



MOP43m SPENT ON NEW CIVIL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT
The government spent MOP43 million this year purchasing new equipment for civil protection purposes

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LEONG MEETS WITH BEIJING OFFICIALS
Amid widespread speculation that he will run for the top post in Macau, Secretary Lionel Leong headed to the capital

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HNA SELLS HISTORICAL HOMES IN HONG KONG'S PEAK

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WORLD BRIEFS



MAR-A-LAGO A Chinese woman recently arrested at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club lied repeatedly to Secret Service agents while carrying computer malware unlike anything a government analyst had ever seen and had more than USD8,000 in cash at her hotel room. More on p10

JAPAN A search was underway for a Japanese fighter jet yesterday after it disappeared from radar during a flight exercise in northern Japan. The F-35A stealth jet went missing while flying off the eastern coast of Aomori, about half an hour after taking off from the Misawa air base with three other F-35As for anti-fighter battle training.



THAILAND A man has been arrested on suspicion of raping and killing a German tourist on the island of Koh Si Chang in the Gulf of Thailand. Police said the victim was approached and attacked by Ronnakorn Romruen (pictured) while she was traveling on her rental motorbike. More on p13

INDIA Maoist rebels yesterday attacked a convoy of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party with an improvised explosive device as it traveled through the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, killing a state party lawmaker and four others in his vehicle, police said.

More on backpage

LAST MINUTE NO DEAL

Wynn walks away after Crown tips hand

▲ P4-5 GAMING



HONG KONG

Nine leaders of Occupy Central protests found guilty

▲ P8 GREATER BAY

Sports Bureau to improve pool management tender

The Sports Bureau (ID) has already adjusted and improved its tender requirements for swimming pool lifeguards and management outsourcing services, the bureau said. In its reply to lawmaker Ella Lei's inquiry, the ID said that the change serves to meet the actual needs of future swimming pool operations. The ID previously fined the Surf Hong company a total of MOP11.89 million stemming from a dispute between the company and lifeguards who said their labor rights were violated. Currently, the company is appealing the ID's fine in the courts.

Financial leasing bills come into effect

The city's latest bill on financial leasing tax benefits and on financial leasing companies came into effect yesterday, according to a dispatch published in the government's Official Gazette. The bills provide benefits to financial leasing companies, as well as moderately relaxing the regulatory requirement for them. Capital requirements for financial leasing companies will be reduced from 30 million patacas to 10 million patacas. In line with the creation of the two bills, the SAR government has updated the guidelines for the application to open a financial leasing company.

MOU signed with Korea to protect consumer rights

In light of the growing amount of visitors to and from South Korea, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed yesterday between Macau's Consumer Council and the Korea Consumer Agency that will enable joint cooperation to safeguard consumer rights in both places. The number of visitors from Macau traveling to South Korea is on the rise, as well as South Koreans traveling to Macau. In order to anticipate future consumer disputes, the concerned memorandum was signed. The memorandum will permit Macau locals to report in Macau any dispute experienced in Korea, and vice versa for visitors from Korea. The memorandum also regulates the standard operating procedures, including the protection of personal data, for dispute resolution.



MOP43 million spent on new civil protection equipment in 2019

Julie Zhu

THE government has spent approximately MOP43 million this year purchasing new equipment for civil protection purposes. The Commissioner-General of the Unitary Police Service, Ma Io Kun, disclosed this information on the sidelines of yesterday's civil protection meeting at the Taipa Pac On police immigration building.

The meeting showcased a total of 107 pieces of civil protection equipment which are currently used by the government departments involved in the civil protection structure, including the Fire Services Bureau and the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS).

In 2018, the local government spent MOP70 million on civil

protection equipment.

The money was used by four government departments: the Public Security Police Force, the Judiciary Police, the Fire Services Bureau, and the Macao Customs Service.

Ma stressed that the civil protection authority will continue evaluating and working to improve disaster relief works, and that, if needed, the government will purchase more equipment.

During yesterday's meeting, representatives of CEM, of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, of the IAS, and of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) reported their bureaus' preparation for the typhoon season of 2019.

As of today, the IAS has a total of 17 shelters with 266 employees working at these cen-

ters. The shelters can accommodate about 24,000 people.

In terms of supply of materials, in addition to providing basic materials such as water, dry food, mattresses, radios, and televisions, the centers will also provide rice, which can supply 40 people at a time, and, in order to attend to the needs of some residents, the center will provide milk powder.

Five of the IAS centers will have doctors and nurses stationed therein, and will have medical equipment, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation machines and blood pressure devices.

Moreover, as off today, the IAS has spent about MOP40,000 installing protective nets around some of its vehicles, in a bid to improve the safety of these vehicles while on duty.

According to a representative of the SMG, this year, Macau will have four to six cyclones affecting the city. The first tropical cyclone is expected to hit the city in mid-June.

The SMG is also upgrading its information release mechanism, as well as its weather forecast capabilities.

According to a representative from the bureau, the SMG will work on the precision of its weather forecasts in future.

On April 27, the government will organize a large-scale typhoon drill. As announced previously, the government is calling for residents' participation in the drill. The application started yesterday and will end on April 22.

The government expects some 450 residents to participate in the drill.

APPROXIMATELY 10,300 people participated the Fire Services (HB) Bureau Open Day on Sunday.

During the Open Day, the bureau held activities, booth games, and a display of rescue and ambulance tools and vehicles used by the Fire Services. It also held performances of simulation rescues and a 'ladder car ride' experience.

The participants also had the opportunity to visit the fire service action station and to learn about the other equip-

Over 10,000 participated in Fire Services Open Day

ment used by firefighters.

In 2018, the HB conducted a total of 801 fire prevention promotional campaigns and distributed nearly 84,000 posters and leaflets. Moreover, the HB also held a total of 218 seminars counting the attendance of over 24,000 people.

The fire service autho-

riety has been organizing the Open Day event since 2016, with the aim of deepening understanding and cooperation between local community and the police authority and to broadening the interaction between the HB and Macau residents.

The number of participants has been conti-

nuously growing since the launch of the event three years ago, according to the authorities.

This year, the Open Day was altered to accommodate the growing number of visitors. For the first time, the lower level of Sai Van lake was used as the activity area, so that everyone who participated in the event

could have a more comfortable experience.

Also Sunday, a 'Fire Fighting Youth League' was established.

The bureau hopes that through the establishment of the youth league, members will have the opportunity to receive basic training and experience various activities.

The youth league will serve as a bridge to deepen the scope of the security forces and fire protection work for young people in Macau, according to the HB. **JZ**

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Renato Marques

PUBLIC HOUSING

Rosário unwilling to have tender frequency written into law

THE proposal within the new affordable housing law to establish a fixed number of times that the government is required launch new tenders for public housing applicants has been considered the only major disagreement between the government and the 1st Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) in the drafting of the bill.

This was acknowledged yesterday by both the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, and the president of the committee, Ho Ion Sang after the committee meeting.

“Regarding the affordable housing [bill], there are no big differences between the government and the committee,” Rosário told media as he was exiting the meeting. “What happens is [that while] facing this great pressure and sense of urgency [from society on the topic], we have different perspectives on the way to manage this matter.”

He elaborated, “the committee would like the law to clearly state that every three to five years the government will be forced to open a tender for public housing, while we [the government] have maintained our position that this should be not included in the law. Nevertheless, we have the intention of launching such tenders on a regular basis.”

The Secretary observed that, as the government has previously noted, between the Zone A of the new landfills and the land plots of the Avenida de Wai Long, the government will have around 34,000 housing units that it will put forward for tender as the processes move forward and pro-

jects become approved.

“Maybe it could be considered that we have too conservative a position on this. I would not like to commit myself to this fixed timeline,” the Secretary said, stressing that the government does not object to the fact that tenders should be held regularly.

Questioned on why the government would reject any fixed timing requirements for tenders, Rosário said, “it’s a situation beyond my control.”

■ The Secretary said the gov’t needs flexibility to decide when it is a good time to launch a new tender

“For example, when the Chief Executive announced that in this mandate he would open a tender for affordable housing, we were working for this to be related to the project of the Avenida Wai Long. But then the issue of the environmental impact assessment arose and delayed all the processes, and so we had to swap this tender to Zone A.”

“The tender that will remain open during this mandate [of

the Chief Executive] will not be for the Wai Long anymore but for the Zone A of the new landfills instead,” said the Secretary. “This is a good example of unforeseen events happening and demonstrates that these events take time to solve. And my fear is that if we accept that fixed timing – of every three, four or five years – is to be stated in the law, we might not be able to accomplish it, and in that case the government would be failing to fulfil their legal duties.”

According to Rosário, the government explained to the committee that it intends to offer tenders across a certain period of time, however it needs some flexibility to decide when it is a good time to launch a new tender.

In the summary of the meeting, lawmaker Ho confirmed what Rosário had said minutes earlier, but noted that the committee hopes the government will define a suitable frequency for the tenders.

“We hope that the government can define [the frequency of tenders],” said Ho. “In this proposal, this is not yet defined.”

Ho also said that several lawmakers had presented questions to the government in relation to the types of housing units to be built and whether they could be designed to match the needs of the population.

Ho said that the lawmakers in the committee expressed hopes

that the number of small housing units can be reduced in the upcoming tenders to “avoid situations like the ones that occurred before in which a family of four was assigned to a one-bedroom unit.”

Remarking on the differences of opinion between the government and the committee, Ho explained that the government’s justifications for its aversion to having a legally mandated period for tendering mostly arise from the “evolution of the offer which is not constant,” and that establishing fixed timing could crea-

te “false expectations” among the population.

The lawmaker said that, according to the government, the next tender to open this year will be for the first phase of Zone A of the new landfills and will include a total of 4,000 housing units, of which approximately 25 percent will be one-bedroom apartments.

At the next meeting, the committee is expected to discuss the point system by which “the government should define the criteria for the point calculation such as duration of residence in the MSAR, their age and family status.”

Wai Long public housing ‘good to go’

COMMENTING on matters related to public housing on the sidelines of the 1st Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly meeting yesterday morning, Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário said that the government is more or less ready to proceed with the Wai Long public housing project.

“The Environmental Impact Assessment of Wai Long is barely concluded and although there are restrictions, as always, these restrictions are not of serious kind that prevent the utilization of the land plot for the use we wanted,” said the Secretary. Rosário also reaffirmed that the government will build a total of 6,000 housing units in three phases on the plot, noting that the majority of these units will be built in the second and third phase of the project.

For the first phase, the construction tender for which will be open this year, there will be a small group of housing units and social and communitarian facilities. **RM**

opinion

VEGAS HIGH-ROLLER SPINS USD7 BILLION ROULETTE WHEEL

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

Wynn Resorts Ltd. has been on the defensive lately with investors. The Las Vegas-based casino operator's offer to buy Australia's Crown Resorts Ltd at a hefty-looking 26 percent premium would not have changed that.

That the U.S. company needs to diversify is in no doubt. At home, it's still struggling to move on from sexual harassment allegations against its eponymous founder and former chairman Steve Wynn, which deterred investors for a while. He has since sold his stake and exited the company.

But another problem looms. While Macau has been a cash cow for Wynn, that might not be the case for long. In 2022, Wynn Macau, the company's 72 percent-owned unit, will face the renewal of its license in the former Portuguese enclave (along with five other operators, including Sheldon Adelson's Las Vegas Sands Corp.). If reports are right, Beijing may force it to tie up with a local or mainland Chinese partner, thus cutting Wynn's share of the gains. Macau's gaming sector growth is slowing too.

Australia, the world's third-largest gambling market by gross gaming revenue, isn't necessarily a bad place for the U.S. company to spread its wings. Crown, controlled by billionaire James Packer, has casinos in Perth, Melbourne and a development site in Sydney harbor, plus a smaller venue in London. It has another big development project in Vegas too, offering the possibility of combining local operations.

But even setting aside price, there are two reasons to worry about the deal: First, Australia is already suffering from a decline in gambling revenues and an economic slowdown; second, and more important, it's about to get some serious regional competition from Japan.

After years of agonizing, Japan legislated to allow casino gaming in 2016 and laid out a road map for the industry last year. Tokyo has yet to award its licenses for "integrated resorts," but many people expect the country to become the world's biggest casino market after Macau (Vegas is second currently), catering not just to Chinese tourists, but also pent-up domestic demand.

All of this does make Wynn's offer look a little lavish. The price tag of AUD14.29 per share values Crown's debt and equity at almost 12 times forward earnings, versus the current 9.2 times, says Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang. That's a pretty big gamble on a company that's had its own troubles.

Crown quit Macau in 2017, when it exited Melco Resorts and Entertainment Ltd. after 19 of its staff were arrested for "gambling crimes." All 19 have been released, but many junket tour operators, who bring in prized VIP gamblers, are still steering clear of the operator. Crown's revenue fell in the first half of this fiscal year, and its net income has suffered since the loss of Macau. It's hard to see where growth will come from.

One way to look at this bid is that if Wynn's willing to wager USD7 billion on Australia, it's not holding out much hope on getting in on the Japan action, or is possibly balking at the estimated \$10 billion cost of building an integrated resort there. Geographical diversification does make some sense, but this is an expensive way of placing your chips.

GAMING

Wynn walks away from deal



Media take pictures during an opening event for the Wynn Palace in Macau in 2016

WYNN Resorts abruptly ended talks with Australia's largest casino operator late yesterday after word of a potential buyout was leaked. In a tersely worded statement, the Las Vegas casino giant said it was ending all discussions with Crown Resorts.

Wynn Resorts Ltd. was in talks to buy Australian billionaire James Packer's Crown Resorts Ltd. for AUD9.99 billion (USD7.12 billion) as the Las Vegas casino empire looked for growth in Asia amid a slowdown in the gambling enclave of Macau.

The proposed deal, which valued Crown at AUD14.75 per share, 26 percent more than Monday's closing price, would have allowed Packer to divest his single largest asset, according to international media, completing a remarkable corporate retreat for a titan who's been beset by political trouble and mental health issues in recent years.

But then Wynn said in a statement that it had ended talks "following the premature disclosure of preliminary discussions." Crown had confirmed the talks overnight after the Australian Financial Review had reported on the

potential deal. Buying Crown would have given the Las Vegas casino empire a new market for growth amid a slowdown in the gambling enclave of Macau. But Wall Street expressed skepticism about the potential deal. The prospect, while "perplexing," might have some merit, Sanford C. Bernstein analyst Vitaly Umansky wrote in a note. Union Gaming Group LLC analyst John DeCree said the move seemed "purely defensive."

"At this point, there's no guarantee that any potential discussion around the deal will not resurface," Umansky said in a note

after Wynn's termination announcement.

Crown shares soared yesterday in Sydney trading after the company confirmed confidential discussions, climbing 20.5 percent to AUD14.15. Crown's Australian rival Star Entertainment Group Ltd. jumped 7.2 percent, while shares of New Zealand casino Skycity Entertainment Group Ltd. rose 2.5 percent.

Wynn's interest in Melbourne-based Crown, which is almost solely focused on its domestic market where big-spending VIP gamblers have become more elusive, seemed unusual, but it spoke

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after Crown Resorts tips its hand

to the Las Vegas-based empire's keen desire to shore up its presence among Asian bettors.

Unlike its competitors who already have footholds elsewhere in Asia - from Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s Singapore resort to Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd.'s City of Dreams in Manila - Wynn is currently confined to Macau, where expansion is approaching its limit. And they're all fiercely competing for an operating license in Japan, the region's next gambling goldmine.

Yet Wynn would have been buying a company whose ambitions are in active decline. Crown largely retreated from overseas markets after a crackdown in China in late 2016 that resulted in 19 current and former Crown staff being convicted of illegally promoting gambling on the mainland, receiving jail terms of as long as 10 months.

"Wynn's pursuit of Crown represents the need for Macau operators to expand in other markets to support long-term profit growth," said Bloomberg Intelligence Asia gaming analyst Margaret Huang. But the deal would have siphoned off cash that Wynn could

use on a Japanese resort, estimated to cost up to \$10 billion, and Australia's weakened gaming demand is concerning, she said.

■ The proposed deal would have allowed Packer to complete a remarkable corporate retreat for a titan who's been beset by political trouble and mental health issues

Crown had earlier said in a statement that the discussions were at a preliminary stage and no agreement had been reached.

In the statement, Crown said: "The proposal is subject to a

number of conditions including due diligence, Wynn obtaining all the necessary regulatory approvals and a recommendation by the Crown board. It is stated to be preliminary, confidential, non-binding and indicative.

"The Crown board has not yet considered the most recent proposal from Wynn."

A SIMPLER LIFE

Had the parties come to terms, Wynn would have been buying a company whose ambitions are in active decline. Crown largely retreated from overseas markets after a crackdown in China in late 2016 that resulted in 19 current and former Crown staff being convicted of illegally promoting gambling on the mainland, receiving jail terms of as long as 10 months.

The company has since closed almost all its regional marketing offices in Asia, which funneled big-stakes players to Australia, and sold out of a Macau casino venture.

The episode "shook me to the core," Packer said in a rare interview with the Australian newspaper in October 2017. A few

months later, he quit the board of Crown in March 2018 due to mental health issues and stepped down as a director of his private investment company.

In the 2017 interview, Packer also said he wanted a more "simple life" and acknowledged he'd lost friends, put on weight and had led a reclusive life at his polo estate in Argentina.

Crown is now focused on its existing casinos in Perth and Melbourne and is building a new six-star hotel, residential and ga-

ming venue in Sydney, which is due to be completed in 2021.

Under its current structure, the transaction would have made Packer a significant shareholder in Wynn. Packer's private investment company, Consolidated Press Holdings, owns about 46 percent of Crown, so any deal hinges on Packer's approval.

Wynn Resorts has had its share of high-profile trouble. In February 2018, founder and former chief executive officer Steve Wynn stepped down following reports that he sexually harassed a number of employees over his career. He has denied that any of his sexual relationships were non-consensual. He later sold all his holdings in the company. **MDT/Agencies**



James Packer

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TOURISM

Travel expo records increase in participants, space and budget

Lynzy Valles

THE seventh edition of the Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo (MITE) will accommodate a total of 800 booths this year – an increase of 250 booths from last year's edition.

To be held from April 26 to 28, the expo will have two pavilions in its 22,000 square meters space: the "Cultural and Creative Pavilion," which features interactive cultural and creative experiences and the "China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries Pavilion".

The latter aims to deepen cultural and tourism exchange between China and Portuguese-speaking countries by presenting products and performances from both geographical regions. According to the director of the Macao Government Tourism Bureau, Helena de Senna Fernandes, the space of the expo has expanded from last year's 11,000 square meters to provide added convenience to its visitors.

"Last year, many people thought that the hallway between the exhibitors' booths were too narrow [...] so this year we needed more space [...] to provide more convenience to the public," said the tourism official in a press conference held yesterday.

The budget of this year's



expo is MOP23 million – an increase of 70 percent from the total budget of MOP16 million for last year's edition.

The tourism bureau will contribute MOP15.6 million, and the rest is covered by sponsors and the expo revenue.

The bureau said that the expo would continue to facilitate partnership opportunities for industry delegates and build a sales exhibition platform for local travel agents and residents.

The three-day event will present seven key highlights, including fostering tourism partnerships under

the Belt and Road Initiative, developing multi-destination itineraries in the Grea-

ter Bay Area and exploring gastronomy and sustainable development.

An educational session will also be held in partnership with National Geographic to explore how Macau is leading a shift towards a more sustainable and creative food industry across Asia.

This year's edition will also bring together about 130 tourism entities from some 35 regions along the Belt and Road in a bid to foster tourism partnership.

MITE aims to gather professionals and operators from tourism and other related sectors worldwide, including travel agencies, hotels, attractions, transportation as well as other travel-related services.

To date, about 430 enterprises and entities as well as 450 buyers from more than 50 countries and regions have confirmed their participation in MITE. Last year, the expo gathered 420 exhibitors from over 50 countries and regions, admitting over 40,000 visitors and over 300 industry buyers from major visitor source markets, according to data provided by MGTO.

The sixth edition facilitated the signing of 38 cooperative agreements.

IFT: Macau's tourist capacity is 40 million

ACCORDING to a study conducted by the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), Macau is capable of hosting 40 million visitors per year, the director of the Macao Government Tourism Bureau, Helena de Senna Fernandes told the press yesterday.

Although the official considered the figure to be relatively high, Fernandes said that the bureau needs to "provide a safe environment for tourists, as well as introduce different spots for tourists."

MGTO will not commence any studies on

the figure as IFT had already done so, she said.

Fernandes further explained that the bureau is hoping to advance on its smart tourism projects that involves the "tourism data exchange platform," "visitor observation application," and "smart visitor flow application."

In terms of balancing the lives of local residents and tourists, Fernandes said that the bureau is open to working with local district associations to understand the traffic flow in residential areas.

Hac Sa Beach festival returns April 28 with three stages

MACAU beach festival "Hush!! Full Music" will return to Hac Sa Beach this year from April 28 to May 1, according to information disclosed yesterday by principal organizer the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), bringing an array of local and overseas musicians to deliver a "marathon music feast."

This year's concert features three stages, namely the Hot Wave stage, the Summer Chill stage and the GEG Upbeat Power stage.

The Hot Wave stage

brings an energetic marathon of music performances. The Summer Chill stage features a variety of genres such as electronic music, jazz music and folk music, while local original music albums will be showcased in an adjoining booth.

Supported by Galaxy Entertainment Group, the GEG Upbeat Power stage is introduced for the first time this year, promoting the pop music culture of a new generation, creating a rock party for young local music bands, and

presenting the music of a new generation by 10 new groups.

Overseas guest performers at this year's festival include SCANDAL (Japan), Younger (the U.K.), RubberBand (Hong Kong), Phum Viphurit (Thailand), ManGoRise (Hungary), Yoyo (Hubei, China).

Local artists include aRiejohn, Evade, Forget the G, Scamper, Zenith, Sunset or Rise, Pyjamars, 206, Dr. Jen, 80 & tal, Joao Gomes e Banda, Concrete/Lotus, e:ch, Ghostly Park, Dat Trio, ASURA, Achun,

Single Path, Loiz.P, Sleeping Forest, Rebel Rabbit, Super Guest, Ten.Ice, B_GEI3, Soulomix, Emo, Cageling, and Banda da CPM.

Moreover, a variety of "hush!" branded products by local cultural and creative entities will be presented in booths at the festival, and the event will continue to hold music workshops, a short video competition, a handicraft market and campus music promotion, according to the IC.

The music festival is



principally organized by the IC, with the cooperation of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Macao Government

Tourism Office and the Marine and Water Bureau.

Admission to all activities is free. **DB**



Lionel Leong meets with Beijing official monitoring SARs

Staff reporter

AMID widespread speculation that he will run for the top post in Macau, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong has headed a delegation to Beijing to be received by Zhang Xiaoming, Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council.

The main purpose of Leong's visit is to "conduct in-depth communication with the various departments and committees concerned with regard to

such areas as strengthening cooperation, progressing Macau's development of financial services, and building the China-Lusophone platform," according to a statement from the government.

Speaking with Zhang, the secretary noted that the SAR government has commenced work in all directions to fulfill the Central Government's instruction of a diversified economy for Macau, and to encourage all locals to take roles in the development of the Greater Bay Area.

Leong suggested that Macau citizens can get a

greater sense of achievement by participating in the Bay Area initiative, according to the statement.

Leong also reported to the national official that preliminary economic diversification is already underway. Progress of work in the areas of local talent development and the Guangdong-Macau Cooperation Park in Hengqin were among the topics discussed during the meeting.

Zhang agreed that such work aligned with the overall instructions by the Central Government, according to the statement.

Court rules against Pearl Horizon buyers' lawsuit

THE Administrative Court ruled yesterday that there was no legal grounds for the Pearl Horizon unit buyers to sue the government for the property price and stamp duty paid on apartments from the controversial and never-completed project.

In 2017, a group of buyers of the Pearl Horizon residential estate decided to bring an action before the Administrative Court, requesting compensation that included the price of the property, the stamp duty rebate as well as interest on the payments.

Now the Administrative

Court has thrown out the claim in a defeat for the Pearl Horizon group of buyers.

"On the basis of the established facts, [this Court] dismissed the claim made by the claimants for lack of factual and legal grounds," stated the Court in the ruling.

The Chief Executive formerly reclaimed the land concession from Hong Kong-based developer Polytec after it failed to develop the plot within its 25-year concession.

The government announced last year its intention to build a replacement

housing estate on the land plot, in order to resolve both the land plot issue and the issue of small buyers who have been repeatedly calling on the government for help.

Under the government's plan, Pearl Horizon buyers will be given priority to purchase one of the housing units. Companies or groups are not allowed to make purchases, with all units instead reserved only for individuals.

The matter of compensation is a concern for developer Polytec and the buyers, the government has previously said.

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- Research Methods*
- Strategic Management*
- Travel Agency Operations
- Visitor Management
- English (for both daytime and evening bachelor degree programmes)

Subjects to be taught in Chinese (for evening bachelor degree programme):

- Economics 經濟學*
- Introduction to Food and Beverage 餐飲概論*
- Marketing Management 市場管理學
- Quantitative Methods for the Service Sector 服務業數量分析方
- Seminar in Retail and Marketing 零售及市場學專題研究*
- Special Topics in Human Resources Management 人力資源專題研究
- Tourism and Hospitality Legislation 旅遊及酒店業法規*

Subjects to be taught in English/Chinese (for both daytime and evening bachelor degree programmes):

- Consumer Behaviour 消費者行為學*
- Marketing Channels and Distribution 市場推廣渠道及銷售*
- Visual Merchandising and Store Design 視覺營銷及商店設計*

*Interviews will be conducted in both English and Chinese.

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- Please refer to the details and submit ALL application materials mentioned on IFT website.

Application closes on 24 April 2019

- Please note that ALL application materials must be received by the closing date (Macao time).
- Personal data provided by applicants will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purpose only.
- Applicants who do not hear from us within 4 weeks may consider their applications unsuccessful.
- For enquiries, please contact tcadmin@ift.edu.mo or 8598-1250 / 8598-1520.

HK law to be used for Greater Bay contracts

The Hong Kong SAR government is seeking the mainland's approval to use Hong Kong law to formulate contracts and conduct arbitrations within the Greater Bay Area (GBA), as reported by Singtao. The information was provided to the newspaper by the Secretary of Justice of Hong Kong, Teresa Cheng. Cheng also hopes that Hong Kong lawyers can make submissions or issue opinions on cases involving Hong Kong in courts in the Greater Bay Area.

Guangzhou bus card expected in SARs by 2022

Guangzhou plans to achieve the universal use of its Yang Cheng Tong (electronic ticketing) within all Greater Bay Area cities by 2022, according to a report by 21st Century Business Herald. Currently, the Yang Cheng Tong company is negotiating with Hong Kong and Macau over technical aspects regarding the use of Yang Cheng Tong in the SARs. As of March 21, the number of issued Yang Cheng Tong exceeds 88.6 million. A similar plan has also been made for Guangdong's Lingnan Pass.

Firm claims begging can better train workers

A company from Guangzhou has requested that its employees beg for cash on the streets as a work training exercise, according to mainland reports. The employees would hand in their mobile phones to the company and proceed to the streets empty-handed. The company also required its workers not to lie to strangers to attain the money. According to the company, such a practice aims at honing the survival and communication skills of its employees, and the amount of cash eventually collected is in fact not important. The company hopes that through these activities its workers will learn more about society.

HONG KONG

Nine leaders of pro-democracy protests found guilty



In this Oct. 9, 2014 file photo, a protester holds an umbrella in the occupied areas outside the government headquarters in Hong Kong's Admiralty

Alice Fung, Hong Kong

A Hong Kong court found nine leaders of 2014 pro-democracy demonstrations guilty yesterday on public nuisance and other charges, a verdict that activists say likely presages more restrictions on free expression in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Those convicted included law professor Benny Tai, retired sociology professor Chan Kin-man and pastor Chu Yiu-ming. Two current lawmakers, one former lawmaker, two student leaders and a political activist were also found guilty.

The nine were leaders of the nonviolent "Occupy Central" campaign to demand the right of the city's population to choose its own leader rather than merely approve a candidate picked by Beijing.

"Hong Kong courts, by labeling peaceful protests in pursuit of rights as public nuisance, are sending a terrible message that will likely embolden the government to prosecute more peaceful activists, further chilling free expression in Hong Kong," Maya Wang, senior China researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

Prior to the verdict's announcement, Chan said he and the others had no regrets for their actions but were chiefly concerned with the movement's legacy.

While the verdicts will have an impact on the individuals, "we are more concerned

about how this movement will be recognized by the people of Hong Kong," Chan said.

Hong Kong's biggest popular protest in recent years, also known as the umbrella movement, laid siege to government headquarters and paralyzed Hong Kong's financial district for 79 days. Thousands staked out encampments on major thoroughfares. Several hundred were arrested.

The movement fizzled without winning concessions from the Hong Kong government for free elections and the pro-democracy movement has struggled to retain a high profile in recent years.

More than 100 supporters, some raising yellow umbrellas that were a symbol of the protests, gathered yesterday at the courthouse in the West Kowloon district.

Tai said that was a sign the

spirit of the protests lived on.

"I have the confidence, many people today, with me together, we will continue to strive for Hong Kong's democracy. And we will persist and we will not give up," Tai said.

Ranging in age from their 30s to 70s, the nine defendants span generations of Hong Kong citizens who have been agitating for full democracy.

Tai, Chan and Chu were found guilty of conspiracy to cause a public nuisance. Tai and Chan were also found guilty of inciting others to cause a public nuisance, while the other six were found guilty of inciting others to cause a public nuisance, as well as inciting people to incite others to cause a public nuisance.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of seven years. The defendants had all pleaded not guilty, calling the

prosecutions politically motivated. They returned for an additional session yesterday afternoon but departed without offering comments. The court proceedings will resume today.

Three university students prosecuted in 2016 for their leadership roles in the protests received community service. But Hong Kong judges have since faced mounting pressure from Beijing to hand down heavier sentences to deter future protests.

Some fear that central government meddling will erode judicial independence, a bedrock value that undergirds the city's standing as a global business capital.

The former British colony was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997 under an agreement in which China promised it could retain its own laws, economic system and civil rights for 50 years.

However, China's ruling Communist Party under authoritarian President Xi Jinping appears to be growing impatient with efforts by Hong Kong activists to promote greater democracy. The Hong Kong government last year banned a local political party that advocated the territory's independence from Beijing.

China's foreign ministry said it supports the guilty verdict because the protests "seriously damaged the prosperity, stability and normal life order" of Hong Kong people.

The government's "decision to maintain the normal order of public life should be beyond reproach," spokesman Lu Kang said during a routine news briefing. Lu added that some people's "one-sided understanding that the judgment damages Hong Kong's social freedom is unreasonable and unfounded."

Man-kei Tam, Director of Amnesty International Hong Kong, called the verdicts a "crushing blow for freedom of expression and peaceful protest in Hong Kong."

"The government is increasingly using prosecutions as a political tool to target peaceful activists, abusing the law to silence debate about sensitive issues such as Hong Kong democracy and autonomy," Tam said.

"We urge the government to cease this chilling assault against people legitimately exercising their right to freedom of expression," he said. AP



Occupy Central leaders (from right) Benny Tai, Chan Kin-man, Chu Yiu-ming, Tanya Chan and Eason Chung shout slogans before entering court yesterday

HNA sells historical homes in Hong Kong's Peak

HNA Group Co.-linked parties sold a site with two historical homes in Hong Kong's prestigious Peak area at a loss for HKD550 million (USD70 million), the Hong Kong Economic Times reported, citing unidentified people.

The site, located near a popular hiking trail on 27 Luard Road, was sold at a loss of HKD160 million a year after its purchase, according to the report. A pair of houses that are over 100 years old sit on the site, the newspaper said. HNA is also selling a property in nearby Twelve Peaks, the paper said.

The real estate helped symbolize an era when HNA was splurging on everything from over-the-top parties in French museums to some of the most expensive homes in Manhattan, even though borrowing costs were soaring. Debts have since caught up to the group, prompting HNA to agree to sell more than \$20 billion in assets since 2018.

Top metals bourse targets casinos, strip-club parties in cleanup bid

Mark Burton

THE organizer of the metals industry's largest annual gathering is looking to outlaw sleazy parties at venues such as lapdancing clubs and casinos under a new code of conduct.

The new rules come as the London Metal Exchange seeks to stamp out sexist entertainment that has long been a feature at some events during the LME Week gathering in London every fall. While many brokerages and trading houses have already pledged to avoid questionable venues, the restrictions are designed to block companies from hosting LME Week-branded gatherings at such locations in the future.

The focus on the seamy underside of LME Week has intensified in the wake of the #MeToo movement, with Gerald Group last year coming in for criticism for its decision to host an event at the Playboy



Club in Mayfair. At the venue, female staff in low-cut, black satin leotards and fluffy tails serve drinks and dance with guests. Stringfellows, the infamous London strip club, was offering free entry and drinks as part of an LME Week promotion last year.

Gerald Group later said it would hold its party at a different location this year. Future events will be held at venues that are "clearly appropriate,"

it reiterated in a statement last week.

The new LME code of conduct states that events "should not take place at venues which, by the nature of entertainment offered or other activities undertaken, could make some market participants uncomfortable in attending." Any company breaching the code may be reported to the LME's general counsel, regulators and law enforcement authorities, the

bourse said.

The code also outlines a broader set of behavioral standards for staff, attendees at events hosted by the LME, and the firms that trade on the bourse's famous open-outcry trading floor. The industry should collectively strive to create an inclusive and respectful environment for all participants, and act to stamp out intimidation and harassment of any kind, the code states. **Bloomberg**

AD

仁德

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Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau
Direcção dos Serviços de Identificação

Requerimento para emissão do Certificado de associação e fundação destinado às eleições dos membros da Comissão Eleitoral do Chefe do Executivo - 2019

Tendo em atenção as eleições dos membros da Comissão Eleitoral do Chefe do Executivo - 2019, a DSI vem pelo presente informar do seguinte:

1. Caso as associações ou fundações queiram solicitar o Certificado de associação e fundação destinado às eleições dos membros da Comissão Eleitoral do Chefe do Executivo - 2019, para ser entregue nos SAFP, para fins de apresentação da relação dos votantes das pessoas colectivas eleitoras, devem dirigir-se, quanto antes, à DSI para formalizar o requerimento do referido certificado.

Aos requerimentos apresentados já com todos os documentos necessários no dia 30 de Abril de 2019 ou antes desta data, será garantida a emissão do certificado solicitado antes do dia 7 de Maio de 2019, data em que termina o prazo de entrega do referido certificado aos SAFP para efeitos de apresentação da relação dos votantes das pessoas colectivas eleitoras.

2. O certificado sobredito que já tenha sido entregue, antes do dia 23 de Abril de 2019, para fins de apresentação do Boletim de Registo do Representante que assina o Boletim de Propositura pode ser usado também para efeitos de apresentação da relação dos votantes das pessoas colectivas eleitoras.

3. Para os requerimentos formalizados depois do dia 30 de Abril de 2019 ou com documentação incompleta, a DSI vai acompanhá-los com o maior esforço.

4. Do certificado a emitir constará somente a **relação dos titulares dos órgãos sociais em efectividade de funções a 4 de Fevereiro de 2019**. Caso a acta da reunião apresentada no requerimento do certificado demonstre que os actuais corpos gerentes da associação ou fundação iniciaram as suas funções depois de 4 de Fevereiro de 2019, a respectiva acta será considerada inaplicável.

5. O pedido para emissão do certificado sobredito faz-se mediante:

- O preenchimento do impresso próprio para "Pedido de Certificado de Associação e Fundação" fornecido pela DSI (pode descarregá-lo a partir do website da DSI: <http://www.dsi.gov.mo>);
- O pedido é assinado pelo presidente da assembleia geral ou da direcção da associação ou fundação requerente ou pelo seu procurador, e apostado o carimbo da associação ou fundação;
- O pedido deve ser acompanhado dos seguintes documentos:
 - Acta da reunião da assembleia geral para eleições dos titulares dos órgãos sociais;
 - Fotocópias dos documentos de identificação dos titulares dos órgãos sociais;
 - Procuração, quando o pedido for assinado pelo representante designado pelo presidente da assembleia geral ou da direcção da associação ou fundação requerente.

Não é necessário a entrega dos documentos acima referidos se tenham já efectuado a actualização do registo dos mesmos na DSI, entretanto podem as associações ou fundações requerentes juntá-los novamente ao requerimento para evitar morosidade, caso hajam erros nos documentos anteriormente apresentados.

Para mais informações sobre o requerimento do certificado de associação e fundação destinado às eleições dos membros da Comissão Eleitoral do Chefe do Executivo, podem ligar à linha de consulta da DSI através do número 8394-0581.

Direcção dos Serviços de Identificação, a 10 de Abril de 2019.

A Directora,

Ao Ieong U



Attorney: Mar-a-Lago infiltrator had hidden-camera detector

Terry Spencer, West Palm Beach

A Chinese woman recently arrested at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club lied repeatedly to Secret Service agents while carrying computer malware unlike anything a government analyst had ever seen and had more than USD8,000 in cash at her hotel room, along with an electronic device that detects hidden cameras, federal authorities told a judge yesterday [local time].

Assistant U.S. Attorney Rolando Garcia told Magistrate Judge William Matthewman during a bond hearing that "there are a lot of questions that remain" about 32-year-old Yujing Zhang.

He said the FBI is still investigating whether Zhang is a spy.

Zhang was arrested March 30 after Secret Service agents said she lied to gain admission to the president's Palm Beach resort and was found to be carrying two

Chinese passports, four cellphones, a laptop computer, an external hard drive and a thumb drive containing the malware.

Matthewman adjourned the hearing until next Monday as Zhang's public defender said he's still gathering evidence that could justify her release on bail on charges of lying to federal agents and illegal entry to a restricted area. Garcia said he expects Zhang will be indicted by a federal grand jury this week on those charges.

He said Zhang would be a "serious risk of flight" if she were released while awaiting trial, as she has no ties to the United States. The State Department revoked her visa last week, he said, so even if released on bond, she would be detained by immigration officials. She arrived in the U.S. on a flight from Shanghai to Newark, New Jersey, two days before her arrest.

Zhang sat quietly at the defense

table during the two-hour hearing, scribbling notes in Chinese characters as she listened to a translator through headphones. She wore a blue jail jumpsuit and her wrists were shackled.

"She lies to everyone she encounters," Garcia told the judge. He said that not only did Zhang falsely tell a Secret Service agent at a Mar-a-Lago checkpoint that she was a member there to use the pool, even though she had no swimsuit, she told agents she was carrying her computer gear because she was afraid the items would be stolen if she left them in her hotel room.

But when agents searched it, they found \$7,620 in U.S. currency, another \$663 worth of Chinese currency, numerous U.S. credit and debit cards, the device used to find hidden electronics and other computer gear, he said.

Secret Service agent Samuel Ivanovich told the judge that when an agency analyst uploaded

the malware found on Zhang's thumb drive, it immediately began installing on the analyst's computer and corrupting its files.

"That was something that had never happened before," Ivanovich told the judge. He said the analyst immediately shut down the computer to protect it. He said the malware's ultimate purpose remains unknown.

■ The FBI is still investigating whether Zhang is a spy

When agents analyze suspicious devices that might contain malicious software, it is done in a controlled environment and not performed on a computer connected to any government networks, according to Secret Service officials. While questioning Ivanovich,

public defender Robert Adler presented Zhang as not fluent in English and suggested she may not have been lying, but misunderstanding agents' questions. He pointed out that Zhang made no attempt to hide her electronic gear while entering Mar-a-Lago and agreed to be interviewed for almost nine hours.

Adler asked that the hearing be adjourned as he believes he can present evidence next week that would justify her release on bail while assuring she wouldn't flee.

Zhang's arrest has raised questions about Mar-a-Lago's security during the president's visits. There's no evidence Zhang ever approached the president and it is believed he was at his nearby golf course when she arrived.

Agents say she wasn't on the membership list, but a club manager thought Zhang was a member's daughter. Agents say that when they asked Zhang if the member was her father, she did not answer definitively but they thought it might be a language barrier and admitted her. Zhang is a common Chinese name - about 7 percent of the country's population carries it.

Ivanovich told the judge Zhang later told him she was there for a Chinese American event that didn't exist, contradicting her checkpoint statement. She showed him an invitation in Chinese he could not read.

After being questioned for about 90 minutes at a property neighboring Mar-a-Lago, Zhang was taken to the local Secret Service office for questioning that lasted about seven hours. It was not recorded.

There, Ivanovich said, it became clear Zhang speaks and reads English well. He said Zhang said an acquaintance named "Charles" had invited her to the nonexistent event.

Adler said wire records show Zhang paid \$20,000 in February to Charles Lee, a Chinese national, for admission to the event. Lee ran the United Nations Chinese Friendship Association and was photographed at least twice with Cindy Yang, a Republican donor and former Florida massage parlor owner. She recently made news after it was learned she was promising Chinese business leaders that her consulting firm could get them access to Mar-a-Lago and mingle with the president.

Yang previously owned a spa where New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft was charged with soliciting prostitution. AP

DIPLOMACY

Prime minister to discuss trade with EU leaders

Mike Corder, Brussels

CHINA'S prime minister is set to meet top European Union officials to discuss thorny issues inclu-

ding better access for European companies to Chinese markets and security concerns over high-speed 5G network technology.

The stakes are high with

two-way trade between the EU and China worth around USD1.1 billion a day.

A senior EU official speaking on condition of anonymity because the

meeting has yet to happen says that the EU wants "a more balanced financial-economic relationship" with Beijing and for European companies to have

the same access to Chinese markets as Chinese businesses have to Europe's markets.

Yesterday's summit in Brussels comes two weeks

after Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed during a visit to Paris to work with European leaders to seek fairer international trade rules. AP

CHINA has big plans for its rapeseed bounty in Sichuan. Levering off its famed cuisine, the top producing province wants to harvest more of the oilseed for a branded cooking oil, just as the outlook for imports clouds over due to a dispute with Canada, its biggest supplier.

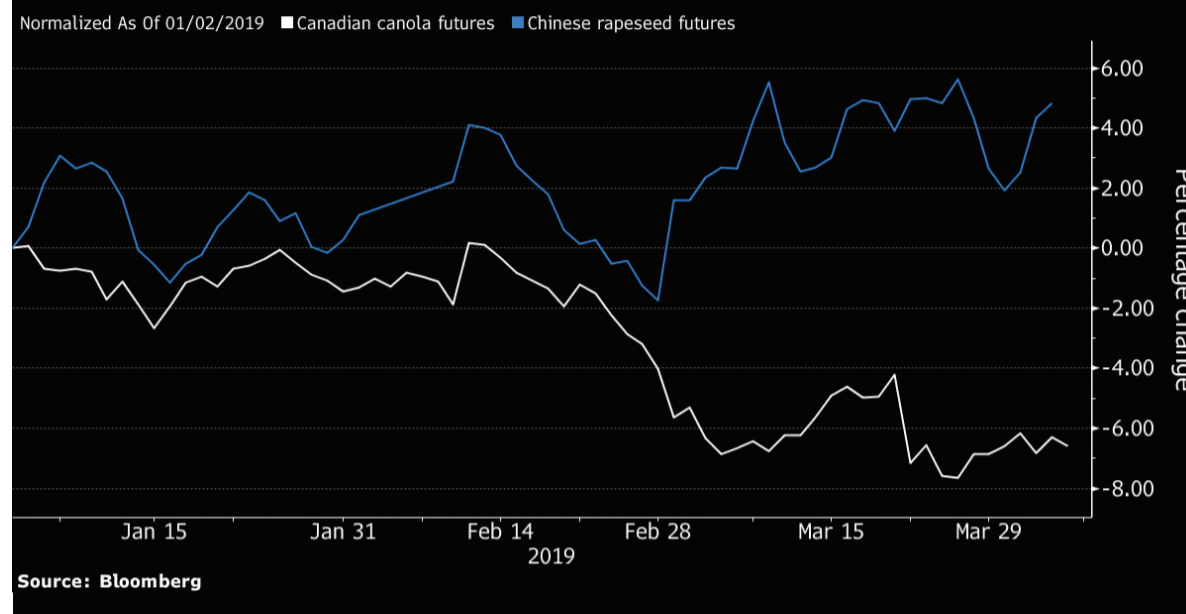
The southwest province, whose spicy dishes rely on the area's dark rapeseed oil, will spend 500 to 600 million yuan over three years to grow, process and promote a local brew called "Tianfu Rapoil," officials said last week. Sichuan, which is also known as Tianfu - or land of abundance - produces nearly 3 million tons of the oilseed a year out of a national total of about 13 million.

Not only will the government-sponsored plan help lift farmers out of poverty, it will also boost incomes generally as fields of the vivid yellow crop in bloom are a potential tourist draw, according to Wang Hailin, deputy head of the Sichuan Food and Strategic Reserves Bureau. As well as its food, the province attracts visitors for its panda sanctuaries.

Fifteen local plants, both private and state-owned, will form an alliance to make the

Big plans for Sichuan's favorite cooking oil

Trade Tales
Prices diverge as the Canada-China spat roils markets



Tianfu product, according to Jiang Minjie, general manager of Chengdu New Shine Oil and Grain Co. He said that Sichuan's rapeseed oil already commands twice the price of oil elsewhere in Chi-

na, which often uses Canadian canola, the crop's name in North America.

Those shipments have been cast into doubt after China suspended exports from at least two Canadian suppliers

blaming pest infestation, although others have concluded that the nation is being punished for its detention of a Huawei Technologies Co. executive in December. Exporters who haven't been

sanctioned are still being shunned by Chinese buyers, who fear lengthy port delays as cargoes are tested, said Zhang Liwei, a senior analyst with the China National Grain and Oils Information Center.

The slump in shipments has hurt prices in Canada and boosted the market in China, which also purchases the oilseed from Australia, Mongolia and Russia.

Buyers are scouring other markets for suppliers, said Fang Gang, a trading manager with Yihai Kerry Group, owned by Singapore's Wilmar International Ltd. He said China may look at raising its imports from Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan, which together produce about 5 million tons of the crop a year, most of it for overseas sale and at less cost.

Price is likely to be the key test of Sichuan's ambitions for Tianfu Rapoil. If trade with Canada returns to normal, its cheaper product will be a big challenge for the brand, according to Wang Xiaokang, general manager of Sichuan Province Grain and Oil Co. Wang said the province's rapeseed production could rise by more than 100,000 tons as the Tianfu plan is put into effect. **Bloomberg**

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More Indonesians join cases against Boeing after CEO apology

Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

MORE families of victims of the Lion Air crash in Indonesia are suing Boeing Co. after its chief executive apologized and said a software update for the MAX 8 jet would prevent further disasters.

Family members and lawyers said Monday that CEO Dennis Muilenburg's comment last week related to an automated flight system was an admission that helps their cases.

The anti-stall system is suspected as a cause of the Lion Air crash in October and an Ethiopian Airlines crash in March that also involved a MAX 8 jet. The two crashes killed a total of 346 people.

Preliminary reports into both crashes found that faulty sensor readings erroneously triggered the anti-stall system that pushed the plane's nose down. Pilots of each plane struggled in vain to regain control.

Families of 11 Lion Air victims said at a news conference organized by Jakarta law firm Kailimang & Ponto that they are joining dozens of other Indonesian families in filing lawsuits against Boeing.

"Boeing's CEO explicitly apologized to 346 passenger families," said Merdian Agustin, whose husband died in the crash. "We hope this is good momentum to have compensation rights."

Agustin, the mother of three



Merdian Agustin, family of a victim of the Lion Air jet that crashed into the Java Sea

children, said that she and dozens of other families have not received USD85,000 compensation they are entitled to in Indonesia because they refused to sign a "release and discharge" document that extinguishes their right to sue Lion Air, Boeing or their subsidiaries.

"We refused to sign such a document containing statements that are treating our loved ones like lost baggage," Agustin said. "It's ridiculous and hurts us."

Boeing acknowledged that the sensor malfunctioned and Muilenburg said last week that a new software update would prevent future incidents. "It's our responsibility to eliminate this risk," Muilenburg said in a video statement. "We own it, and we know how to do it."

Lawyer Michael Indrajana said that since the crash, families in Indonesia have faced a complicated and painful process against Boeing and Lion Air in their battle to get

compensation.

He said the Boeing CEO's statement shows the airline is now acknowledging responsibility.

"No amount of money can bring their loved ones back," he said. "We want to fight for the orphans, so they have the opportunity to get a better future."

Boeing said last week that it will cut production of its troubled 737 Max airliner this month, underscoring the growing financial risk it faces

the longer that its best-selling plane remains grounded after the two crashes.

The company said that starting in mid-April it will cut production of the plane to 42 from 52 per month so it can focus its attention on fixing the flight-control software that has been implicated in the crashes.

Dozens of other families have not received the USD85,000 compensation they are entitled to

The move was not a complete surprise. Boeing had already suspended deliveries of the Max last month after regulators around the world grounded the jet.

Boeing also announced it is creating a special board committee to review airplane design and development.

The announcement to cut production comes after Boeing acknowledged that a second software issue has emerged that needs fixing on the Max — a discovery that explained why the aircraft maker had pushed back its ambitious schedule for getting the planes back in the air. **AP**

Malaysia, Singapore vow to reach friendly end to water spat

Anisah Shukry

THE leaders of neighboring Singapore and Malaysia agreed yesterday to amicably resolve a long-running dispute over water that has stoked tensions for decades.

In a joint press briefing, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong said they are open to resolving a disagreement over water prices through arbitration. They also planned to proceed with delimiting the maritime boundary and resolving issues over air-

pace and a suspended high-speed rail project.

For Singapore, the water pact "is such a sacrosanct item, and therefore let us try to find a way forward that enables us to talk constructively about this issue and hopefully be able to make some progress," Lee said. "To ask me what is the reasonable water price now is to pre-judge the question."

Water has been a main source of dispute between the neighbors, with former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, the late father of the leader, saying he was ready to send troops to

Malaysia if it tried to turn off the taps. Soon after returning to power last May, Mahathir had sought to revise a water-supply deal that had been unchanged since 1962, calling it "morally wrong."

Singapore had maintained that Malaysia missed out on the chance to review the price in 1986 and 1987, as the deal was subject to review 25 years after it started. Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah has called that interpretation of the deal "nonsensical."

The water pact was part of a separation agreement

registered with the United Nations when Singapore broke away from Malaysia in 1965. The countries have since bickered over issues from airspace to tiny islands, although the dispute never escalated beyond mutual badmouthing.

HERE ARE THE OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE TWO LEADERS:

Malaysia will seek to take back airspace currently delegated to Singapore in stages, starting from the end of 2019 through 2023 Singapore



and Malaysia will proceed to maritime boundary delimitation in the Johor Bahru and Singapore port limits starting next month, with Malaysia aiming to delimit all its outstanding maritime boundaries. The countries will continue talks on the high-speed rail link through the suspension period ended May 31, 2020, as Malay-

sia explores proposal to reduce cost Singapore is considering a six-month suspension for the Johor Bahru-Singapore rapid transit system as Malaysia seeks more affordable alternatives to the project. The neighbors consider improving infrastructure and policies to resolve congestion issue at the border. **Bloomberg**

INDIA

Bishop charged with repeatedly raping nun

INDIAN authorities charged a Roman Catholic bishop yesterday with repeatedly raping a nun in her rural convent, a case that helped make the sexual abuse of nuns a major issue in the church.

Bishop Franco Mulakkal was charged with rape, illegal confinement and intimidation, said Hari Sankar, a district police chief in the southern state of Kerala, India's Catholic heartland.

The nun who made the accusations, who has not been publicly identified, said she went to police last year only after complaining repeatedly to church authorities. Eventually, a group of fellow nuns launched unprecedented public protests to demand Mulakkal's arrest. He was arrested but released after a

few weeks. Mulakkal was the official patron of the nun's community, the Missionaries of Jesus, and wielded immense influence over its budgets and job assignments. The nun said the rapes occurred between 2014 and 2016. Mulakkal has denied the accusations, calling them "baseless and concocted" and saying the accusing nun was trying to pressure him to get a better job.

In February, Pope Francis for the first time publicly acknowledged the sexual abuse of nuns by priests and bishops.

Speaking to reporters aboard the papal plane, Francis vowed to confront the problem. "Should we do something more? Yes. Is there the will? Yes. But it's a path that we have already begun," he said. **AP**

THAILAND

Man accused of raping and killing German tourist

THAI police said a local man has been arrested on suspicion of raping and killing a German tourist on the island of Koh Si Chang in the Gulf of Thailand.

Police said the victim was approached and attacked by Ronnakorn Romruen, a native of the small island, while she was traveling on her rental motorbike. Ronnakorn, 23, was tracked down and arrested Monday.

An investigator at Chonburi police station, Somkid Kaensa, said police have charged Ronnakorn with murder, rape and concealing a body.

Police said the suspect, who operates a trash collecting boat, admitted to the crimes and said he used drugs before the incident.

The body of the 27-year-old tourist with injuries on head and legs was found Sunday hidden under rocks



and a pile of leaves. Koh Si Chang is a popular weekend tourist destination for both locals and foreigners with a population of only 5,000 people. The island is in Chonburi province, about 40 miles south of Bangkok. Somkid said a Thai tourist

called police after they saw Ronnakorn's clothes covered in blood and police then searched the area and discovered the tourist's body. Somkid said a flower vendor who knew Ronnakorn also saw that his clothes were covered in blood and asked him what he was

doing. Somkid said the vendor identified Ronnakorn for police, who went to his home where they found him and the shirt that was covered in blood. The maximum punishment for premeditated murder is the death penalty. **AP**

數碼互動

DIGITAL INTERACTIONS

美獅美高梅致力打造難忘的沉浸式藝術體驗
MGM COTAI HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS TO MAKE ART
AN EXCITING AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

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Jonathan Lemire, Zeke Miller & Mary Clare Jalonick, Washington

White House steps up attacks

PRESIDENT Donald Trump took a victory lap after special counsel Robert Mueller concluded his Russia investigation. It may have been premature.

The scramble to frame the investigation's findings in the best political light is sure to be renewed in coming days when Mueller's report is expected to be released in redacted form. Now that the American public will get a look at details beyond the four-page investigation summary written by Attorney General William Barr, some Trump allies are concerned that the president was too quick to declare complete triumph and they're pushing the White House to launch a pre-emptive attack.

Trump seems to be of the same mind.

"The Democrats will never be satisfied, no matter what they get, how much they get, or how many pages they get," Trump tweeted yesterday [local time], two days after he blasted "Bob Mueller's team of 13 Trump Haters & Angry Democrats."

With the goal to discredit what's coming, Trump and

his allies have unleashed a series of broadsides against Mueller's team and the Democrats pushing for full release of the final report. No longer is the president agreeing that Mueller acted honorably, as he did the day after the special counsel's conclusions were released. Instead, he's joining his allies in trying to undermine the integrity of the investigators and the credibility of their probe.

"You're darn right I'm going after them again," Rudy Giuliani, one of Trump's attorneys, told The Associated Press. "I never thought they did their job in a professional manner. [...] Only because there is overwhelming evidence that the president didn't do anything wrong, they were forced to admit they couldn't find anything on him. They sure tried."

After Washington waited nearly two years for Mueller to conduct his investigation, Barr released a letter last month stating that the special counsel found no evidence the Trump campaign "conspired or coordinated" with

the Russian government to influence the 2016 election. Moreover, while Mueller did not reach a conclusion as to whether Trump obstructed justice, Barr and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein determined that the president did not.

Mueller's team, which was barely quoted in Barr's letter, has made clear that it did not exonerate the president. And Democrats immediately called for Mueller to testify and for his entire 400-page report to be released.

That didn't stop the president's allies from declaring victory.

They falsely claimed Mueller had exonerated Trump, painted House Democrats' investigations as partisan overreach and planned to target news outlets and individual reporters they believe promoted the collusion story. The president himself seethed at a Michigan rally that the whole thing was an attempt "to tear up the fabric of our great democracy."

While the president unleashed his personal grievances, his team seized on

any exculpatory information in Barr's letter, hoping to swiftly define the conversation, according to six White House officials and outside advisers who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private deliberations.

Trump's inner circle knows there will likely be further releases of embarrassing or politically damaging information

Those officials and advisers acknowledged that the victory lap was deliberately premature.

Trump's inner circle knows there will likely be further releases of embarrassing or politically damaging informa-

tion. Barr's letter, for instance, hinted that there would be at least one unknown action by the president that Mueller examined as a possible act of obstruction. A number of White House aides have privately said they are eager for Russia stories, good or bad, to fade from the headlines. And there is fear among some presidential confidants that the rush to spike the football could backfire if bombshell new information emerged.

"I think they did what they had to do. Regardless of what Barr reported, they needed to claim vindication," said Republican strategist Alex Conant, who worked on Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign. "First impressions are important. And the first impression of the Mueller report was very good for Trump."

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, suggested the full report may raise new questions for Trump but would not contain anything that would threaten the presidency.

"I personally believe not all

AD

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as Mueller report release nears



of it is going to be great for the White House," Burr said. He added that he didn't know what's in the Mueller report, "but there are going to be things that maybe cause some people to say, 'Oh, gosh, I didn't know that existed.' Now,

does it reach a threshold? Apparently not." Trump's GOP allies in Congress are also hedging their bets by continuing to cast doubt on the origins of Mueller's investigation. The top Republican on the

House Intelligence Committee, California Rep. Devin Nunes, told Fox News on Sunday that he was sending eight criminal referrals to the Justice Department, apparently linked to investigations he started in the last

Congress about the beginnings of the Russia probe. The host of the Fox News program, Maria Bartiromo, told Nunes that he "ought to be taking a victory lap here" after Barr's memo said there was no evidence of Russian

collusion. But, in a signal that Trump's allies planned to remain on the offensive, Nunes responded: "There's no really time for victory laps because people have to be held accountable for this nonsense that happened." AP

AD

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what's ON



STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD –
LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS
TIME: 9:00am-5:30pm (closed on public
holidays)

UNTIL: May 31, 2019

VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications
Museum

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

PHOTO-SCRIPTS

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 2, 2019

VENUE: Macao Contemporary Art Center - Navy
Yard No.1

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO
TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm,
closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND
COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at
5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM
COLLECTION – CHE HO

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

UNTIL: April 14, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays);

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: April 14, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRY: (853) 2852 2550

Offbeat

BAD IDEA: POURING GAS ON WET
BALLFIELD, SETTING IT ON FIRE

Authorities say it could cost over USD50,000 to re-
pair a Connecticut baseball diamond where somebody
dumped gasoline and set it on fire to dry out the infield.

Police are investigating the fire in Ridgefield in which
25 gallons of gasoline was poured on the field last
week.

First Selectman Rudy Marconi told Hearst Connecti-
cut Media that 75 to 100 people watched as it hap-
pened, with some recording video on their cellphones.
The town's high school baseball team had been plan-
ning to host Amity on the field.

Workers from the state Department of Energy and En-
vironmental Protection responded. A hazardous waste
removal crew began digging up the contaminated soil
Sunday, and Marconi says the spill team will move it
off site this week.

No one has been charged.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:50	Zig Zag
16:10	Conversa da Treta
16:40	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Estórias do Tempo da Outra Senhora - Fim
18:30	A Entrevista - Christine Lagarde
19:00	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Montra do Lilau
21:50	LiteraturAqui
22:20	Network Negócios
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	5 Para a Meia-Noite
01:50	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:35	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



1981 HUNGER STRIKER ELECTED MP

Imprisoned IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands has
been elected to Westminster as the MP for Fermanagh
and South Tyrone.

Sands stood as a candidate of the "Anti-H Block"
campaign - the section of the Maze prison in Belfast
reserved for republicans and loyalists convicted of
terrorist offences.

He won just over 52% of the vote in the Northern
Ireland by-election compared to 49% for the candi-
date of the Official Unionist party, Harry West.

Sands' winning margin was 1,400 but over 3,000
ballot papers were spoiled.

Recriminations have already begun over his victory.
Unionist parties have come under fire for not moun-
ting an effective challenge.

There has also been sharp criticism of the failure of
the moderate Catholic Social Democratic and Labour
Party to contest the seat.

Many believe the absence of an alternative Catholic
candidate ensured victory for Sands in a seat with a
Catholic majority.

Bobby Sands' election agent, Owen Carron, said
the British Government had been sent a message.

"The nationalist people have voted against Unio-
nism and against the H blocks.

"It is time Britain got out of Ireland and put an end
to the torture of this country," he said.

Sands, 27, has served four years of a 14-year sen-
tence for possessing firearms.

He began his hunger strike 41 days ago to press the
republican prisoners' claim to be treated as prisoners
of war.

The government must now decide how to respond
to Bobby Sands' victory.

It could try to have him expelled on the grounds that
he is an "unacceptable member".

However, unless he starts to eat again, Sands is not
expected to live for more than another few weeks.

He has already lost two stone and is too weak to
leave his bed in the prison's hospital wing.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bobby Sand's victory was the second time the voters of Fermanagh and
South Tyrone had elected a republican prisoner as their MP.

The first, Philip Clarke, in 1955, was disqualified because the law then did
not allow convicts to take up political office.

In spite of attempts by the European Commission on Human Rights to
mediate, Bobby Sands died on 5 May 1981.

He was the first of 10 republican prisoners to die after hunger strikes.

They attracted international media attention and sympathy for the repub-
licans.

The hunger strikes came to an end in October 1981.

However, the Conservative Government of Margaret Thatcher granted the
republicans only a few minor concessions..

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You can't indulge in anything selfish anymore, but you can still keep your best qualities polished and in shape. Be charming today, not to get what you want but just for the practice.

Taurus April 20-May 20 There are many positive things about the situation you find yourself in. There's no overindulgence, for one. Now that you can't overdo it even if you wanted to, find constructive ways to use that excess energy.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you fancy yourself the intellectual today then give yourself a question to ponder. If you start a lot of projects but never finish them, who gets paid, you or the person who actually does the job? Thoughts?

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You can't use the situation you're in today as your model for tomorrow. So just how do you go about getting things to run more smoothly in the future? You'll have to come up with something totally new.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It's been a long hike through the wilderness, and now you deserve a proverbial foot rub. Friendship, a cheap date or both are just what the doctor ordered to get you back on your feet for another round tomorrow.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 No one is buying, not even you. The impulse just isn't there. If that leads you to more deep and meaningful ways to spend your time and money, then your long, twisted path has finally taken you where you need to be.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Flirting doesn't necessarily involve the attention of others. You could be flirting with disaster and not even know it. If that makes you want to check your balances, then you're right on target.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Thinking is too passive. You need to come up with a more active approach to solving your problem. Find someone willing to toss ideas back and forth with you, for starters, and see how far you can push the bottom line.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Communication is good if you keep your mind open. The universe is giving you an insider tip. Acting on it is all fair and by the books, so try to tune in to the big picture.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 One of the fundamentals of any transaction is mutual value. When all of your energy is focused on making it work and you're just not getting anywhere, remind yourself of what you really have to offer the world.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Being aloof or intellectual is the wrong approach to take. You can't think your way past a locked door, even though you have some great ideas. But you can find a key by connecting with someone who can help.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Throwing the baby out with the bathwater doesn't really help, unless the debts go out, too. It could be time to think of wiping the slate clean. That includes both what you owe and what others owe you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ___ Lama Ding Dong; 5- Block; 10- Jason's carrier; 14- Some are pale; 15- Run away to get married; 16- Exceptional; 17- Etta of old comics; 18- Moth-repellent wood; 19- Decorative pitcher; 20- Great happiness; 23- Road to ___; 24- Carbon compound; 25- Christie of mystery; 29- One who enjoys inflicting pain; 31- Spring mo.; 32- In demand; 33- Sex hormone; 37- Dagger of yore; 40- Miner concern; 41- Sloth's home; 42- Talkative; 47- Christina's dad; 48- Seminary subj.; 49- Disney honcho; 53- Sweet Spanish wine; 55- The Tower of Pisa does this; 57- Enzyme ending; 58- Cobia; 61- Not odd; 64- Delight; 65- Nautical adverb; 66- Reside; 67- Cut off; 68- Actress Suvari; 69- Shakespearean king; 70- Minuscle; 71- German river; DOWN: 1- Gardeners, at times; 2- Word blindness; 3- Technique; 4- Italian wine city; 5- Pours off leaving sediment; 6- Oldsmobile model; 7- Related to form; 8- ___ the crack of dawn; 9- Amulet; 10- Stadium used for sports or musical events; 11- Inexperienced; 12- College sr.'s test; 13- Anthem contraction; 21- majeste; 22- Fiend; 26- God with a hammer; 27- Sharpen; 28- Fit to ___; 30- Tabloid couple; 31- On the ocean; 34- Work like a dog; 35- Tolkien ogre; 36- AAA recommendations; 37- Swindle; 38- Director Ephron; 39- Pianist Gilels; 43- Push; 44- Most proximate; 45- Cheap restaurant; 46- Bits of thread; 50- Arrested; 51- Ancient Palestinian; 52- Try again; 54- Ed of "Lou Grant"; 55- Hit the road; 56- Devoured; 59- Elation; 60- Fortune's partner; 61- Pipe bend; 62- Join the competition; 63- Zsa Zsa's sister;



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



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Advertisement for 'FOR SALE' properties including Va Fat, Wa Bao, Lakeview, and The Manhattan.

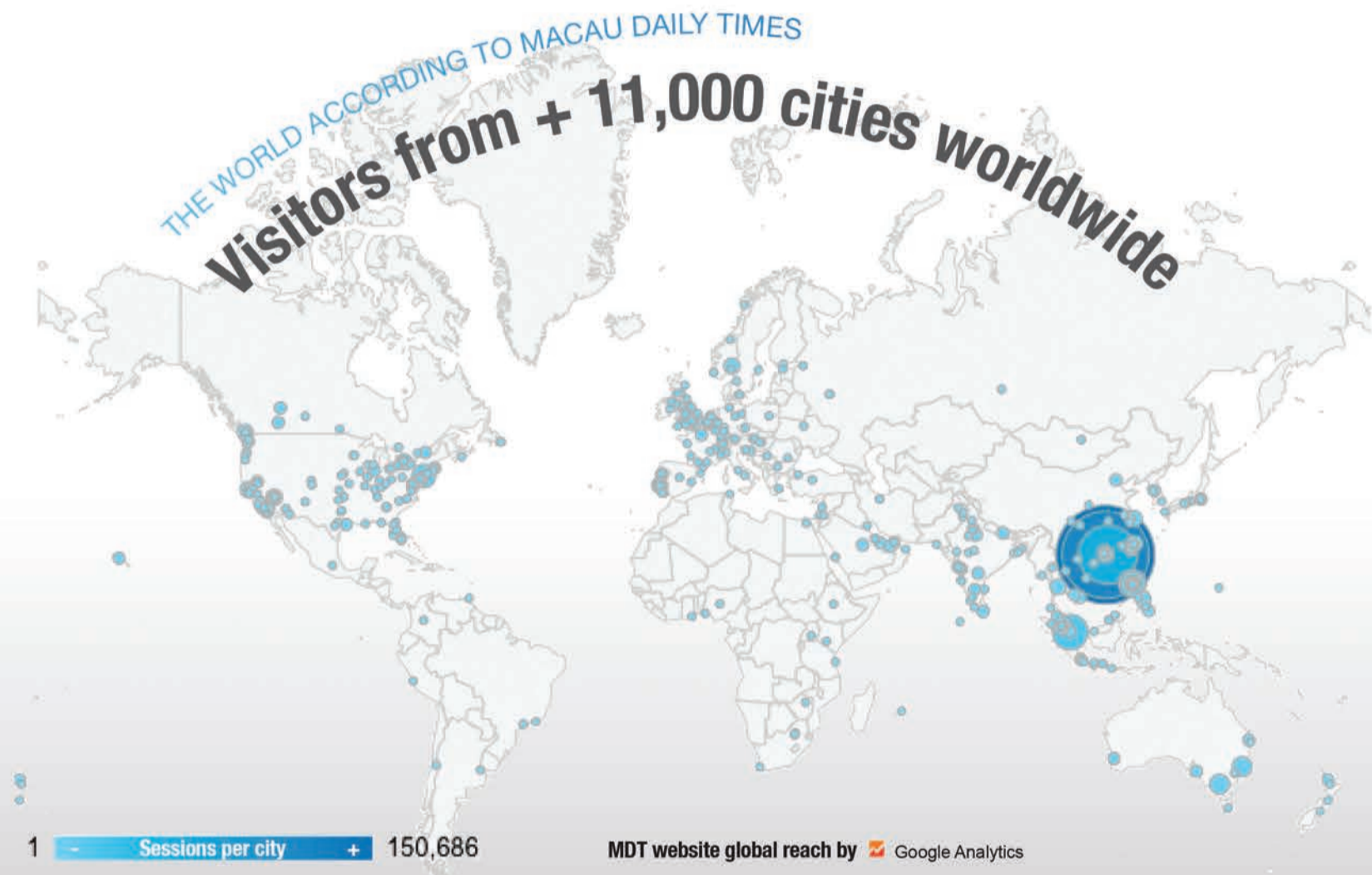
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

'New kids on the block': Juventus next up for rising Ajax

Andrew Dampf

Thursday, 3:00am
Ajax v Juventus
H 3.42, D 3.4, A 2.38

AJAX already knocked off one European power in the Champions League by taking out 13-time champion Real Madrid.

Now the rising Dutch club has its sights set on eliminating Cristiano Ronaldo and Juventus.

"We really showed everyone what we can do. And hopefully we can show that again against Juventus," 21-year-old Ajax midfielder Frenkie de Jong said. "We are of course the new kids on the block."

While Ronaldo has been out for two weeks after injuring his right thigh while on international duty with Portugal, he is expected to return for the first leg of the quarterfinals today [Thursday, 3am] in Amsterdam.

"Of course he's going to play. He's really ready," Juventus winger Jose Cancelo said Monday.

Perhaps the only question remaining over Ronaldo's status is whether he starts the match

or comes on as a substitute.

After finishing runner-up twice in the last four years, Juventus signed Ronaldo — who helped Madrid to the title in four of the past five seasons — to take the next step and win the elusive trophy.

If ever there was any doubt, Ronaldo showed his value by scoring a hat trick against Atletico Madrid in the last 16, almost single-handedly overturning a first-leg deficit.

Ajax also produced a memorable comeback in the previous round, overturning a 2-1 loss at home with a 4-1 victory in Madrid to reach the quarterfinals for the first time in 16 years.

Attempting to revive the success it had in the 1990s — when the Dutch club reached two straight finals (winning the 1995 title and losing the 1996 trophy to Juventus) — Ajax relies on a large array of youth products. De Jong is already slated to join Barcelona next season, while 19-year-old captain Matthijs de Ligt is considered one of the top young defenders in Europe.

Facing Ronaldo will be a big test for De Ligt.

Ajax is run by CEO Edwin van der Sar and director of football Marc Overmars —

both of whom were members of the club that won the 1995 title.

Van der Sar later played for Juventus.

"Ajax is a really strong team," Cancelo said. "I watched the match they played in Madrid with Real. They have so many young players with so much talent and we have to be very careful."

Added Italy coach Roberto Mancini: "It's not going to be as easy as it seemed during the draw. [Ajax] has nothing to lose and they're a good squad. [...] But Juve has the experience and the players [to advance]."

While Juventus is loaded with experienced players, one of its youngest players led the squad during Ronaldo's absence.

Moise Kean, a 19-year-old Italy striker, has scored seven goals in his last eight games for club and country.

Still, Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri hinted that Kean will likely remain an option off the bench against Ajax, having come on and scored the winner against AC Milan on Saturday.

"We need to leave him space to grow," Allegri said. "The substitutes are important, as we've already seen." **AP**



Ajax's Matthijs de Ligt fights for the ball against Real forward Karim Benzema during the Champions League match last month



FOOTBALL

Like Juve, Barca focus on Europe, rivals face home challenges

Thursday, 3:00am
Man Utd v Barcelona
H 4, D 3.75, A 2.05

WITH the completion of their domestic title defenses seeming a formality, Barcelona and Juventus can now focus on the Champions League.

For the rest of the quarterfinalists it's a far more challenging period that will stretch their squads while ambitions at home and abroad are juggled.

The quarterfinals have been the end of Barcelona's Champions League

journey for three successive seasons since winning a fifth European title in 2015.

United is in the last eight for the first time since 2014 when defeat helped spell the end of David Moyes' reign as Alex Ferguson's immediate successor.

Victory at Paris Saint-Germain last month, though, contributed to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer being handed the United job on a three-year contract after convincing the ownership of his credentials during a three-month audition after Mourinho's firing.

United hosts Barcelona at Old Trafford with the luxury of having not played for more than a week since an April 2 loss to Wolverhampton.

"We will have less rest but on the other hand we will be more motivated by the victory over Atletico," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said.

While Barcelona opened an 11-point Spanish league lead over Atletico with a 2-0 win on Saturday, United is in sixth place in the Premier League — two points off fourth with six games remaining. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THE RE-EMERGING MEASLES THREAT

Every time a crackpot tells us that vaccinations have some problem the world becomes a more dangerous place. Science is based on empirical facts, and does not care whether you believe in it or not – it kills everybody the same. Crackpots with their “gut feel” and beliefs, on the other hand, are not science and will kill you randomly for your gullibility. That many people are stupid enough to unquestioningly believe much of the nonsense that is published, and that many journalists and others working in the media do not call these liars to task, leaves me dumbfounded, amazed and disheartened.

A case in point is Measles, and the vaccinations available to protect people from it. Measles is a purely human based and highly infectious airborne disease that spreads by coughing, sneezing, etc. and the virus can survive in the air for a few hours before entering a new patient. It is particularly dangerous for children, many of whom require hospital treatment after becoming infected. In 1980 Measles killed 2.6 million people globally, but because of the availability of a good vaccine and widespread public vaccination programs this number had dropped to 73,000 by 2014. Also, Measles was “eliminated” in the USA by 2000, which meant that the only cases found could be attributed to infected people bringing it into the country.

Unfortunately, especially in the Western world, Measles is on the rise because stupid people are not vaccinating themselves or their children. There were 372 cases in the USA in 2018 and there have been 200 so far in 2019 (as at 9 March). Generally, for “herd protection” at least 95% of a population needs to have been vaccinated, but in the USA nearly 50% of counties do not reach this level of protection. This is nearly all due to people refusing to have their children vaccinated on religious, “philosophical” and “personal freedom” grounds.

The human immune system is a wonderful thing, but needs to be “trained” as children grow, ie they need to be exposed to diseases to build their immunity. This is safely done through vaccinations which deliberately infect children safely with a reduced potency version of a disease. This well tested and proven approach has been effectively used to protect humanity from many diseases since the 1800’s.

Vaccination works in two important ways. Firstly, it immunizes the person vaccinated so they have a much reduced chance of catching the disease, and even if they do catch it, the effects are much milder. Secondly, if the whole population is vaccinated the disease cannot spread because the people exposed do not get infected, which greatly contains and limits the severity of any outbreak. Crucially, this “herd protection” only works if the whole population is vaccinated so that people refusing to vaccinate their children endanger not only themselves and their own children, but the whole population.

There is some claptrap about the MMR vaccine for Measles published on the Internet and elsewhere, but the truth is that it is a very safe and well proven vaccine that has been used to inoculate over 500 million people with only 0.0001% experiencing severe allergic reactions. There is absolutely no credible evidence that MMR vaccination causes autism – it was a medical hoax that has been thoroughly disproven.

It is particularly important for everybody living in Macau to be vaccinated against Measles. It is the best way to protect ourselves and our children and to maximize our “herd protection”. Herd protection is especially important given the large numbers of tourists visiting Macau and the large number of foreign workers living here who may catch it after visiting their homelands (because Measles has not been eliminated in the region). This is especially the case now, where we have had 23+ Measles cases in Macau in the last few months, many of whom were hospital staff (who, presumably, were not vaccinated).

THE NYC ORDERS MANDATORY VACCINES FOR SOME AMID MEASLES OUTBREAK

New York City declared a public health emergency yesterday over a measles outbreak and ordered mandatory vaccinations in one neighborhood for people who may have been exposed to the virus.

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the unusual order amid what he said was a measles “crisis” in Brooklyn’s Williamsburg section, where more than 250 people, mostly members of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish religious community, have gotten measles since September.

The order applies to anyone living, working

or going to school in four ZIP codes in the neighborhood.

The declaration requires all unvaccinated people who may have been exposed to the virus to get the vaccine, including children over 6 months old.

People who ignore the order could be fined USD1,000. The city said it would help everyone covered by the order get the vaccine if they can’t get it quickly through their regular medical provider.

POLL

Most Americans say Trump makes race relations worse



Jesse J. Holland

MORE than half of Americans say President Donald Trump has made race relations worse during his time in the White House, and more than two-thirds believe it has become more common for people to say racist things since he won the White House.

This is according to a Pew Research Center poll released yesterday that asked Americans their feelings about race in the United States.

Almost 3 out of 5 Americans, or 58%, say race relations in the U.S. are generally bad, and 56% of those in the Pew Research Center’s “Race in America 2019” survey said Trump has made race relations worse.

Only one-fourth, or 25%, said former President Barack Obama, a Democrat and the country’s first black president, made race relations worse.

Roughly two-thirds of Americans, or 65%, also say it has become more common for people to express racist views since Trump took office.

“One of the key takeaways is that Americans have a negative view of the country’s racial progress and the current state of race relations,” said Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Pew’s associate director of research and one of the report’s authors.

Trump, a Republican, has been dogged by racial turmoil during his time in office, including the deadly violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, during a protest against a Confederate statue and the administration’s reaction to

illegal immigration at the United States-Mexico border.

But the White House says Trump has regularly denounced racism.

“The president has been incredibly clear and has consistently and repeatedly condemned hatred, bigotry, racism in all of its forms whether it’s in America or anywhere else,” White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said last month.

There were major differences in how people of different races answered questions about race in the United States.

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For example, while more than 3 in 5 Americans, or 63%, said they think that the United States’ legacy of slavery affects the position of black people in the country, 84% of African Americans agreed with that statement and 58% of white Americans agreed with it.

The gulf increased when Americans were asked whether the country has gone far enough in giving black people rights equal to those of white people. Overall, more than 2 in 5 Americans, or 45%, said they believe that the United States hasn’t gone

far enough, but 78% of black people agreed with that while only 37% of white people thought that statement was true.

Also, 50% of African Americans surveyed thought that it was not too likely or not at all likely that African Americans would eventually have equal rights in the United States.

Only 7% of white people thought it was unlikely that black people would achieve racial equality.

More than half of black people, or 52%, said being black has hurt their ability to get ahead in the United States, with 18% saying it has hurt a lot. About a quarter of Hispanics and Asians, 24% each, said that their race or ethnicity has hurt their ability to get ahead, while only 5% of white people thought their race hurt their ability to advance in this country.

Black people thought that racial discrimination was the top thing holding them back in the United States, followed by less access to high-paying jobs and less access to good schools. White people agreed on the causes, but more of them thought education was the top issue.

“One of the takeaways from this is how different people’s perspectives on race are in the United States, how people bring their own experiences into these questions and how divided this country is by race and by [political] party,” Horowitz said.

The poll of 6,637 Americans was conducted Jan. 22 to Feb. 5 with a margin of error of plus or minus 1.7 percentage points. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good
Ambient	15-35 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



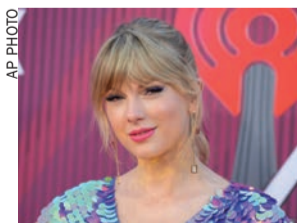
AFGHANISTAN U.S. forces revised yesterday the death toll from a Taliban attack the previous day near the main American base in the country, saying three U.S. soldiers were killed but not a contractor who was initially reported among the fatalities. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.



ISRAELI voters decided yesterday whether to give Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu another term in office in a tight election that has become a referendum on his decade in power. Clouded by a series of looming corruption indictments, Netanyahu is seeking a fourth consecutive term and a fifth overall.



ALGERIA protesters rejected the interim leader named yesterday to replace former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, shouting “out with the system” as they demonstrated for the dismantling of the political hierarchy that has led Algeria for two decades.



SWIFT Music superstar Taylor Swift says the efforts of a Tennessee LGBTQ advocacy group to fight a handful of contentious bills moving inside the state’s Republican-controlled General Assembly inspired her to make a sizeable donation. Swift donated USD113,000 to the organization.