



HIGH-VALUE SCAMS ON THE RISE

The PJ exposed various scams over the weekend, two involving large sums of money and HK residents

P4-5 CRIME



THE GREATER BUREAU LOGO

P8 GREATER BAY



BABY WHITE RHINOCEROS MAKES DEBUT

A baby white rhinoceros met with the public in Guangzhou. Da Zhuang is among the first white rhinos bred at Chimelong

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A UniCredit SpA employee allegedly siphoned off about 100 million yuan of clients' money over three years by taking advantage of shared passwords and other internal security loopholes. **More on p11**



WHAT BREXIT? Chinese applications for British Tier 1 investor visas rose 19 percent to 144 in 2018 from a year earlier, according to data obtained from the Home Office. The number applying has almost doubled since 2016, when the U.K. voted to leave the European Union. **More on p10**



NEW ZEALAND's Privacy Commissioner John Edwards (pictured) described Facebook as "morally bankrupt" and suggested his country follow neighboring Australia's lead by making laws that could jail executives over streamed violence such as the Christchurch mosque shootings. **More on p13**

More on backpage

BLOOMBERG

A MATTER OF ZEROS

Rise in visitors overstated 100-fold

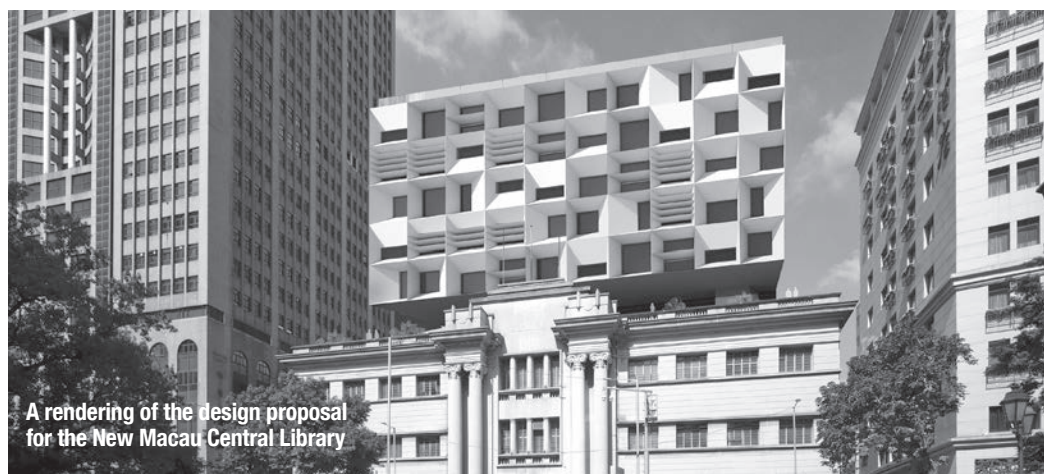
P3 MDT REPORT



TAIWAN REJECTS SARs FORMULA

Thousands protest against 'one country, two systems' in Kaohsiung

P7



A rendering of the design proposal for the New Macau Central Library



The Leon Auditorium

Lynzy Valles

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Recent cases underplay plagiarism offence

OVER the past five months, Macau has recorded two high-profile cases of alleged plagiarism involving a government bureau, meanwhile a plagiarism scandal involving the logo of a Turkish university that bears similarities to the official Macau emblem prompted ridicule and outcry both here and abroad.

Although plagiarism does not constitute a criminal offence in the SAR, the city protects literary and artistic works under the 43/99/M bill.

Thus, a relative protection for intellectual property is available in the SAR, with some exclusions.

These exclusions include daily news and reports of events, petitions submitted to public authorities and political speeches.

Since November, the SAR has recorded two high-profile cases where alleged plagiarism invol-

ving the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) occurred.

The most recent case, currently under investigation, was prompted by local designers who raised concerns over the weekend about the poster design of Cantonese opera performance, "The Soul of Macau", which contained elements plagiarized from another designer.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau has sought to resolve the controversy by paying money to the plagiarized designer.

Although IC president Mok Ian Ian defended that the bureau has commissioned representatives

to apologize to the owner, aside from pledging to purchase the copyright, netizens on social media were quick to criticize the bureau, with some noting that the bureau lacked "culture."

Another case was the design and construction plan of the New Macau Central Library which, for a tender price of MOP18.68 million, bears similarities to an award-winning auditorium built in the early 2000s in the Spanish city of Leon.

Architect Carlos Marreiros, who won the bid, defended that the design was influenced by the modernist movement.

Marreiros previously held a press conference, noting that his team was only aware of the Leon Auditorium after a report was published by a Portuguese paper. "I did not know the building. I started knowing about it superficially now, through pictures and the Internet," he said.

In February, the Times reported that a Turkish university was using a logo almost identical to the SAR's emblem.

The Government Information Bureau told the Times that the Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office would follow up on the case.

According to readers from Turkey, who messaged the Times after the story was published, intellectual property rights are a "relatively new" cultural norm for Turkey.

However, the case is different in this region. The code became effective in the SAR on October 1, 1999, with a scope of six chapters and 223 articles.

The code regulates the content, regulation, protection period, international protection scope and usage of the author's right, as well as the legal responsibility of infringing the right of the author.

According to the bill, whoever publicly uses work of others to present it as his own creation shall be punished with imprisonment of up to two years or with a fine of up to 240 days.

However, if the original work was previously unpublished, the penalty shall be of imprisonment of up to three years or a fine of up to 360 days.

MEASLES

Health Bureau finds Philippine migrant immunity the same as locals'

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has concluded its sampling of domestic helpers from the Philippines working in Macau, finding that the rate of immunity to the measles disease is about 94 percent - the same as that of local residents aged 20 years or older.

According to the SSM, the sampling shows that "the level of immunity against measles among non-resident workers and the citizens of Macau is ideal."

Despite said immunity levels, the possibility of individual cases and

collective infections are not excluded, the Bureau warned, although added that the "occurrence of an epidemic is low and hence there are no reasons for concern."

The results come from a survey of 107 people, which was conducted between April 1 and 6. All the people sampled were women, aged between 23 and 62, while just under half of the subjects were under the age of 40.

The results show that about 87 percent of the sample participants aged 20 to 39 are immunized against measles, while

100 percent of those aged 40 or older have the immunity. The proportion of the Macau resident population that are immune to measles is close to 100 percent for all age groups above the age of 20.

However, although the immunity proportion is very high among the adult population of Macau, "some people in the younger population have a weaker immunity due to the lack of natural infection of the measles virus."

Existing scientific evidence shows that people with relatively weak im-

munity can still contract measles, but the symptoms are mild and less likely to be passed on to others.

Last week 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, more than 20 infected others were not from the Philippines, with the majority of them being from the Macau SAR. **DB**

CRIME

Arson suspected in Lisboa Palace fire

ARSON is the chief suspicion of police authorities in the latest outbreak of fire at the construction site for the near-completed Grand Lisboa Palace resort in Cotai.

The fire, which broke out at approximately 7 p.m. on Sunday evening, according to a report by public broadcaster TDM, may have begun with discarded cigarettes or one of several other miscellaneous burned objects discovered by firefighters.

It is at least the fifth

suspicious case of a fire at the Grand Lisboa Palace construction site in the past five years, and the third in the past two years following cases in March and September 2017. In the 2017 cases, foul play was also suspected by Macau's Judiciary Police.

The integrated resort, casino operator SJM's first foray into Cotai, has been beset by delays for years. It is expected to open its doors to the public later this year or in early 2020.

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PAULO COUTINHO



Chui to appeal Fong Soi Kun ruling

Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced yesterday in a statement from the Office of the Government Spokesperson that he will appeal the decision of the Court of Second Instance that last week ruled in favor of the former director of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau, Fong Soi Kun. The court ruled that the dismissal order issued by the CE to penalize Fong for a lack of accountability during Typhoon Hato was improper. According to the statement, the CE will appeal the decision, bringing the case to the Final Instance Court (TUI). In April 2018, the CE decided to issue the penalty of dismissal to Fong. However, the former official was already retired from office, and so the penalty was changed to a suspension of his pension for a period of four years.

PSP appoints new deputy head

The Public Security Police Force's (PSP) Assistant Commissioner Vong Vai Hong assumed office as deputy commissioner yesterday at the PSP headquarters, as noted in a statement released by the authority. Vong joined the PSP in 1988. After completing the Senior Police Officer Training Program in 1994, he served as division head of the Tactical Police Unit and the Traffic Department, among other roles, before being promoted as the head of the Traffic Department and later the head of the Operations Department. Vong has served as acting deputy commissioner of PSP since January 15 this year. He has also been awarded commendations repeatedly for his outstanding work performance and excellent leadership, the PSP stated.

Property prices drop slightly

The overall residential property price index for the December to February period is 262.9, a 0.9 percent drop from the period of November to January, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) data shows. The indexes for Macau and the Islands dropped by 1 and 0.9 percent respectively. The index for pre-sale units (266.9) increased by 0.5 percent, and existing units (283.7) dropped by 1.1 percent. The indexes for existing units in Macau (278.9) and the Islands (304.4) fell by 1.2 and 0.9 percent respectively. A year-on-year comparison shows the overall and existing units indexes rose by 4.3 and 6.7 percent respectively, while that of pre-sale units dropped by 1 percent.

TOURISM

In calculation error, rise in visitors overstated 100-fold

Daniel Beitler

IN what appears to be a calculation error, Macau immigration authorities have overstated the annual rise in visitors during the Cheng Ming Festival period by a factor of 100.

Data released yesterday from the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the entity which oversees Macau immigration services, indicated that the number of visitors over the holiday period equated to about 425,000. According to the statistics, this represented an increase of 23.6 percent over the previous year.

The number of visitors in the previous year's Cheng Ming Festival period was not provided in yesterday's data release as a point of comparison.

However, reviewing data from 2018, the Times has learned that visitor arrivals during the equivalent period amounted to 424,000, or almost the same as this year.

The actual rise in visitors is closer to a 0.236 percent increase.

This year's Cheng Ming Festival period was measured from Friday April 5 to

Sunday April 7, with the festivities falling on the Friday, compared to last year when it fell on a Thursday. The three days amounted to an extended weekend, which usually signals increased visitation.

■ The public – and often the media – remain unaware of such misinformation as the government is not forthcoming about it

It is not the first time that errors and inconsistencies have been reported by the two government entities that publish data on tourism figures.

In April last year, the Times investigated a pattern of inconsistent (and often inflated) reports on visitor arrivals for the Chinese Lunar New Year period, examining predictions, preliminary and

revised data provided by both the PSP and the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) between 2014 and 2018.

The Times found that inaccuracies are carried forward, year after year, because the preliminary figures, which are almost always higher than the actual number, are compared with the actual number of the previous period.

In response, the MGTO protested that its reports were "neither 'estimations', 'forecasts' nor 'predictions'." [...] The data released by MGTO are 'preliminary' or 'provisional' figures [...] and therefore] not 'overstated' or 'inflated'."

However, the public – and often the media – remain unaware of such misinformation because government agencies avoid circulating data revisions, especially when it becomes clear that the actual numbers fall considerably short of initial estimations, forecasts or predictions.

This was made apparent yesterday, when Chinese, Portuguese and English online media in Macau incorrectly reported that the number of visitors in this period had increased by between 23 to 24 percent.

The Times contacted the PSP to request the corrected data, but no reply was received by press time.

HKZMB emerges as second popular port of entry

ACCORDING to the data released yesterday, the Border Gate remains the most popular crossing, with approximately 72.8 percent of arrivals. However, in just its first year of operation, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) has risen to become the second-most-used crossing with 7.7 percent of arrivals. Meanwhile, the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal, the Lotus Bridge, the Macau International Airport and the Taipa Ferry Terminal accounted for 5.5 percent, 5.2 percent, 4 percent and 3.5 percent of arrivals, respectively.

CRIME

High-value scams on the rise, prostitution

Renato Marques

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has reported various scams over the weekend, with two involving large sums of money, the suspects of which are residents of Hong Kong.

The PJ also reported a third scam involving online gambling.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has reportedly dismantled a prostitution ring operating in the Iao Hon neighborhood, resulting in the detention of 10 people.

All the cases were reported during yesterday's joint press conference by the police authorities held at the PSP facilities.

ANOTHER CURRENCY EXCHANGE VICTIM

A 27-year-old mainland resident was scammed by two Hong Kong residents in their thirties while trying to exchange a large sum of money from RMB into HKD for gambling at a local casino, the PJ spokesperson said.

The case occurred on April 4 when the victim met one of the suspects in the casino and negotiated a deal to exchange RMB432,500 into an undisclosed amount of HKD currency.

Suspicious about the deal, the victim tried to confirm whether the suspect had the HKD currency with him in order to make the exchange, but after he was shown the cash, he decided to continue with the transfer of the money to an account indicated



by the suspect.

After the bank transfer, the suspect did not hand the agreed sum of money to the victim, claiming that he did not receive the confirmation of the transfer from the bank. This resulted in an argument, and in that time, the second suspect appeared and took away the HKD cash from the first suspect, and tried to flee.

The casino's security intervened and stopped the three during their heated exchange, handing them over to the PJ.

During the investigation, the police found out that one of the suspects had tried to flee the security of the casino, saying that the victim had lied to them but was unsuccessful.

The two suspects were handed to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) under the charge of "high-value scam."

AN EXPENSIVE 'BARGAIN'

A local resident has been scammed into the purchase of a luxury

watch offered at a much more attractive price sold by a 33-year-old female Hong Kong resident.

The case, which has been filed at the PJ since August last year, had some new developments on April 3, when the woman was finally spotted in NAPE and detained by the PJ.

According to the complainant, he met the woman in July 2018 and she offered him the opportunity to buy an expensive luxury watch, normally priced at around HKD275,000, at a much cheaper price.

He trusted the deal and gave the woman a total of HKD30,000 in cash and later transferred another RMB30,562 via WeChat Pay.

After the payment, he waited for the watch and upon the realization that he had been scammed, made a complaint to the PJ.

After being detained and taken into custody by the PJ, the suspect told the police that she had given the money to a third per-

son located in the U.K. who was responsible for getting the watch. However, the police did not believe the woman as she could not provide the third person's contact information.

She was also presented to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) under the charge of high value scam.

SCAMMED ON 'ONLINE GAMBLING' PLATFORM

In a third report of scams this week, a local male was said to have been conned to the amount of MOP50,000 on an online gambling platform.

The case, also reported by the PJ, occurred on April 5 when the local resident wanted to withdraw his earnings from the gambling platform and was not able to do so.

According to the report, the victim had met another mainland man through a social network in March.

After some time, the victim eventually told this new friend that he was struggling with financial problems, which resulted in the suspect sending him a QR Code providing him access to download the online gambling platform to win some extra money.

At first, the victim said that everything was running smoothly but the earnings were low. The suspect then told him that if he topped up his account with MOP50,000, his account would get promoted to a higher level, where the earnings would be

much higher too.

The victim then borrowed money from several friends to collect MOP50,000.

He then decided not to use the money and tried to withdraw it, but the platform did not allow it. He was said to have contacted the game's hotline and was told by the operator that he needed to earn over the sum of MOP50,000 in order to withdraw. After a few days, he increased the funds in his account to MOP56,000 after winning at the games.

The request to withdraw was still denied and this resulted in the victim filing a complaint, claiming that he had been scammed and faced losses of MOP50,000.

PROSTITUTION RING DISMANTLED BY PSP

The PSP has carried out an operation which has resulted in the dismantling of a prostitution ring operating in two apartments on Rua Um do Bairro do Iao Hon in Macau's northern district, as stated by a PSP spokesperson.

According to the same spokesperson, the PSP acted on a tip-off and conducted an operation around noon on April 4 in a building in Iao Hon, detaining four women at the staircase.

After entering one of the apartments, they found another three people, a 48-year-old local woman and a man and woman from the mainland.

The three people were suspected to be supporting and managing the operation of prostitutes in the building.

Civil protection bill to be ready for AL by end of April

THE government plans to submit a civil protection bill to the Legislative Assembly (AL) by the end of April or early May, according to Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak.

The text of the bill was completed last week and is expected to be submitted to the AL before the typhoon season arrives.

The bill will regulate how the government and the private sector should jointly respond to civil protection matters.

The government-led law advocates multi-social participation.

Wong stated that, although the current civil protection bill has not been officially promulgated, various governmental departments, especially members of the civil pro-

tection structure, have fully promoted civil protection-related work under the coordination of the police headquarters.

As for volunteer registration, training, management, and other matters, the civil protection law is needed to support the relevant works, thus the government is striving for the introduction of the civil protection bill as soon as possible.

The 2019 civil protection meeting will be held on April 9. According to Wong, there will be relevant civil protection equipment on display.

Later in the month, all members of the civil protection structure will jointly hold a typhoon exercise on April 27. This will mark the first time the public is invited to partici-

pate in a drill.

Moreover, during this year's typhoon drill, the Public Safety Research Institute of Tsinghua University, together with the Macau SAR government, will test the emergency command system developed for Macau.

In June 2018, the government launched a public consultation process on the new rules that aim to shape the "Civil Protection Basic Law."

The proposal includes the establishment of a new crime of "false social alarm." Those who spread false rumors during "crisis periods", such as catastrophes, accidents, outbreak of diseases or terrorist attacks, might be sentenced to between six months and three years of imprisonment. **JZ**



ring dismantled

BLOOMBERG

Taken into questioning, the first four prostitutes revealed that they were operating in two apartments in the same building, which led to a second visit to the place by the police.

The PSP dismantled a prostitution ring operating in the lao Hon neighborhood, resulting in the detention of 10 people

In the second apartment, the PSP found another three people, two women from the mainland who were involved in prostitution activity and one local male resident who was a customer.

Further searches in the apartment also revealed several items that supported the activity such

as condoms and other materials, the police said.

Initially, no one claimed to have rented the apartments and the local woman said that she had been "offered" the two apartments for the activity, free of charge. After further investigations, the police found out from one of the prostitutes that she was paying a daily rental fee of MOP450 for the use of the apartment, which the others confirmed.

According to the information from the prostitutes, whose ages range from 30 to over 50 years old, they had been operating in such venues since the second half of 2018 and they would charge customers between MOP100 and MOP150 for sexual services.

The local woman denied the accusations of managing the prostitution ring. The three people found in the first apartment, including the local woman, have been charged with the offense of managing and facilitating prostitution activities.

The prostitutes were sent to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation into the case.



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THOUSANDS of people in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, have protested the 'one country, two systems' principle on Freedom of Speech Day, held this week.

Freedom of Speech Day is a national holiday established in 2016 to commemorate a Taiwanese democratic activist who set himself on fire in 1989 to defend freedom of speech and protest the then-repressive regime of the Kuomintang.

The demonstration, held on Sunday, was titled 'Rejecting one country, two systems and Building a New Country in Taiwan.'

It was organized by Citizen Front Taiwan and had the participation of several other groups, with approximately 2,000 to 3,000 people joining the demonstration.

The group, formed by several Taiwanese civil organizations, criticized the recent visit of mayor of Kaohsiung, Han Kuo-yu, to the Liaison Office in Hong Kong.

From March 22 to 28, the Kaohsiung mayor visited Macau, Hong Kong, and mainland cities Shenzhen and Xiamen.

The delegation, led by Han, also involved the signing of USD30 million worth of fruit and fishery product deals with Xiamen's local enterprises. Han also visited the Liaison Office in Hong Kong, with the visit regarded by some as a betrayal of Taiwan.

The Economic Democracy Union said, "We expressed

Taiwan residents protest 'one country, two systems'



Mayor of Kaohsiung, Han Kuo-yu, whose visit to China, Hong Kong and Macau triggered protests in Taiwan on Sunday

our rejection of the one country, two systems. We protest against Han Kuo-yu's behavior, which betrayed Taiwan's democracy."

The whole protest appealed against the one country, two systems principle, with the Kaohsiung mayor's visit to the Liaison Office in Hong Kong being per-

ceived as an endorsement to the one country, two systems.

Sunflower Student Movement member, Lin Fei-fan, who also participated in the demonstration, said, "We believe that he entered the Liaison Office [because] there is a very clear goal in his heart - that is, in the international community,

to show the world that there is a Taiwanese who supports one country, two systems."

He criticized Han's meeting with the director of the China's Taiwan Affairs Office and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese Taiwan Affairs Office.

Another march participant,

Nancy Wang, noted that Hong Kong people who refuse the one country, two systems principle still have Taiwan to emigrate to. However, Taiwan does not have a pullback, and Taiwan is now in a state of war.

"One country, two systems [equates to] giving up sovereignty. If you vote for Kuomintang, Taiwan will become Hong Kong, panic over the buying of milk powder will appear, and the housing prices will rise. Refuse one country, two systems," said Nancy Wang.

The one country, two systems principle is in force in the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, permitting the two cities to govern themselves under a regime separate to that of the mainland. It was first designed by former China President Deng Xiaoping with a view to enticing Taiwan back to China via peaceful integration.

According to the latest survey released by the Cross-Strait Policy Association of Taiwan in January, more than 80 percent of the interviewed Taiwanese people expressed their disapproval of the one country, two systems principle. **JZ**

Shanghai wills further cooperation with Macau

Staff reporter

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On met with Shanghai Municipal Congress delegates at the government headquarters to discuss the scope of existing cooperation, as well as matters concerning the Greater Bay Area.

Yin Yicui, director of the

Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and leader of the delegations, is conducting a visit in the Greater Bay's four central cities, namely Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

Yin expressed her appreciation for the SAR's support for and participa-

tion in the first China International Import Expo, which was held in the eastern Chinese municipality last year. She especially noted the SAR's assistance in terms of the convention and exhibition.

She said she hoped to build further cooperation between the cities on top of an existing foundation

in areas of financial services, youth communication, trade, tourism, culture and health, among others.

In response, the CE noted that Macau and Shanghai have built long-term relations in such areas as Portuguese-language learning and civil servant training, sports, tourism, and youth-related work.

Strong foundations have been built, agreed the CE, as he expressed his hope for further expansion.

Chui also introduced to Yin improvements of the SAR in the area of economic and livelihood development over the previous 20 years. After clarification from the Greater Bay Area plan, Macau com-

menced positioning itself as the "Center and Platform", he said.

Both the CE and Yin expect that integration within the GBA will bring Macau more opportunities in future. Yin also complimented the vigor and planning of the four Greater Bay central cities.



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NEW BUREAU, NEW LOGO

Macau's Greater Bay office has emblem approved

Staff reporter

THE SAR Government's youngest bureau, the Policy Study and Regional Development Bureau (DSEPD), had their logo approved by the Chief Executive yesterday, announced the government.

The bureau-level entity, which reports into the Chief Executive, is tasked with carrying out policy research and coordinating the various tasks by different official entities con-

cerning Macau's cooperation with the mainland.

The new bureau aims to help Macau integrate itself into the nation's overall development.

It came about from the merging of the government's Policy Study Office with the group responsible for the SAR's mainland-related work, taking effect on September 1 last year.

Since then, the Bureau has had their official logo pending, until yesterday.

As stated in the press release, "the overall design

of the logo resonates with the SAR's emblem."

The logo has the elements of a lotus, a ribbon with the motto in the two official languages, as well as the Bureau's Chinese name in full and its acronym in Portuguese around in a circle.

The color is "Macau Green", which symbolizes auspicious vigor, as stated in the press release.

Two lotus seedpods and



nine lotus petals are the centerpiece of the logo, which symbolize the Greater Bay Area, in the hope of Macau's further prosperity via integration into the region.

"Extreme Benevolence for the Public" is the motto that signifies the basic political ideas and professional morality of the Bureau. The central lotus is white to symbolize strictness and integrity.

HK-bound jet makes emergency landing in Kaohsiung

A Cathay Dragon plane carrying 317 passengers bound for Hong Kong had to make an emergency landing in Kaohsiung City in southern Taiwan yesterday morning after one of its engines started spewing smoke over suspected collision with birds.

Cathay Dragon flight KA451 made an emergency landing at the Kaohsiung International Airport at 8:31 a.m. after pilots reported smoke coming from one of the jet's engines, the airport's control tower said.

The plane, an Airbus 330, took off at Kaohsiung at 8:02 a.m. yesterday and shortly reported the right engine was emitting smoke over suspected collision with a flock of birds, according to the control tower. The jet circled back toward Kaohsiung and dumped fuel before its successful emergency landing at 8:31 a.m.

After the plane landed, airport and city fire fighters stood by, but luckily no fire or injuries were reported.

Cathay Dragon said it would arrange alternative flights for passengers as soon as possible and apologized for the delay.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation. **Xinhua**

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GUANGZHOU

Baby white rhinoceros makes debut

A baby white rhinoceros met with the public in Guangzhou, capital of southern China's Guangdong Province.

The baby white rhinoceros, named Da Zhuang, is the son of Little Prince, the first southern white rhinoceros bred at the Chimelong Safari Park.

The white rhinoceros is listed as "near threatened" on

the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and consists of two subspecies, namely southern white rhinoceros and northern white rhinoceros. Last year, the world's only remaining male northern white rhinoceros died, leaving just two female northern white rhinoceros on the planet.

The park started to introduce rhinoceros from South Africa

since 1997. Now the park has 24 southern white rhinoceros and 13 black rhinoceros.

Da Zhuang was born on June 19 last year while his father Little Prince was born on March 3 in 2009. Da Zhuang's mother, named Nan Feng, was introduced from South Africa in 2015.

Nine months after his birth, Da Zhuang now weighs 445 kg, while he only weighed 48 kg

when he was born, said Chen Siming, an animal expert with the park.

"Da Zhuang is now learning survival skills with his mother such as looking for food, mud bathing, rubbing and scratching, as well as how to get along with other rhinoceros," Chen said.

"The special body structure and the low fertility rate of the

white rhinoceros make it difficult for the species' population to increase," Chen said.

Experts at the park have made a lot of efforts to help the species mate and reproduce in recent years, and two other white rhinoceros are pregnant and the babies are expected to be born in November this year and the first half of 2020 respectively, the park said. **MDT/Xinhua**

When it comes to returns, Hong Kong's IPO market is living it up

Fox Hu & Natalie Lung

IT'S a good time to be an IPO investor in Hong Kong.

Buoyed by growing risk appetite, the city's initial public offerings are delivering the best returns in years. Companies that raised at least USD100 million jumped an average 15 percent in their first month of trading, weighted by deal size, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's the most since 2011 for this time of the year and would be the biggest jump since 2007 should this pace last through December.

"Investors are now in a more risk-on mode on the back of the recent market rally," said Christopher

Wong, head of Asia Pacific's equity capital markets at BNP Paribas SA. "More prudent IPO pricing has also been a major contributing factor after poor IPO performances last year left investors with a bad taste."

The city's benchmark Hang Seng Index has rallied 16 percent in 2019 for its strongest beginning since 1993. A dovish shift in central-bank policy globally and optimism over the U.S.-China trade talks have pushed the gauge up 22 percent from a low in October and into a bull market.

While Asian IPOs overall had a weak start to the year, Hong Kong has been holding up. There have been 12 offerings above \$100 million rais-

ing a total of \$2.2 billion in 2019, compared with four deals for \$2.1 billion in the same period last year. The city's best-performing new stocks since January, CStone Pharmaceuticals and China Kepei Education Group Ltd., jumped 31 percent and 27 percent in their first month, respectively.

Back in 2007, when 12 companies had already raised a combined \$3.1 billion by this time of the year, deals above \$100 million rewarded investors with an average 37 percent one-month return, data compiled by Bloomberg show. That's as the Hang Seng Index surged 39 percent in one of the biggest bull markets in the city's history. **Bloomberg**

FORUM

MDT/Macauhub

São Tomé and Príncipe to welcome 300 entrepreneurs at July meeting

ABOUT 300 entrepreneurs are expected to head to São Tomé and Príncipe to attend the 14th business meeting for economic cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries next July, the organizing committee said.

The organizing committee of the meeting, which will take place on July 8 and 9 in the capital of São Tomé, was established last week by a government decision, with the Minister of Finance and the Blue Economy, Osvaldo Vaz, as chairman.

The minister, quoted in the local press, said that for São Tomé and Príncipe the event represents a unique opportunity to attract private investments from companies of the member countries of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and China.

Osvaldo Vaz said that the potential of São Tomé and Príncipe in the fields of tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and other sectors, will be promoted before and during the event.

São Tomé and Príncipe depend on bilateral and multilateral international aid

to meet 97.2 percent of expenditure equivalent to USD150 million entered in the State Budget for 2019.

The business meeting in July in São Tomé and Príncipe was announced at the end of March by the Secretary-General of Forum Macau, Xu Yingzhen, at a meeting in which members of the Forum unanimously approved the plan of work for 2019.

São Tomé and Príncipe joined Forum Macau in March 2017, three months after re-establishing diplomatic relations with China.

Wealthy Chinese still beating path to UK even with Brexit woes

Tom Metcalf

POLITICAL gridlock and years of Brexit drama haven't dampened demand from wealthy Chinese for U.K. investor visas.

Chinese applications for Tier 1 investor visas rose 19 percent to 144 in 2018 from a year earlier, according to data obtained from the Home Office by private equity firm Growthdeck. The number applying has almost doubled since 2016, when the U.K. voted to leave the European Union.

Chinese comprised 63 percent of the 228 applications last year, up from half in 2017, according to Growthdeck. Hong Kong was second with 26.

The Home Office announced in early December it was temporarily suspending the visas to implement changes designed to tackle money laundering and organized crime. Less than a week later, it said it hadn't imposed the freeze, without explaining why.

"All applications are considered on their individual merits," a Home Office spokesman said in an emailed statement. "The Tier 1 route has been reformed to better protect the U.K. from illegally ob-



tained funds and ensure only genuine and law-abiding investors can secure visas."

Far from dissuading wealthy Chinese migrants, the uncertainty may have encouraged applications.

"During this period, we saw a near fourfold increase in account applications," said Farzin Yazdi, head of the investor visa offering at Shard Capital, which says it has helped with about a

third of all petitions.

U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May said last year that the government was reviewing the program after Labour Party lawmaker Yvette Cooper questioned the origin of money from 700 Russians granted the visas. The number of applicants fell sharply in 2015 after the government introduced anti-money-laundering checks and doubled the minimum investment for the permit

to 2 million pounds (USD2.6 million).

Since its December U-turn, the U.K. introduced changes last month that require applicants to prove that they've had control of the required 2 million pounds for at least two years, rather than 90 days under current rules, or provide evidence of the source of those funds. Investment in U.K. gilts are excluded from the plan.

The data show that applications from Russians fell by half to 24 in 2018. The U.K. has long been an appealing jurisdiction for ultra-rich Russians as a safe and stable place to do business, hold their wealth and educate their children - so much so that London has been nicknamed Londongrad.

The decline is the latest sign that such appeal may be fading after the government crackdown following the poisoning of a former Russian double-agent and his daughter last year on British soil. May retaliated by expelling dozens of suspected spies. Russian tycoon Roman Abramovich was among those caught up in the tension, with the British government declining to renew his visa. He has since received Israeli citizenship.

The U.K. remains an attractive haven for other nationalities. The slump in sterling has made U.K. assets cheap and other areas of the country's economy offer attractive investment opportunities, according to Samuel Hu, head of overseas investors at Growthdeck.

Government-backed immigration programs are common in other parts of the world. The U.S. offers EB-5 visas that let immigrants who create jobs stay permanently. Portugal has a golden visa program that allows foreign individuals to buy property valued at 500,000 euros (\$561,000) or more in return for residency. **Bloomberg**

Tewoo said to sell copper at below-market rates

ONE of China's top commodity traders, Tewoo Group, is selling copper at below market rates as it grapples with a liquidity crunch, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The company, which is owned by the local Tianjin government, is offloa-

ding some refined copper stocked in bonded zones as it unwinds financing deals with some banks, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the information isn't public. The metal is used as collateral in financing agreements or committed assets in so-called repur-

chase agreements with banks, they said.

The firm sold some copper to other trading houses at a premium of about USD10 per ton, the people said. That compares with the copper premium in Yangshan, or the fee payable on Chinese imports in addition to the

London Metal Exchange price, of \$54 a ton last week.

Tewoo has already sought support from its major creditors to extend debt maturities, asking lenders including Export-Import Bank of China and Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. to

convert some short-term liabilities at a meeting last week. An official from the Tianjin regional government pledged to inject assets and push forward a restructuring of the company.

At least 50,000 tons of refined copper, or 10 per-

cent of the country's total bonded inventory, were used by the company as collateral or assets for financing deals in the first quarter, according to the people.

Nobody answered calls and an email inquiry to Tewoo's media office. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM DONATES MOP300,000 TO CHARITY PROJECT



MGM donated MOP300,000 to the Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop project, financing the distribution of food hampers to over 360 local disadvantaged households.

Michelle Chiu, vice president of Human Resources of MGM, presented the donation check to Mr. António José de Freitas, president of the Board of Trustees of Macau Holy House of Mer-

cy, according to a statement issued by the gaming operator.

Nearly 40 Golden Lion volunteers took part in packing the daily necessities that included rice, noodles, canned food, oatmeal and cooking oil, into MGM's tailor-made eco-friendly handcars.

These hampers were distributed to the disadvantaged households referred by the Macao Federation of Trade Unions, General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macau, Holy House of Mercy, and the Associação dos Familiares Encarregados dos Deficientes Mentais de Macau.

Over the past seven years of supporting this project, MGM has contributed a total of MOP2 million benefiting 7,500 people.

SANDS CHINA EMPLOYEES EARN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT DIPLOMA



A group of 22 Sands China employees has completed the University of Macau's customized one-year Diplo-

ma Programme in Business Management - the fourth intake of staff to do so. Sands China Ltd. and the

University of Macau's Centre for Continuing Education recently honoured the group at a graduation ceremony at the university, according to a statement.

The graduating staff come from a variety of gaming and non-gaming departments at Sands China, including table games, facilities, concierge and others.

The diploma programme is both practical and adaptable by design, and has been tailor-made for Sands China employees.

The programme structure was adjusted this year based on the university's observation and study of previous cohorts of employees.

Coursework was also updated to align with the company's real-life business situations.

A UniCredit SpA employee in China allegedly siphoned off about 100 million yuan of clients' money over three years by taking advantage of shared passwords and other internal security loopholes, according to people familiar with the matter.

Local police and the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission were informed late last year, and the regulator will levy a penalty in the coming months, the people said, asking not to be identified because they aren't authorized to speak publicly. The CBIRC has shared information on the matter with other banks, one of the people said.

"UniCredit regrets this incident and apologizes to those affected. The safety and security of our clients' assets is our primary concern and all efforts have been made to ensure that a similar malicious incident cannot reoccur," a spokesman for the bank said, though he didn't provide further details. "The Group strictly complies with all rules and regulations in each market where it operates."

The CBIRC said in an emailed reply to queries that it has uncovered an incident involving a foreign bank employee misusing their position and powers of employment for embezzlement. It didn't identify the bank or the individual, and said it will disclose details and punishment at a later time.

The alleged fraud - one of the biggest among foreign banks in China - could become the latest headache for the Italian lender's Chief Executive Officer Jean Pierre Mustier, who took over about three years ago and inherited issues including a pile of

UniCredit's employee allegedly embezzled USD15 million



bad debt and possible sanctions violations.

UniCredit's employee in China allegedly used a group supervisor's password to access clients' accounts without authorization and fabricated transactions, the people said. The employee used the money to buy apartments in countries including the U.S., Greece and Japan, and intended to flip them at higher prices to repay UniCredit without raising any red flags, they said.

The employee allegedly confessed to the police after the bank

■ **The employee used the money to buy apartments in countries including the US, Greece and Japan**

detected that money was being illegally routed, they said. The people added that while Chinese banks have installed fingerprint and iris recognition technology in addition to password authorizations, UniCredit was still using only passwords.

While such a high-profile case is unusual for foreign lenders in China, their local counterparts have also seen recent scandals. State-owned Postal Savings Bank of China Co. was fined more than 90 million yuan last year when a branch mana-

ger misused 3 billion yuan of wealth management funds. An employee at a rural bank in the northern Jilin province embezzled 2.5 million yuan from seven clients to buy lottery tickets, according to the CBIRC.

The regulator's chairman, Guo Shuqing, last year intensified his campaign to root out wrongdoings among the nation's over 4,000 lenders by imposing record fines and removing senior executives. The agency had mostly focused on Chinese lenders. **Bloomberg**

Australian security adviser told writer not to fly to China

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

A security adviser to an Australian prime minister said he warned a Chinese-Australian writer not to travel to China before the blogger and critic of China's Communist Party was detained on arrival at a Chinese airport in January.

John Garnaut was commissioned in 2016 by then-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to write a classified report on Chinese influence on Australian politics, leading to sweeping laws in 2018 banning covert foreign political interference and a diplomatic rift between Australia and China, its biggest trading partner.

Garnaut told Australian Broadcasting Corp. in an interview broadcast yesterday that he advised spy novelist and friend Yang Hengjun not to travel to China after Yang revealed he had been questioned by a Chinese government official in Sydney in 2018 about Garnaut's investigation.

"He was asked about me, what was the nature of our relationship, what was I doing. What was I working on," Garnaut said.

Yang, a 53-year-old visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York and a former Chinese diplomat, did not take Garnaut's advice and flew to China with his wife, Xiaoliang Yuan,

and his 14-year-old stepdaughter.

Xiaoliang said she had not seen her husband since they were separated by Chinese officials when they landed at Guangzhou Airport on Jan. 19.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in January that Yang was "suspected of engaging in criminal activities endangering China's national security." He is being held in Beijing, where the Australian Embassy has been allowed consular access to him. ABC reported that Yang had yet to be formally charged.

The Australian government has urged China to treat Yang transparently and fairly.

Xiaoliang is living in Shanghai. She said she is not allowed to leave China and her husband has not seen a lawyer.

"I have absolutely no idea whether he is well or even if he is alive or not,"

■ **Yang was 'suspected of engaging in criminal activities endangering China's national security'**

she said through an interpreter.

"It gets harder as time passes, mainly because I can't see him. I would have felt better if the lawyers could see him and verify that he is all right," she added.

A friend of Yang, University of Technology Sydney academic Feng Chongyi, was detained for two weeks in 2017 while visiting China to research human rights lawyers.

Feng told ABC that he had been questioned for an entire day in detention about Garnaut's investigation. Feng said his interrogators had known Garnaut was working for the prime minister.

"They knew a lot about him. During the interrogation, they did not hide that they were angry with him," Feng said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said he had not seen the

ABC report. But Lu said the Chinese government had always opposed any interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

"As for activities carried out by Chinese embassies and consulates in other countries, these activities aim at promoting mutual understanding between China and the regions or countries where the diplomatic mission are based, and enhancing mutual understanding and friendship among the people, including serving as the bridge of cooperation between the business community of each other," Lu said.

"I did not see any difference between the activities carried out by Chinese embassies and consulates in other countries and those conducted by foreign diplomatic missions in China," he added. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Gov't, North Korea open new border crossing despite sanctions

Jon Herskovitz & Dandan Li

CHINA and North Korea opened a new border crossing over the Yalu River, signaling aspirations for deeper economic ties between the neighbors even as Pyongyang's trade remains crimped by international sanctions.

The border checkpoint at the foot of a new bridge opened yesterday, connecting the northeastern Chinese city of Jian with North Korea's Manpo, Chinese

state media reported. The China-DPRK Jian-Manpo highway connection is for passenger and cargo transport and hosts an advanced customs facility, the China News Service said.

The opening was marked by several tour buses crossing from the Chinese side and then returning from North Korea, the Yonhap News Agency of South Korea reported, citing a person familiar with the matter. The ceremony appeared to show that

local Chinese officials were ready to step up trade and exchanges with North Korea in response to its call for economic development, according to Yonhap.

China provides a lifeline to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his state has long been dependent on Beijing's help to keep its meager economy afloat. Kim's summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Hanoi broke down on Feb. 28 over sanctions that have cut Pyongyang off from

global commerce and were imposed on North Korea for its pursuit of a nuclear arsenal.

It was unclear how the new border checkpoint — the fourth between China and North Korea — would operate under the sanctions, which ban or limit a broad range of goods from moving in or out of the country. The South Korean Unification Ministry declined to comment.

The economic penalties are expected to be a main topic of

discussion when South Korean President Moon Jae-in meets Trump at the White House on Thursday. Moon, a long-time advocate of reconciliation with North Korea, has repeatedly played the role of mediator since he took office in May 2017 amid escalating threats of war between Trump and Kim.

The Manpo border area has drawn the attention of North Korea for years, with Kim's father and former leader, Kim Jong Il, crossing there in 2010 in one of his rare trips outside the country, the Chosun newspaper of South Korea reported at the time. In the 2010 trip, Kim Jong Il visited the school his father and North Korean state founder Kim Il Sung attended on the Chinese side when he was a child.

China and North Korea agreed to embark on the bridge project in 2012 and completed construction in 2016, Yonhap reported. The opening was delayed by UN Security Council sanctions imposed on North Korea.

In 2017, China's overall trade with North Korea declined by more than 10 percent to about USD5 billion, as Trump secured Beijing's backing for four escalating rounds of sanctions in response to North Korea nuclear weapons program testing.

While official trade with China has slowed, North Korea has turned to other methods to evade sanctions, with a main source of activity being illegal high-seas cargo transfers with North Korean vessels, the U.S. and UN Security Council said in reports in March. **Bloomberg**

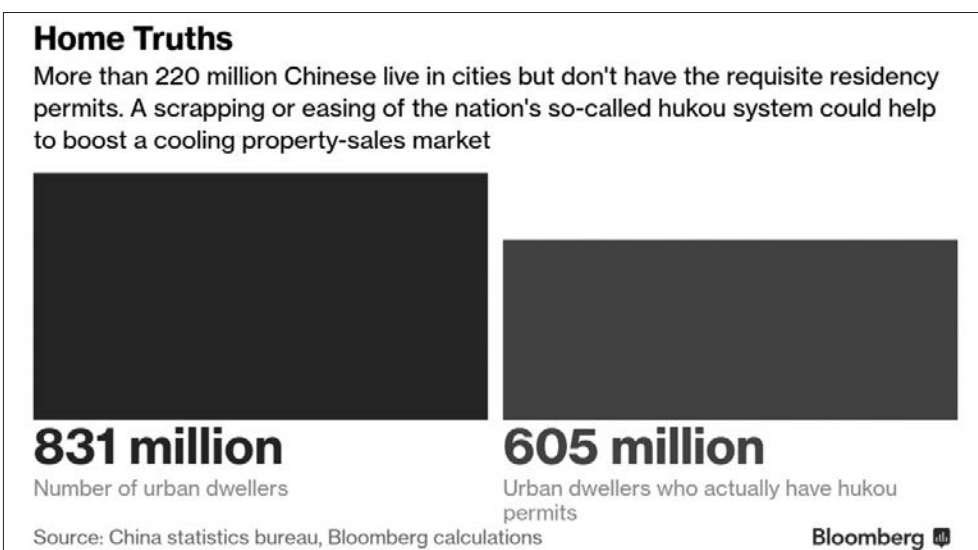
REAL ESTATE

Cooling property market boosted as 'hukou' hurdles eased

CHINA'S latest step to encourage 100 million rural citizens to move to cities may provide a timely boost to a slowing property market.

Cities with an urban population of between 1 million to 3 million should scrap the residency registration system - known as hukou - this year, the National Development and Reform Commission said yesterday. Cities with a population of 3 million to 5 million should substantially ease residency requirements.

Reforming the 60-year-old hukou system, akin to an internal passport that determines where people can live and work, may help equalize what is now one of the world's biggest gaps between rural and urban per-capita incomes. The move may also help



boost housing demand in smaller cities, underpinning property prices.

"It's good news for property markets in mid-to-small cities near a large hub," said Van Liu, an analyst at Guotai Junan International Co. "It will also offset the blow from

slower shantytown redevelopments this year."

Municipal authorities across China had used the hukou system to curb property speculation when prices were surging - either by banning purchases by someone without a hukou or limiting the

number of properties they could buy.

However, more than 50 cities have eased hukou restrictions this year as part of a "stealth easing" now that prices are cooling, according to Zhang Dawei, an analyst at Centaline Group. **Bloomberg**

Parent of appliance maker plans USD6.4b stake sale

THE parent company of Gree Electric Appliances Inc. is considering selling almost all of its stake in the Zhuhai-based Chinese appliance giant in a deal that could be worth up to 43 billion yuan.

A 15 percent stake will be sold at a price no less than the average stock price of the last 30 trading days, Gree Electric said in a statement to the Shenzhen stock exchange yesterday. The company did not identify the buyer of the stake.

Parent Gree Group held 18.22 percent of Gree Electric as of the end of September, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. At its present valuation of

284 billion yuan, a 15 percent stake in Gree Electric would be worth 42.6 billion yuan.

The transaction will lead to a change of ownership in the refrigerators and air conditioners maker and Gree Group is still studying the proposal, said the statement. As Gree Group is controlled by the local government, the deal will require approval from the state assets regulator, it said. Gree Electric is one of China's biggest appliance makers.

Gree Electric shares will resume trading today, after being suspended last Monday. Shares were trading at 47.21 yuan when the halt was called. **Bloomberg**

NEW ZEALAND

Official calls Facebook 'morally bankrupt'

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

NEW Zealand's official privacy watchdog yesterday described Facebook as "morally bankrupt" and suggested his country follow neighboring Australia's lead by making laws that could jail executives over streamed violence such as the Christchurch mosque shootings.

Privacy Commissioner John Edwards has been critical of Facebook's response to a gunman using the platform to livestream some of the slaughter of 50 worshippers and the wounding of 50 more at two mosques on March 15.

Edwards made his comments after Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg recently rejected calls to introduce a delay in his livestreaming service Facebook Live, saying it would interfere with the interactivity of livestreaming.

"Facebook cannot be trusted. They are morally bankrupt pathological liars who enable genocide [Myanmar], facilitate foreign undermining of democratic institutions," Edwards

posted on Twitter.

Facebook has been criticized for not doing enough to police hate speech in Myanmar, where a government campaign against minority Rohingya Muslims has been described by the UN as ethnic cleansing. The platform has also been at the center of claims that Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Facebook responded to Edward's post with a statement that said its chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, had recently shared the policy and technical steps the company was taking to strengthen the rules for using Facebook Live, address hate on Facebook platforms and support the New Zealand community.

"We are deeply committed to strengthening our policies, improving our technology and working with experts to keep Facebook safe," the statement said.

Edwards, who is tasked with protecting New Zealanders' personal information according to the country's Privacy Act, said that governments needed to

AP PHOTO



come together and "force the platforms to find a solution" to the problem of livestreaming of atrocities like the Christchurch slayings as well as suicides and rapes.

"It may be that regulating, as Australia has done just in the last week, would be a good interim way to get their attention and say: 'Unless you can demonstrate the safety of these services, you simply can't use them,'" Edwards told Radio NZ.

Edwards regards himself as

an advocate for Christchurch victims who had their right to privacy violated by having their deaths broadcast via Facebook to the world in real time.

His office said the privacy commissioner had taken to making his criticism of Facebook about its lack of livestreaming safeguards public "because he has few other options."

"Under the current Privacy Act, his office has no penalties it can impose on global tech companies like Facebook," the

commissioner's office said in a statement.

"His only resort is to publicly name Facebook for not ensuring its livestreaming service is a safe platform which does not compound the original harm caused by the Christchurch killings," the statement added.

The Australian Parliament on Thursday passed some of the most restrictive laws about online communication in the democratic world.

It is now a crime in Australia for social media platforms not to quickly remove "abhorrent violent material." The crime would be punishable by three years in prison and a fine of 10.5 million Australian dollars (USD7.5 million), or 10 percent of the platform's annual turnover, whichever is larger.

The Digital Industry Group Inc. — an association representing the digital industry in Australia including Facebook, Google and Twitter — said taking down abhorrent content was a "highly complex problem" that required consultation with a range of experts, which the government had not done. **AP**

AD



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Korean Air boss dies weeks after board removal over scandals

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

KOREAN Air's chairman, whose leadership included scandals such as his daughter's infamous incident of "nut rage," has died due to illness, the company said yesterday.

Cho Yang-ho had been indicted on multiple charges, including embezzlement and tax evasion, and his death came two weeks after shareholders voted to remove the 70-year-old from the company's board over a series of scandals surrounding his family. Cho's death will likely force a court to dismiss his criminal case.

The company said in a statement that Cho died at a hospital in Los Angeles but did not specify his illness or provide other details. Cho had remained chairman, which is a non-board role, even after shareholders ousted him from the board. He had expressed his intent to continue participating in management.

A senior Korean Air executive said Cho had been receiving treatment for an unspecified lung illness since late last year and that his condition "worsened rapidly" following the shareholder vote, apparently because of shock and stress. The executive didn't want to be named, citing office rules.

Korean Air's corporate flag and the South Korean flag were flown half-staff at the company's headquarters in downtown Seoul.

Cho's eldest daughter, Cho Hyun-ah, who was formerly the head of the airline's cabin service, received worldwide notoriety in 2014 after she ordered a Korean Air passenger plane to return to a terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York because she was angry that the crew served her macadamia nuts in a bag instead of on a plate.



The incident, dubbed "nut rage," generated international headlines and severely tarnished the Cho family's image, while highlighting broader concerns about the sense of entitlement among the moneyed elite in South Korea.

Cho Hyun-ah was sentenced to one year in prison for violating aviation law but was released early when a higher-level court suspended the sentence.

The Cho family also faced intense criticism after company employees alleged they were subjected to mistreatment and tantrums.

Cho's wife was summoned last May by South Korean police to question her about allegations that she abused and assaulted employees. Lee Myung-hee was accused of physically or verbally abusing more than 10 former and current employees of Korean Air's parent company.

Cho's younger daughter,

Cho Hyun-min, also was investigated by state prosecutors for potential assault for allegedly hurling a cup of water during a business meeting. No charges were filed.

Before his reputation was hit by scandals, Cho Yang-ho, who led Korean Air since 1992, had been credited for overseeing the company's growth into one of Asia's biggest airlines. Korean Air, which began in 1969 with eight planes, now operates 166 aircraft with international flights to 111 cities in 43 countries.

Cho was also the chairman of the Hanjin Group, a global transportation conglomerate of dozens of companies that includes the airline. He was also the co-chairman of the Korea-U.S. Business Council and vice chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries.

He was involved in the bidding process and preparations for the 2018 Win-

ter Olympics held in South Korea's ski resort town of Pyeongchang and headed the Olympic organizing committee for two years before stepping down in 2016.

His condition 'worsened rapidly' following the shareholder vote

Cho's resignation was initially described as voluntary, but he later said he left the committee under "unjust" pressure from the government of former conservative President Park Geun-hye. The committee had rejected an Olympic construction deal for a Swiss company that reportedly had a business partnership with Choi Soon-sil, a longtime friend and mentor of Park.

Park is now serving a lengthy prison term over multiple corruption charges.

South Korean prosecutors indicted Cho last October on multiple charges, including evading taxes and pocketing tens of millions of dollars through embezzlement and breach of trust. His trial had been expected to begin in the coming weeks.

Cho was previously convicted of tax evasion in 2000, facing charges with his father and brother. The Chos were charged with receiving millions in rebates when they purchased airplanes from Boeing and Airbus and evading taxes on the money. The tax probe came after the country's president criticized Korean Air's poor safety record.

The Cho family scandals have increased public criticism about South Korea's "chaebol," a privileged group of family-owned conglomerates that have been tied to corruption and exploitive behavior.

Korean Air shareholders' successful removal of Cho from the company's board was seen as a milestone in a country that has been long criticized for its lax enforcement of corporate-governance rules on large companies.

Analysts also saw the vote's outcome as a positive sign that Korean Air would finally be able to keep its "owner risk" under control after Cho's unchecked reign had damaged the company's value and reputation.

The stock price of Hanjin-KAL, the holding company of the Hanjin Group, rose by more than 20 percent on Monday. Shares of Korean Air and other Hanjin affiliates, including Jin Air, also rose modestly.

Current South Korean President Moon Jae-in has vowed to curb the excesses of the chaebol. However, bad economic news appears to have softened the government's approach to these companies, which dominate the country's economy and are crucial to Moon's plans for job creation.

Cho is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters and five grandchildren. **AP**

INDIA

Ruling party releases manifesto days before election

INDIA'S ruling party released its election manifesto yesterday, three days before the start of a multi-phase general election in the world's largest democracy.

Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi and other leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party hoping to return to power for a second five-year term laid out their platform, emphasizing national security and economic development.

The BJP manifesto opened with an entreaty from Modi for voters' "valued blessings."

Modi said the document described the path for India to "move from being a developing country to

a developed country" by 2047, asking, "If the 21st century is Asia's century, should India lead it or not? Can we or can we not?"

Several other ministers in the BJP-led govern-

ment spoke on Monday, including the finance minister, Arun Jaitley, who said that the government "wants to expedite the path of progress."

Jaitley also cited an Indian airstrike against an

alleged terrorist camp in Pakistan after a suicide bomber killed 40 Indian soldiers in disputed Kashmir in February as proof that the incumbents have taken a hard stand against terrorism. **AP**

DIPLOMACY

Putin hosts Turkey's Erdogan to discuss Syria, ties

Vladimir Isachenkov, Moscow

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin yesterday hosted his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for talks expected to focus on the situation in Syria, the sale of Russian missiles to Turkey and other economic deals.

Greeting Erdogan at the start of their talks at the Kremlin in Moscow, Putin said they will discuss the delivery of Russia's most advanced S-400 air defense missile systems to Turkey, a move that has vexed the U.S. government, Turkey's NATO partner.

Turkey's purchase of the Russian missiles marked the first such contract for a NATO member. Turkey has ignored U.S. demands to abandon the agreement, and Erdogan said Friday that deliveries of the S-400s will begin in July.

The Turkish leader noted that Washington had offered Ankara the U.S.-made Patriot air defense system, but said the U.S. offer is not as favorable as Russia's.

The U.S. and other NATO allies say the S-400s aren't compatible with the alliance's weapons systems. Washington has voiced concerns that their use by Turkey could compromise security of the state-of-the-art U.S. F-35 fighter jets that Turkey stands to receive.

Last week, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence warned Turkey that it was risking its NATO membership and its participation in the F-35 program by failing to cancel the missile contract with Russia.

Putin and Erdogan said in

remarks at the talks that they will also discuss the completion of a pipeline that will carry Russian gas to Turkey, the planned construction of a major electric plant and other economic projects.

Erdogan said the number of Russian tourists who visited Turkey last year reached 6 million, a record high.

Putin and Erdogan have developed a close personal rapport and held regular meetings. Erdogan addressed Putin as "my dear friend," saying that the two countries plan to expand the annual volume of their trade, currently at about USD25 billion, to \$100 billion.

The Russian president said the talks will help deepen the "advanced, multi-faceted partnership" between the two countries.

Russia and Turkey also have closely coordinated moves on Syria, where they struck a deal in September to create a security zone in the northern province of Idlib. That agreement averted a Syrian army offensive that sparked fears of a humanitarian catastrophe.

Russia and Iran have thrown their support behind Syrian President Bashar Assad, while Turkey has backed his foes during the eight-year war. Despite that, the three countries have teamed up to broker a peace deal for Syria, united by their shared desire to undercut U.S. clout in the region.

Russia and Turkey have opposed the U.S. military presence in Syria and welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of a planned pullout of American troops. **AP**

AP PHOTO



UN: Fighting for Libya's capital has displaced 2,800 people

Rami Musa & Samy Magdy, Benghazi

FIGHTING between rival forces over Libya's capital that began last week has displaced 2,800 people so far, the U.N. said yesterday as the death toll climbed to 49, including civilians.

The violence, triggered by a Libyan commander whose forces advanced on Tripoli and clashed with rival militias supporting the U.N.-backed government there, has threatened to ignite civil war on the scale of the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

The U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Libya, Maria do Valle Ribeiro, said the clashes have prevented emergency services from reaching casualties and civilians, and have damaged electricity lines.

The increased violence is also worsening the situation for migrants held in detention centers in the Libyan capital, she warned.

Fighting was underway at Tripoli's shuttered international airport, some 24 kilometers from central Tripoli.

Ahmed Musbah, a resident who lives near the area, said he could hear shooting coming from the direction of the town of Bin Ghashir, south of the airport. "The

sound of fighting seems to be closing in," he said.

The self-styled Libyan National Army, led by Khalifa Hifter, said Saturday it seized the area. However, the militias supporting the U.N.-backed government in Tripoli claimed they recaptured the facility. The airport has not been functioning since fighting in 2014 destroyed much of it.

■ The increased violence is also worsening the situation for migrants held in detention centers

The Health Ministry of the Tripoli-based government said at least 27 people, including civilians, were killed and at least 27 wounded since Thursday, when Hifter forces began their offensive against the capital.

The media office of Hifter's army said 22 of their troops had been killed since the offensive began.

The U.N. envoy for Libya, Ghassan Salame, said he met with Fayez Sarraj,

head of the government in Tripoli to discuss how the U.N. mission "can assist at this critical and difficult juncture."

Since Gadhafi's ouster, oil-rich Libya has been gripped by unrest, governed by rival authorities in the east and in Tripoli, in the west, each backed by various militias and armed groups fighting over resources and territory.

In Cairo, Agila Saleh, head of Libya's east-based parliament, voiced support for Hifter's offensive and the Libya National Army, saying that militias have been "hijacking" the capital.

"The Libyan army moved towards Tripoli with one goal, to free Tripoli from armed militias," he told reporters after his meeting with the Arab League's secretary-general, Ahmed About Gheit.

On Sunday, Marine Corps Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, the head of U.S. Africa Command said the United States has temporarily withdrawn some of its forces from Libya due to "security conditions on the ground."

A small contingent of American troops has been in Libya in recent years, helping local forces combat the Islamic State group and al-Qaida militants, as well as protecting diplomatic facilities. **AP**

AP PHOTO



what's ON



INK PAINTINGS BY YU JIAN
 TIME: 11am-7pm
 UNTIL: April 30, 2019
 VENUE: Macau Military Club
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 28727066

2019 BRAND STORY – MACAO ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION II
 TIME: 10am-8pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
 UNTIL: June 23, 2019
 VENUE: Macao Fashion Gallery
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

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

Offbeat

SPECTATOR CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING WWE STAR BRET HART



Authorities say a spectator faces assault and trespassing charges after tackling wrestler Bret "The Hitman" Hart while he was giving a speech during the WWE Hall of Fame ceremony in Brooklyn.

Bail was set at USD1,500 for Zachary Madsen of Lincoln, Nebraska at a hearing yesterday [Macau time]. The judge also issued orders of protection barring Madsen from approaching Hart, who wasn't hurt, and a security worker.

Other wrestlers helped subdue the attacker. Hart resumed his speech.

Prosecutors said in court that Madsen told police that he "felt like it was right moment" to go after the wrestling legend.

His lawyer said Madsen is "agreeable and cooperative" and has no criminal convictions.

WWE described Madsen as "an over-exuberant fan." Madsen had a previous run-in with a fighter in Lincoln.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:15	Conversa da Treta
16:40	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	Estórias do Tempo da Outra Senhora
18:30	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	Escritores a Norte - Vidas com Obra em Casas D'Escritas
22:30	Filhos da Nação Sr.2
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Uma História de Autonomia
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo
03:00	Liga dos Campeões: Liverpool - Porto (Directo)
05:00	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



1976 YOUNG LIBERAL LEADER CLEARED OF ROBBERY

The president of the Young Liberals, Peter Hain, has been acquitted of stealing £490 from a branch of Barclays bank last October.

Supporters in the public gallery at the Old Bailey in London clapped and cheered as the verdict was announced.

The case is certain to raise new doubts about the validity of eye-witness identification.

The only evidence presented against Mr Hain, a postgraduate student at Sussex university, was his identification by three schoolboys and a bank cashier.

The schoolboys, who chased the thief, only saw him from a distance and a fourth boy said it was not Mr Hain.

The cashier was the only person from a number of bank staff and customers to pick Mr Hain, 26, from a police identity parade staged three days after the robbery.

During the trial members of Peter Hain's family testified he had not left his home in time to commit the robbery.

The thief was also said to have been wearing different clothing from that of Mr Hain on the day of the robbery.

Speaking to reporters after his acquittal, Mr Hain said he planned a campaign for other victims of mistaken identity.

He said it was possible South African agents may have used a "double" to frame him because of his anti-apartheid activities.

"I think there is plenty of reason to suspect that there might have been a frame-up but it is nothing substantial," he said.

Peter Hain's family left South Africa ten years ago because of their opposition to apartheid.

Mr Hain has since been prominent in anti-apartheid activities in the UK.

Four years ago he was sent a letter bomb that failed to explode because of faulty wiring.

In the House of Commons six MPs, led by Liberal David Steel, called for the resignation of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Norman Skelhorn, over the Hain case.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

At the time of Peter Hain's acquittal there had already been several well-publicised cases of mistaken identity.

In 1974 the government had set up a committee, chaired by Lord Devlin, to examine the law and procedures relating to identification evidence. A critical report by Lord Devlin published in 1977 recommended statutory safeguards but the government took no action.

However, the Court of Appeal laid down detailed guidelines for trial judges in cases depending largely on eye-witness evidence.

Peter Hain later wrote a book about his ordeal, the Putney Plot.

He left the Liberals in 1977 and joined the Labour party.

He has been the MP for Neath in south Wales since 1991 and a government minister since shortly after Labour's election win in 1997.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to start something new today - it's in your blood. Try to dig deeply into your well of ideas, as there's a good one that's been dormant for far too long. Push forward and have fun!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today is all about communication, so make sure that you're keeping the flow moving with grace and speed. You should find that it's easier than ever to pass along the most important info.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You just aren't sure what to think - which is a rarity for you! It's a good time to let things proceed on their own while you try to make up your mind one way or the other. Let the process go on its own.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to deal with an important personal issue today. Don't panic - it's not the end of the world; in fact, you should find that you've got what it takes to turn it into a real asset!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're feeling a sense of power and control that may be new to you. It's a great time for you to get your people to rally around a new cause or to just cease fire long enough to celebrate something wonderful.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've got to get better organized - and yes, that is possible! See if you can get your people to rally around a cleaning effort, or maybe you could just tackle your filing system once and for all.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The smaller things in life are more important than you realize today - so make sure that you're focused on the details! It may be hard with everything going on in your life, but it's a mental health break.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Control is a problem for you, and today you have a new opportunity to let go. See if you can find a good way to just ease into your new situation without having to know everything ahead of time.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You and your colleagues or family members are out of sync, but it's not the end of the world. You just need to step up and make sure that they don't see this rough patch as a symbol of anything bad.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to avoid the temptation to take offense today - someone lets fly with a comment that can be taken in many different ways. You are much better off assuming they mean it to be harmless.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to get out in the world and work your muscles! Some kind of exercise is vital - but don't overdo it, of course! You just need to make sure that you're on top of your fitness.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Try not to worry too much about your romantic situation today - you are in a good place, and whether you're single or seeing someone, you can expect things to get a lot better by the end of the day!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Ottoman title; 6- Very funny!; 10- Play opener; 14- Extra-terrestrial being; 15- Biol. branch; 16- 554, in stone; 17- Tiny amounts; 18- Mob scene; 19- Give an edge to; 20- Haunt of Robin Hood; 23- Small batteries; 24- Actor Byrnes; 25- Bard's before; 26- Lode load; 27- Tramway vehicle; 32- Early late-night host; 35- Dolphins' home; 36- ___ rule; 37- Like afterschool activities; 41- On Soc. Sec.; 42- Aromatic fragrance; 43- Mont Blanc, par exemple; 44- Excess; 46- Levi's rival; 48- Originally named; 49- Amigo; 50- Palm Pilot, e.g.; 53- One purpose of a driver's license; 58- Med. school class; 59- Blue dye; 60- Anklebone; 61- Decline; 62- Yield; 63- Uneven; 64- ___'acte (intermission); 65- Prepared to drive; 66- Hinder; DOWN: 1- Monetary unit of India; 2- Hawaiian greeting; 3- Locations; 4- Get wind of; 5- Reply; 6- Biblical king; 7- Etcher's need; 8- Foot of a horse; 9- Choir member; 10- Stick (to); 11- Narrow escape; 12- Windshield feature; 13- ___ Got a Secret; 21- Poetic paeon; 22- Memento; 26- Bruin legend; 27- About; 28- Swiss river; 29- ASCAP alternative; 30- Quickly, quickly; 31- Describes a gently cooked steak; 32- Cop's collar; 33- Skater's jump; 34- Servant; 35- The Ghost and Mrs. ___; 38- White as a ghost; 39- USN rank; 40- Abu Dhabi's fed.; 45- Wobble; 46- Fond du ___, Wisconsin; 47- On cloud nine; 49- Heaped; 50- Guide; 51- Drench; 52- Goose genus; 53- ___ uproar; 54- Mediator's skill; 55- Arrow poison; 56- Bona ___; 57- Shipping deduction; 58- Admiration;

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



Real estate advertisement for 'The KEY to happiness is finding the KEY to the right home' with an image of a person holding a key.

Real estate advertisement for 'Property of the Week' featuring 'THE MANHATTAN' with a photo of a modern apartment interior.

Real estate advertisement for 'FOR SALE' listing properties in Taipa and Macau.

Real estate advertisement for 'FOR SALE' listing properties in Taipa and Macau.

Real estate advertisement for 'jml property' with contact information and social media links.

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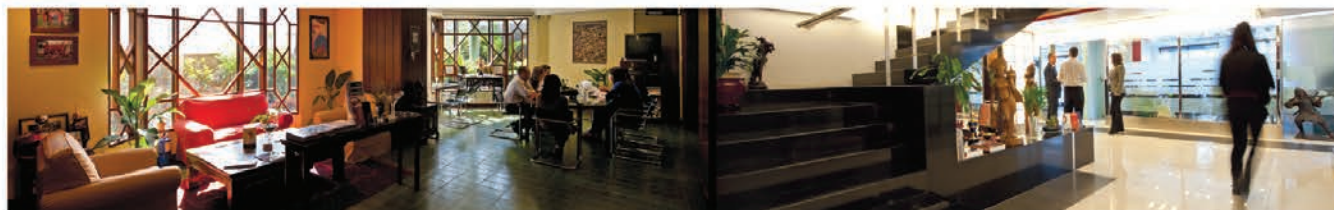
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FOOTBALL

Juventus set to break more records with title one point away

Daniella Matar, Milan

JUVENTUS is set to break a slew of records in Serie A — again.

The team's 2-1 win over AC Milan this weekend, coupled with Napoli's draw against 10-man Genoa, has left Juventus needing only one point to secure a record-extending eighth straight Serie A title.

That should be more than doable at relegation-threatened Spal on Saturday, even with the exertions of a midweek trip to Amsterdam for the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals against Ajax.

If Juventus does get the point it needs at Spal, the team would become the first Italian club to clinch the title with six matches to spare. The previous record of five matches was set by Torino in 1947-48 and matched by Fiorentina in 1955-56 and Inter Milan in 2006-07.

"Winning eight titles in a row isn't easy," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "I hear talk of a title race that is not very interesting but it is more credit to Juventus than lack of credit to the others."

"Napoli is doing what it should be to win it, and should be congratulated. But I think even more compliments should be given to Juve, because we have gone above and beyond."

It will be Allegri's fifth league title in as many years in charge of Juventus, continuing the streak started



AP PHOTO

under predecessor Antonio Conte.

No club in Europe's top five leagues has won eight in a row. Lyon came close, winning seven straight French league titles.

If Juventus ends the season with at least six victories and a draw, it will finish with 103 points, surpassing the all-time Serie A record of 102 points it set in 2013-14. If it wins all its remaining matches it would have won 34 out of 38 games, breaking another one of the records it set that season.

JUVENTUS 2, AC MILAN 1

AC Milan's dismal record at Juventus continued, but perhaps it shouldn't have.

Milan hasn't beaten Juventus in Turin since 2011, when current Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso scored the winner for a team which was then led by now Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri.

However, Milan sporting director Leonardo has lashed out at what he called "very clear refereeing errors," adding that "the referee was inadequate."

The focus of Milan's ire was a penalty which was not given, with the score still 0-0, despite Alex Sandro stopping Hakan Calhanoglu's cross with his arm. After reviewing the play, referee Michael Fabbri decided it was involuntary.

"It's the seventh year that Milan haven't left a match against Juventus in Turin with points," Gattuso said. "There have been some refereeing mistakes but also mistakes that we could have avoided ourselves."

"We could have been better, but also luckier [...] I

don't know who decided not to give a penalty but I'm not looking for excuses."

The call could prove costly for Milan's chances of qualifying for next year's Champions League. It still occupies the final berth but is above Atalanta on its head-to-head record, while Roma and Lazio are just behind.

There are three points separating Milan in fourth and seventh-place Lazio, which has a match in hand. The two meet at San Siro on Saturday.

INTER MILAN 0, ATALANTA 0

For a brief moment yesterday [Macau time], Inter Milan fans turned their ire from Mauro Icardi to Mario Balotelli.

Balotelli was at the San Siro to watch his former team's 0-0 draw against Atalanta. When he was shown on the big screen, he was resoundingly jeered.

Icardi had a mixed reception in his first appearance at home since early February, after ending a nearly two-month standoff at Genoa on Wednesday.

There was applause from some sections and boos from others when Icardi's name was read out, while a banner was displayed with the words "welcome back captain."

Icardi has been stripped of the captaincy amid protracted contract negotiations.

There were also chants against him from a section of hardcore fans, but they were jeered by the rest of the stadium. **AP**

RUGBY

Fiji wins record 5th straight Hong Kong Sevens

FIJI extended its record winning run in Hong Kong Sevens rugby to a fifth successive title after beating France 21-7 in the final on Sunday night.

Fiji led 14-0 at halftime after tries by Vilimoni Botitu and Aminiasi Tuimaba. But they were challenged after the break when France received a penalty try and Josua Vakurinabili was sent to the sin-bin for a high tackle that prevented Gabin Villiere from scoring.

France, appearing in a second straight world series

final for the first time, saw its advantage last briefly, as Tavite Veredamu was deemed guilty of the same infringement on Paula Dranisnikula to make it six on six.

Tuimaba made the most of the extra space to score again in front of the sellout crowd and seal the result. Fiji has won seven of the last eight finals in Hong Kong, the biggest annual sevens event.

Fiji beat Argentina 29-24 in the quarterfinals and disposed of world series leader

the United States 28-19 in the semifinals.

The win lifted Fiji above New Zealand to second in the series standings, seven points behind the U.S. with three rounds to go. South Africa was fourth. The top four at the end of the series qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

France beat New Zealand 14-12 in the quarterfinals, and topped Samoa 19-12 in the semifinals to reach its first Hong Kong final.

The series moves to Singapore next weekend. **AP**



AP PHOTO

Fiji's Aminiasi Tuimaba (right) is tackled by France's Paul Bonnefond during the final match at the Hong Kong Sevens

opinion

Our Desk

Lynzy Valles



NEW REGULATION SHOULDN'T BE A BURDEN AFTER ALL

The new regulation for overseas Filipino workers to acquire an overseas employment certificate have caused anger, frustration and criticism amongst the community for the past two weeks.

The new measure is a memorandum circular from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) that states guidelines on the processing of returning overseas Filipino workers in accordance with its rules and regulations.

Heavily reported on media outlets in the SAR, the move is criticized as it had allegedly caused trouble for some employees due to the fact that they have to acquire a number of documents from their employers, which includes personal data – something that does not sit well with some due to privacy concern.

This move was said to protect migrant workers in the region – which I personally agree with.

Yet main reason why these foreign workers have been criticizing the new measure was because they are aware that employers are not used to handling something that would protect them and their rights.

The new measure includes the need for employers to sign an addendum that would require employers to cover the cost in case of repatriation – another signatory that would bother employers as they may not be used to having a standard agreement that actually involves being accountable in case anything happens to the employee.

Upon having all these documents, the office can officially verify their labor contracts.

These guidelines are not new back in the Philippines as the proper way to get a job abroad was to go through POEA – with the bureau assisting with contracts and other requirements that a departing employee would need.

However, the case is not similar in Macau as the majority of these workers are hired in the SAR on tourist visas – thus accept any conditions that employers offer.

Therefore, these guidelines – requiring the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices to verify the documents of workers not previously registered with the POEA – serve as a hassle to these workers.

One of the requirements is a working contract – something that not all migrant workers have; and something that some employers would refuse to provide, as they may have not complied with what was written in the signed contract.

Although, admittedly, I agree that all these new requirements are time-consuming to acquire, the blame should not be put on the consulate as these memorandums have only been disseminated by the Philippine government.

The problem magnifies when the community rants on social media, telling stories of stories, which in the end confuse these workers on what is actually being implemented.

This then led to major confusion amongst the community – doubting whether or not they are also required to do the same procedure; when in fact such regulation also has exclusions.

I believe the main problem just lies within what we were used to – the easy system of employment in the city.

Involving the employer in these measures is something that both parties are not used to, as well as including them in the responsibility in case something happens to their workers is something that troubles them.

And the problem that arises for employers? Of course, it would be the fact that some do not follow what is written in the contract – whether it is in regards to pay, working place and most especially, working hours.

We all know that employment contracts, particularly for domestic workers, are just a number of papers submitted to the labor bureau for official purposes. Maybe what we need are just more employers who are willing to bear responsibilities that are rightfully theirs.

THE BRAZIL ARMY SHOOTS FAMILY CAR; BUZZ KILLS FATHER

The Brazilian army is investigating the death of a man in Rio de Janeiro whose car was hit by 80 shots fired by members of the armed forces.

Authorities say soldiers mistook the car driven by 46-year-old Evaldo dos Santos Rosa for that of criminals. Rosa was killed and his wife's stepfather wounded. Relatives say his wife, 7-year-old son and another woman were unharmed.

The army initially said it had responded to gunfire from attackers yesterday [Macau time]. But police say no arms were found in the car and the military eventually changed its statement.

Police say all evidence points to a homicide. New President Jair Bolsonaro has vowed to unleash the security forces to battle the country's rampant crime and violence.

GAMING ALERT

Tribes emerge as key players in debate over sports betting



Navajo Nation's Twin Arrows Casino, east of Flagstaff, Arizona

Steve Kamowski & Geoff Mulvihill, St. Paul (Minn.)

NATIVE American tribes have emerged as key players in the legislative debates over whether states should legalize sports betting, with some opposing the idea because it could threaten their casinos and others supporting legalization but only if they retain a monopoly.

In many states, tribes are fighting sports betting or taking a go-slow approach because they worry it could force them to reopen decades-old agreements that give them exclusive rights to operate casinos and offer certain forms of gambling.

"The tribes have a major-league seat at the table," said Bill Pascrell III, a lobbyist for gambling interests seeking legalized sports betting across the country.

Six states have joined Nevada in allowing sports gambling since a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year opened the door to its expansion, and legalization is being considered in more than 20 other states.

In Minnesota, a bill seeking to legalize sports betting cleared its first hurdle earlier this year, passing a committee in the state Senate. But that's likely to be as far as the measure goes, in large part because the state's politically potent tribes oppose it.

Gambling "is the only successful economic development tool the tribes have ever had," John McCarthy, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association, told the committee.

The tribes, which operate 21 casinos and have given millions in campaign donations, are especially concer-

ned about allowing sports betting on mobile devices, which they fear could invite wider internet gambling that could threaten their casinos.

In Texas, the only sports betting bill is almost certain to die. It was introduced by a Democrat, the minority party, in a state where casino operators from neighboring Oklahoma and Louisiana have donated millions to keep gambling out. Two Oklahoma tribes, the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations, have given more than USD5 million to Texas officeholders and candidates since 2006.

Gambling 'is the only successful economic development tool the tribes have ever had'

Sports betting measures introduced in Arizona and Washington state are also considered longshots, mostly because of tribal ambivalence or opposition.

In some states where tribal gambling is prevalent, sports betting bills have not been introduced at all. That's the case in Oklahoma, as well as California and Florida, which are home to politically influential tribes that have been cool to the idea.

But elsewhere, casino-operating tribes are the ones leading the legalization efforts.

The Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes have exclusive rights to casino gam-

bling in Connecticut and are working with the governor's office to add sportsbooks. Two tribal casinos in New Mexico began running sportsbooks after the Supreme Court decision, even though the tribes never received explicit permission from the state.

In North Carolina, a bill pushed by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians would allow the tribe to offer betting on sports and horse races at its casino near Great Smoky Mountains National Park, without forcing it to make any substantial concessions.

Conservative religious groups have warned about the dangers of more gambling, but the legislation has so far sailed through committees in the state Senate. The tribe is one of the state's top political contributors.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Sen. Jim Davis, lauded the tribe for bringing jobs to an otherwise distressed portion of western North Carolina.

"They've been incredibly good stewards of the revenue, and it's transforming that community," he said.

Like other powerful interest groups, tribes ensure they have access to lawmakers and governors through political contributions. Tribal governments have contributed more than \$114 million to state-level candidates and political committees over the past decade, according to an Associated Press analysis of data compiled by the National Institute on Money in Politics.

In some states, including California, allowing sports betting would probably require a constitutional amendment. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



AFGHANISTAN A top Afghan official says he supports U.S. efforts to pursue a cease-fire with the Taliban, who effectively control half of Afghanistan and refuse to negotiate with his government. Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah (pictured) shares power with President Ashraf Ghani in a U.S.-brokered unity government.



BRAZIL The administration of President Bolsonaro (pictured) is considering a dramatic change in the council that oversees the country's environmental policy, replacing a broad-based panel of independent voices with a small group of political appointees, according to documents obtained by AP.



EU Euroskeptic populist parties, led by Italy's hardline interior minister, Matteo Salvini (third), formed a new and expanded right-wing alliance that aims to become the strongest faction in the European Parliament and seeks to radically transform EU policies on migration, security, family and environment.



SUDAN Security forces attempted to break up an anti-government sit-in outside the military headquarters in Khartoum, setting off clashes in which a soldier was killed while trying to protect protesters, activists said. Thousands also rallied in front of the compound in Khartoum over the weekend.