd.

A Malaysian court approved the sale of the vessel for USD126 million, which Genting must pay by the end of April, Attorney-General Tommy Thomas said in a statement yesterday. While the price is lower than its \$130 million valuation, the sale marks the largest amount of money that the country has recovered from 1MDB, he said.

The deal “records a high-water mark for our judicial system in ensuring that market value is secured for a vessel sold through the processes of Court, without any discount,” Thomas said in the statement.

“It is even more commendable that this is achieved in a very sophisticated high-end superyacht sale, where the pool of buyers is extremely small.”

The government had struggled to find buyers for the 300-foot luxury ship after an earlier auction failed. The yacht was seized in Indonesian waters last year as part of Malaysia's effort to recoup about \$4.5 billion allegedly embezzled from 1MDB.

The scandal surrounding the troubled state fund has reached the highest levels of Malaysia's government and ensnared Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in its first criminal case. Former Prime Minister Najib Razak is set to attend his first day of trial on Wednesday to face seven of 42 charges linked to his role in 1MDB. He has pleaded not guilty to all the allegations.

Low, who has also denied

any wrongdoing, remains at large. He faces charges in Malaysia including money laundering.

Genting Malaysia's shares surged after the announcement, rising 2.5 percent as of the midday break in Kuala Lumpur, the steepest gain since Feb. 19.

The company said in a statement yesterday that the purchase will help it “differentiate itself from its competitors.” It will provide Genting Malaysia with a “unique and competitive edge for its premium customers business,” it said.

The company is part of a global conglomerate that operates casinos, resorts and cruise lines in the U.S. to Australia, as well property and palm oil plantations. The group runs the luxury Star Cruises line in Hong Kong and Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore that boasts a Universal Studios complex. **Bloomberg**

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

SOURCE: D5M6

WORLD BRIEFS



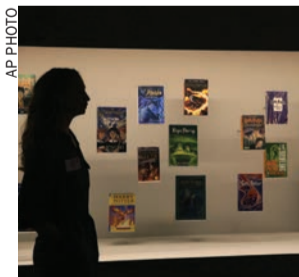
**ALGERIA** is facing a new era after President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's resignation — and questions about who's in charge and what happens next for this gas-rich country and key ally to the West in fighting terrorism.



**USA** A tank holding a flammable chemical caught fire at a Texas plant Tuesday [local time], killing one worker, critically injuring two others and sending panicked employees fleeing over a fence to safety.



**PORTUGAL** After an exceptionally dry winter and weeks of unseasonably high temperatures, Portugal is assembling a record number of firefighters and water-dropping aircraft as it braces for a potentially difficult wildfire season.



**POLAND** The priest in northern Poland who led a public burning of the “Harry Potter” series and other books and items deemed by their owners as harmful has apologized and stressed it was not aimed against books or culture. He said the burning of books and other items linked to magic and the occult was “unfortunate.”

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Liu Kun



Fallen heroes. A firefighting helicopter takes off to battle a forest fire in Muli County in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province, where a fire engulfed about 15 hectares of forest and killed at least 26 firefighters.