



LEONG MEETS WITH FINANCIAL REGULATORS

Lionel Leong continued his visit in the capital, where he met top regulators of insurance and financial practices on the mainland

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ILLEGAL TOUR GUIDES HARD TO COMBAT UNDER CURRENT LAW

P3 TOURISM



CROWN SHARES SLUMP AFTER WYNN ENDS TALKS

Crown Resorts shares slumped after Wynn Resorts abruptly ended talks to buy the Australian casino operator

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



TRADE WAR U.S. and Chinese negotiators are discussing adding a concession on cloud computing to their trade agreement that would give foreign companies greater access to the USD12 billion Chinese market. [More on p11](#)



NORTH KOREA's Supreme People's Assembly is expected to convene today to formally approve leader Kim Jong Un's latest economic policies and possibly endorse a shift in U.S. strategy following his failed summit with President Trump in Hanoi. [More on p13](#)



THAILAND A fire broke out at one of Bangkok's biggest mall complexes yesterday, killing at least two people and injuring more than a dozen. The extent of the fire at the Thai capital's Central World complex, which includes a hotel, a convention center and an office tower, was small, but it caused the shopping mall's evacuation.



EGYPT A Bedouin woman, Umm Yasser, is breaking new ground among the deeply conservative Bedouin Sinai Peninsula. Women among the Bedouin almost never work outside the home, and even more rarely do they interact with outsiders. But Umm Yasser is one of four women from the community who for the first time are working as tour guides.

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EVA BUCHO



CORRUPTION

Song Pek Kei wants answers

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OVER THE BORDER

Hengqin property deals surge on Delta Bridge

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Macau pets exempted from mainland quarantine

Starting from May 1, pets from Macau may be exempted from quarantine inspections when entering Mainland China. The General Administration of Customs announced China's latest update to the country's regulations on the quarantine of pets. Including Macau and Hong Kong, 19 designated countries and territories are included in the exemption. According to the new regulation, when pets from Macau enter China, the owners need to present both a quarantine certificate and a vaccination certificate. If the pet's chip meets the requirement and the pet passes an on-site clinical examination, they can be exempted from quarantine.

427 taxi infractions recorded in March

In March, a total of 427 taxi offences were recorded by the Public Security Police Force (PSP), according to a statement released by the PSP earlier this week. Among them, 266 offences (62 percent) related to overcharging and refusing to carry passengers. There were 100 cases (23 percent) of taxi drivers refusing to accept passengers and 61 cases involving other violations. During the same period, the police recorded 10 cases involving unauthorized taxis, none of which were related to mobile taxi hailing services.

Lawmaker asks about labor rights protection fund

Lawmaker Ella Lei has raised a written inquiry to the government and urged the authorities to prevent abuse of the Labor Creditors' Rights Protection Fund. Lei cited the fund's work report with respect to 2016 and 2017, where it reported that although a total of MOP21.9 million was paid from the fund, only 3 percent of that money, amounting to MOP607,000, was returned. The fund started operation back in 2016. Lei asked about which industries the employees who applied to the fund are mainly involved in, and whether the relevant laws and regulations needed to be reviewed.

Lawmaker requests officials answer annual corruption report

LAWMAKER Song Pek Kei has raised an oral inquiry asking government officials to attend the Legislative Assembly (AL) in order to respond to the Commission Against Corruption's (CCAC) annual work report released late last month.

In its 2018 report, the CCAC found that both the Secretary for Administration and Justice and her predecessor did not violate the law when they recommended their relatives to the Office of the Prosecutor General.

In the same report, the CCAC also found that 16 out of 101 workers in the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) were relatives. The relationships included father and son, father and daughter, husband and wife, and brother and sister. Three of these 16 workers had already left their jobs by the report's release on March 27.

Song believes that the report is a significant test of the integrity of the entire public service

RENATO MARQUES



Lawmaker Song Pek Kei

system. Relevant departments must conscientiously sum up the lessons learned.

Song proposes that if the cases involve illegal and disciplinary

issues, they must be dealt with seriously in accordance with the law.

In the long run, Song believes that it is necessary to strengthen

supervision and accountability mechanisms, especially when procedures involve recruitment or promotion, the tendering of public projects and potential conflicts of interest.

Song urges the local government to close loopholes as soon as possible and to strive toward a corruption-free government.

Previously, lawmaker Sulu Sou said that although the CCAC report would likely concern the Macau SAR government, he sensed that the local community were unsurprised by the incidents described in it.

Sou pointed out that conflicts of interest are common in Macau society, and attempts to avoid them are rare. Moreover, government officials have not found a mechanism to avoid such conflicts.

Sou also accused the Chief Executive of having continuously used various reasons to excuse matters when conflicts of interest arose in the past. **JZ**

22 lawmakers listed on CE election committee

TWENTY-TWO lawmakers have been selected as members of the Chief Executive Election Committee.

The 22 lawmakers, who will be part of the 400-member committee to decide the region's next top official, each submitted an application to become a member of the committee. According to various reports, all of the lawmakers who applied have been accepted.

"There are some seats for legislators in the 'small-circle' 400-member Electoral Committee for the Chief Executive. All democratic legislators boycotted the internal elections, lawmaker Sulu Sou wrote yesterday on social media. "In the end, it will again be an election with no competition. All [the 22 lawmakers] are automatically 'elected'."

"I have a dream - one that seems small but yet worth fighting for. It is that one day, in the future, I can cast my vote for my Chief Executive, together with all the citizens in Macau," Sou added.

議員	Deputado(a)
1. 宋碧琪	Song Pek Kei
2. 麥瑞權	Mak Soi Kun
3. 李靜儀	Lei Cheng I
4. 梁安琪	Leong On Kei
5. 陳亦立	Chan Iek Lap
6. 陳虹	Chan Hong
7. 何潤生	Ho Ion Sang
8. 高天賜	José Maria Pereira Coutinho
9. 鄭安庭	Zheng Anting
10. 陳華強	Chan Wa Keong
11. 黃顯輝	Vong Hin Fai
12. 黃潔貞	Wong Kit Cheng
13. 張立群	Cheung Lup Kwan Vitor
14. 葉兆佳	Ip Sio Kai
15. 馬志成	Ma Chi Seng
16. 邱庭彪	Iau Teng Pio
17. 柳智毅	Lao Chi Ngai
18. 龐川	Pang Chuan
19. 梁孫旭	Leong Sun lok
20. 林玉鳳	Lam Iok Fong
21. 李振宇	Lei Chan U
22. 林倫偉	Lam Lon Wai

According to the Basic Law, the Chief Executive of Macau shall be elected by a so-called 'broadly representative' election committee composed of 400 members from the four sectors and those appointed by the central government. **JZ**

Leong meets with financial regulators

Staff reporter

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong continued his visit in the capital. For his second day there, he met with the management of two supervisory bodies overlooking insurance and financial practices in mainland China. The two bodies were the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission, represented at the meeting by vice president Zhou Liang and vice president Fang Xinghai respectively.

The agenda of the meeting was connected with the platform for trade cooperation between China and Lusophone countries - especially its

financial component - as well as strengthening communication between the SAR and the country as a whole.

Macau will work to become the Renminbi clearing center for Lusophone countries, Leong said.

Leong expressed gratitude to the two supervisory bodies as they had supported and helped Macau's development of financial services.

The Secretary suggested the establishment of a mechanism for mutual connectivity and accessibility of information within the banking and insurance commission.

He also said he wants to improve civil financial services for residents in the Greater Bay Area and expedite the pace of integration for both human resources and financial capital.

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BLOOMBERG

TOURISM

Illegal tour guides hard to combat under current law



Renato Marques

THE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) is, so far, apparently immune to the phenomenon of the so-called "illegal tour guides," who bring into Macau groups of tourists from the mainland and lead them through the region without hiring a local tour guide as the law requires.

At least that was the conclusion arrived after the meeting of government officials representing the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the members of the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL), which met yesterday afternoon at the AL.

After the meeting, while summarizing the topics discussed, the president of the committee, lawmaker Si Ka Lon, noted that according to MGTO there

have been complaints of illegal activities of this kind at the border checkpoint of the HKZMB since its opening.

Si explained that "all the seven cases reported from the period between October 2018 until the end of March 2019 refer to occurrences at the Border Gate [border checkpoint]," adding that, of those, "three cases are from the first three months of this year."

Nevertheless, the president of the committee advanced that from such a number of complaints and investigations, no sanctions or penalties were issued to anyone.

Questioned on the matter, he explained that it is quite difficult to define illegal guides and even harder to find proof of such illegal activity.

"When questioned or inspected, the majority of the tours state that the group is a 'free choice program' and that is why it is

hard to prosecute them," said Si. "They just have a gathering start point and then a gathering finish point at the border area."

The lawmaker argued that it is difficult for the inspectors to gather evidence because, "when questioned, the group leaders and the tourists have probably been already instructed to say that they have no oriented program and they are just on their own to visit wherever they like."

According to data provided by MGTO and cited by the president of the committee, the Office has performed a total of 305 inspections on the Bridge and another 164 at the Border Gate, 12 of those in collaboration with the Public Security Police Force authority.

Questioned by the media, Si advanced that an amendment to this law, which has been in force for 15 years, is planned to be

soon introduced, noting that the MGTO has barely concluded the bill and it is currently preparing to send it for analysis by the Executive Council.

Although he noted that the details of such a bill are not yet known, he thinks it should clarify the matter in order to ease the work of the inspectors and the evidence collection process.

IN THE MEANTIME

While a new bill is being considered, several lawmakers in the committee expressed opinions and discussed how the government could immediately act to tackle at least some of the cases, even before the law is amended. On the topic, lawmaker Si said that the MGTO is surveying the possibilities ahead of attributing a sanction under the existing article 67, line b, which establishes a fine ranging from MOP20,000 to 30,000 for the

travel agent who, despite not being a tour guide, acts like one: organizing the tour or part of it. According to the president, there are two roles well defined by the agency staff and tour guides, the first mainly being responsible for the organization of transportation and logistics of the hotels and the second being responsible for providing guidance and information on the city, monuments and other aspects.

According to Si, if the second role, acting like a tour group leader, provides services under the competence of the tour guide, he or she should be able to be sanctioned with a fine.

Moreover, if he or she is a non-resident, "we can prevent their re-entry into the region if the fine is not paid."

This is a solution that, according to the president, has already gathered the support of the majority of lawmakers.

HEALTH

SSM reports minor outbreak of rubella in April

THE Health Bureau (SSM) is monitoring a minor outbreak of rubella in the territory after some 14 cases were detected since the start of April. Just one case of the virus was registered in the first three months of the year.

The SSM warned that the number of cases may increase in the coming days, however it assured at a press conference held last night that the Macau SAR has sufficient stock of vaccinations to remain

on top of the situation.

The vaccine against rubella is the same as that for measles and mumps, commonly known as the MMR vaccine.

The SSM reminded the public that it recently increased its order of the MMR vaccine to 15,000 doses.

Meanwhile, the total number of measles cases has reached 33 this year, the SSM confirmed in the wake of a new case involving a local resident on

Tuesday night.

According to an investigation, a 32-year old local resident, employed at StarWorld Hotel, was diagnosed with measles after exhibiting symptoms of fever and a rash on his body.

The patient then sought medical treatment at the Emergency Department of Kiang Wu Hospital.

On April 9, after performing IgM antibody tests, the blood samples tested positive for the

measles virus.

According to the bureau, the patient still has a fever, but her clinical condition is considered normal. The patient was born in mainland China and her history of measles vaccination is unknown.

The SSM said that it has been monitoring the health status of people who have had contact with this patient during the initial phase of the disease.

Fifteen of the measles cases involved people who exited the SAR before being diagnosed with measles, while 18 were infected through contact with other patients with the disease. Eight of them were health professionals from Kiang Wu Hospital while two are professionals at the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center.

Recently, in a bid to discover the source of the outbreak, the SSM con-

ducted a survey involving 100 Filipino migrants to find the rate of immunity to the measles disease.

As the outbreak has been worsening, residents were quick to ask for vaccination to protect themselves from the measles virus.

Of the 33 cases, 29 have been discharged.

In general, the incubation period lasts from seven to 18 days, although a longer period of 21 days can occur. **LV**



Sands China chose local companies for 77% of 2018 business

Staff reporter

OF the approximately MOP10.9 billion spent by casino operator Sands China last year on procurement, 77 percent, or MOP8.4 billion, was for products and services sourced from local suppliers.

The resort operator held an SME (small and medium-sized business) open day for local su-

pliers yesterday at the Conrad Macao Hotel. The event was co-organized by the Macao Chamber of Commerce, one of Macau's oldest fraternal bodies in business and commerce.

Such events have been popular in recent years among the six casino concessionaires, in accordance with the government's policy to shore up such businesses.

Yesterday's event attracted the

attendance of several company representatives from Las Vegas and Singapore.

It was arranged in such a way that representatives from invited companies had individual time to introduce their products or services to the responsible parties from Sands China. On the other hand, walk-in lines were available for companies lacking an invitation. Two banks were

present to promote their financial services.

In preparation for this event, Sands China said it had contacted organizations that assist youth entrepreneurs in Macau, with the aim of attracting these individuals to the event.

"My company has previously worked with other casino operators, but considering Sands China is the largest, I have a higher

expectation," said a participating young entrepreneur surnamed Che.

"We have great anticipation in doing business with casino operators," said Che. "We have spent a lot of time to categorize our products, collect related data, and prepare a nice presentation. We hope we can make a match."

Sands China president Wilfred Wong announced at the event that the casino operator has partnered with six local banks to provide financial support for local SMEs, as part of its 'F.I.T. initiative.'

The initiative "assists SMEs in areas of financial support, invitational matching, and training and development," explained Wong, adding that opportunities for local SMEs will continue to be created so as to align with the government's initiative to "buy local."

In his speech, the vice president of the Chamber's board of directors, Chui Yuk Lam, noted that Sands China was the first resort operator to work with them in launching an SME program.

Meanwhile, Chad Forster, vice president of global procurement at Las Vegas Sands, said that it was the company's policy worldwide to prioritize local suppliers.

The event was also officiated by representatives from both national and local government departments.

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The skyline of Hengqin where construction projects are underway, as seen from Macau

HKZMB

Hengqin property deals surge on Delta Bridge effect

Julie Zhu

THE number of residential property transactions in Hengqin increased more than 75 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, Centaline Property (Macau) revealed yesterday during a press conference, with the company director attributing the rise in part to the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

"It is mainly due to the promulgation of the Outline Development Plan of the Greater Bay Area, the acceleration of the development of the GBA, and the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge," said Roy Ho, director of Centaline Macau.

"This year may be the year when the highest number of transactions will be registered," predicted Ho Chao San, another director of Centaline Macau.

"As we can see, buildings in Hengqin are being finished beside the HKZMB. There is a policy in Hengqin that, as of 2020, all of these buildings' first phase must be completed," said Ho. "We can see that some of the skyscrapers' exter-

nal structures are ready." "We can see Hong Kong buyers coming to Hengqin to buy the properties, and they mainly buy shops with the purpose of collecting rents," said Ho. "There are also many Macau buyers, and they are basically the major buyers, representing 70 percent of the total."

Regarding buyers, 27 percent, 19 percent and 20 percent of Hengqin properties are Zhuhai residents, Hong Kong residents and Macau residents, respectively.

Most of the Macau residents purchase mainly shops and offices in Hengqin, according to Ho.

Currently, Hengqin is still the priority choice of Macau's property investors in Guangdong province, followed by Zhongshan.

"However, Zhuhai and Hengqin are still the main markets because property prices in Zhuhai are rather low. There are many beneficial policies for Zhuhai when compared to Shenzhen, so Zhuhai is more attractive," said Ho.

In total, 231 residential unit transactions were officially registered in Hengqin during the first


quarter, representing 32 percent of all the island's property transactions in that period. Hengqin accounted for about 7.3 percent of Zhuhai's 9,805 property transactions in the first quarter, which itself climbed about 40 percent year-on-year.

The most popular area in terms of property sales in Hengqin is the district's integrated service zone, from which 291 property transactions were registered, representing 41 percent of Hengqin's total transactions.

Following the integrated service zone, the next highest number of transactions was recorded by the port service zone, with a total of 153 transactions, and then the central business district, from which 146 transactions were registered.

In the remainder of 2019, it is estimated that Zhuhai will have a total of 14 property projects enter the market, providing approximately 260,000 square meters for business purposes, 771,000 square meters for office purposes, 90,000 square meters for residence purposes, and 232,000 square meters for cultural and creative purposes.

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Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox

WYNN RESORTS

Security head removed after he admits to spying

Philip Marcelo, Boston

WYNN Resorts removed its security chief after he acknowledged spying on a former employee following allegations of sexual misconduct against company founder Steve Wynn came to light.

CEO Matthew Maddox said James Stern, the executive vice president of corporate security, was informed Saturday the company would “no longer require his services,” according to a lengthy legal brief to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission released Tuesday.

Stern told the commission last week he’d surveilled company co-founder Elaine Wynn and three employees, including one named in The Wall Street Journal’s 2018 report

about the misconduct allegations. Steve Wynn has denied the sexual misconduct allegations.

The gaming commission, following last week’s hearings, is deliberating privately on whether Wynn Resorts is still suitable to hold a state casino license as it plans to open the USD2.6 billion Encore Boston Harbor in June. A written decision is expected later.

Stern, a former FBI agent, testified he’d sent undercover operatives to monitor current and former employees, including former Wynn casino stylist Jorgen Nielsen, who was a named source in the Journal’s January 2018 story. It’s not clear who the other two persons surveilled were, but, in its Tuesday memo, the company

stressed that neither Nielsen nor the others were victims of Steve Wynn’s alleged misconduct.

The company also said Stern’s surveillance of Elaine Wynn, the ex-wife of Steve Wynn, happened around 2012 and stemmed from an unrelated lawsuit brought by Kazuo Okada, a Japanese billionaire and fellow Wynn Resorts co-founder.

Elaine Wynn told regulators last week she disclosed to company officials in 2009 a \$7.5 million payout Steve Wynn made to a female employee who’d claimed he’d raped and impregnated her.

Commission members last week criticized Maddox and other company officials for spending time and resources to surveil employees but not to

investigate sexual misconduct claims.

But the spying revelations shouldn’t reflect negatively on Maddox, the company argued in its 49-page memo, which also covers other issues and concerns gaming commission members raised about what Maddox may have known or done about the misconduct allegations.

Maddox, who took over as CEO last February but had been a close confidante of Steve Wynn for years, had only “minimal” and “partial” knowledge of the spying, the company maintained. And, going forward, it said surveillance work will be approved by the company’s chief global compliance officer and its general counsel. **AP**

ATLANTIC CITY

Profits down 15% in expanded casino market

CASINO profits fell by more than 15% in Atlantic City in 2018, a year in which the downsized market reopened two shuttered gambling halls, according to figures released this week.

The result was a decrease in gross operating profit of 15.4% for the year, to \$582 million.

Five of Atlantic City’s 12 casinos closed between 2014 and 2016, and the market seemed to have stabilized at a smaller level with less competition. But the reopening in June of Revel as the Ocean Resort Casino, and the Trump Taj Mahal as the Hard Rock put two new competitors back into the mix.

Of the seven casinos that had been operating at the start of last year, five of them saw lower gross operating profits, according to statistics released by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement. Only Tropicana and Golden Nugget increased their operating profits last year.

When plans to reopen the two casinos surfaced last year, there was concern in some quarters that the newly downsized market, which had regained its footing at a smaller level, might struggle to absorb the new competition, resulting in a smaller slice of the pie for everyone.

James Plousis, chairman of the New Jersey Casino Control Commission, acknowledged that “profit margins were tighter.”

“But the resort added thousands of jobs and many exciting new amenities, which position us well for continued growth,” he added.

Gross operating profit reflects earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and other charges and is a widely accepted measure of profitability in the Atlantic City casino industry.

The Golden Nugget had the biggest increase in operating profit for the year, up 12.5% to \$45 million. Tropicana was up 1.4% to \$93.4 million.

For the fourth quarter of last year, Atlantic City’s casinos saw a collective decline in gross operating profit of 41.1%, to \$75.1 million.

Atlantic City’s casino hotels were more than 80% full in 2018. Resorts had the highest occupancy rate at 86%; the Golden Nugget was lowest at 74%. **DB/AP**

CYPRUS

British military bases ‘eradicate’ illegal gambling

POLICE at a British military base in Cyprus said they have successfully wrapped up a four-year campaign against illegal gambling by shutting down nine casinos that operated within their jurisdiction.

Superintendent Dinios Petrou said the

casinos generated hundreds of thousands of euros annually in illegal proceeds. Ten people received prison sentences, while 30 others were fined heavily.

Petrou said many of the casinos were built in areas adjacent or partly falling within Cyprus’ jurisdiction

and that complicated matters. To circumvent that, base police carried out raids together with Cypriot law enforcement.

Petrou said police will remain vigilant against any resurgence of illegal gambling and that there would be no let up in prosecuting law-breakers

even after Britain’s departure from the European Union.

He also said 30 of the 1,500 personal computers seized during the police operations have been donated to local schools.

Meanwhile, construction has begun on Cyprus’ first inte-

grated casino resort that is being billed as the largest of its kind in Europe. The casino, near the southern coastal city of Limassol, is to be operated by a consortium of companies including Melco International Development Ltd. It is slated to open in 2021. **DB/AP**



GAMING

Crown shares slump after Wynn Resorts ends takeover talks

Angus Whitley

CROWN Resorts Ltd. shares slumped after Wynn Resorts Ltd. abruptly ended talks to buy the Australian casino operator for AUD9.99 billion (USD7.12 billion), casting doubt over Crown's immediate future and raising the prospect other suitors could emerge.

While discussions with Wynn have broken down - for now, at least - Crown's engagement with the U.S. suitor signaled a willingness to talk sale terms with an interested party. Crown shares haven't given up all of yesterday's gains, suggesting investors are still betting on a possible takeover.

The stock tumbled 8.5 percent to AUD12.86 at 12:05 p.m. in Sydney yesterday. Crown had surged 20 percent on Tuesday

after saying it was discussing a potential sale to the Las Vegas-based casino giant, which valued Crown at AUD14.75 a share.

Crown, controlled by Australian billionaire James Packer, had confirmed the talks on Tuesday in a filing to the stock exchange after the Australian Financial Review reported the possible deal. Hours later, Wynn said in a statement that it ended the talks "following the premature disclosure of preliminary discussions."

Despite the current acrimony, Wynn may yet return to negotiate a deal given its strategic need to expand in Asia beyond its Macau property. Now that Crown has made clear that it's on the market - a rare opportunity for an industry that faces high barriers of entry with regulatory licenses - it may see interest from other operators.

Hard Rock International Inc., Malaysian casino operator Genting Bhd. and private equity firms are potential suitors, analysts at Deutsche Bank AG said.

Meantime, Crown is left to finish the construction of a AUD2.2 billion Sydney casino while the commitment of its major shareholder Packer, who owns almost half the company, is in doubt. The billionaire quit the board of Crown in March 2018 due to mental health issues and stepped down as a director of his private investment company three months later.

Wynn's interest in Melbourne-based Crown reflected its desire to reach into another offshore market beyond Macau.

Unlike its competitors that already have footholds elsewhere in Asia - from Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s Singapore resort to Melco Resorts & En-

tertainment Ltd.'s City of Dreams in Manila - Wynn is currently confined to the Chinese territory, 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 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. shore up its presence among Asian bettors. Crown is now almost solely focused on its domestic market, where big-spending VIP gamblers have become more elusive. **Bloomberg**

opinion

LAS VEGAS GAMBLER DODGES A 7 BILLION DOLLAR BULLET

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

Wynn Resorts Ltd. has dodged a bullet by scrapping a USD7.1 billion bid for an Australian rival, but the casino giant founded by billionaire Steve Wynn shouldn't quit the gunfight just yet.

With growth prospects in Macau shrinking and its license there coming up for renewal, the Vegas-based operator is right to think about diversifying its overseas presence - even if the abandoned offer for James Packer's Crown Resorts Ltd. was far too generous. Wynn has no casinos outside the U.S. other than Macau, where its focus on Chinese high-rollers looks a little shaky given the slowdown in China's economy. It might also be forced to take on local partners in Macau when the gaming licenses are re-awarded in 2022.

That AUD9.99 billion price tag for Crown, valuing its debt and equity at about 12 times forward earnings, was clearly excessive for an essentially Australian operator struggling with its own sales declines because of dwindling numbers of Chinese customers. But that it was even countenanced at that value tells you plenty about the tight strategic corner in which Wynn finds itself. It wouldn't be a shock if the deal was reactivated.

Wynn's other big potential option is Japan, which has recently legalized casino gambling. Unfortunately for the U.S. operator, the country doesn't look a good fit with its high-rollers business model. While Japan is planning to award three licenses to build "integrated resorts," these would have to cater to the mass-market end of the gaming scene (think of the millions of Japanese addicts of Pachinko slot machines). This is the faster-growing part of the industry, and Wynn is trying to attract more of these casual, small-money gamers, but high-rollers are where it made its name and where it's more at home.

Singapore, another big casino market, remains out of reach for Wynn for the next decade, with the licenses held by Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Genting Singapore Ltd. not up for renewal until 2030. The Philippines, meanwhile, is often a regulatory quagmire, with President Rodrigo Duterte blocking a big casino project there.

As such, you can see why Australia has appeal as a second front in the all-important Asian gambling market. The country may be suffering a slowing economy, a loss of confidence among Chinese tourists and the competitive threat from Japan's new casinos, but it remains the world's third-largest gaming market by revenue. Crown is building a AUD2.2 billion casino on Sydney's waterfront that will probably be more of a draw for rich Chinese gamblers than its existing operations in Melbourne and Perth.

Whatever the case, Wynn may have to buy if it doesn't want to be bought itself. Sands has moved well ahead on the mass-market gaming experience that's dominating the industry now. And Wynn has some juicy assets. Genting, which is facing a tax hike in Singapore, has long lusted after a Macau presence, for instance. Another U.S. rival, Caesars Entertainment Corp. is being pushed to sell itself by activist Carl Icahn, so the merger game is in full flow among the operators.

Wynn didn't take the Crown this time, but it's worth another look.

GUANGZHOU

World-class flowers garden in the works

KNOWN as the "Flower City" because of its blooming flowers all year round, south China's Guangzhou plans to build a world-class garden named "Guangzhou Garden," local authorities said.

Construction of the project will start in May, according to the Guangzhou Municipal Bureau of Forestry and Landscaping. The bureau has issued a report on the location of the new garden, seeking public opinions.

According to the report, the "Guangzhou Garden" is planned to be built in the south part of the Baiyun Mountain scenic area with a planning area of 151.8 hectares.

The garden will consist of three functional parts including a city leisure park, including a core area with a world-class boutique garden, and a comprehensive service



area which can be used for Guangzhou's flower industry exhibition, and flower culture experience area, a comprehensive ecological park and performance stage.

The garden will showcase native flowers and world flowers. It will be open to the public throughout the year, with an extra long flowering period of more than eight months, according to the report.

It is also estimated that the annual number of visitors to the garden will reach 8 million.

Construction work is expected to be completed in three years.

Upon completion, Guangzhou Garden will regularly hold events to attract tourists, such as a flowers-decorated floats parade in the garden, creative fairs, cultural activities and annual horticultural exhibitions. **Xinhua**

China releases innovation index for Greater Bay Area

An innovation index has been published to track the performance of companies based in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

The index, which was released by Shenzhen Securities Information Co., Ltd. and the China Center for Information Industry Development Tuesday, is based on 100 stocks covering advanced manufacturing, strategic emerging industries, modern services and the maritime economy.

The innovation index, including shares of industry giants such as Tencent, Ping An, Gree and Midea, is the flagship of a series of indexes for the Greater Bay Area to be developed by the two parties.

It contains 38 information technology enterprises that account for over 25 percent of weighting.

A composite index for the area was also launched at the same event Tuesday. All the indexes are based on equities listed at the

Shenzhen, Shanghai and Hong Kong exchanges that are eligible for the Stock Connect programs.

The Stock Connect are securities trading and clearing arrangements that link China's mainland stock exchanges to that of Hong Kong. The programs allow mainland investors to trade and settle shares in the Hong Kong market via their local exchanges, and vice-versa.

The Greater Bay Area has a highly developed capital market. By the end of March, it had more than 750 companies that were listed on Chinese mainland and eligible under the Stock Connect programs with a total market capitalization of nearly 27 trillion yuan (about USD4 trillion).

The index series will contribute to developing the area into an international science and innovation center and enhancing the financial sector's service to the real economy, said an official with the Shenzhen Stock Exchange. **Xinhua**

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AP PHOTO



From left: Occupy Central leaders Chan Kin-man, Chu Yiu-ming and Benny Tai pose for photographers before entering court

HONG KONG

Court sets Occupy Central leaders' sentencing for April 24

A Hong Kong court set the sentencing of Occupy protest leader Benny Tai and eight other activists for April 24, the latest step in a trial that caps the China-backed government's effort to punish the movement's organizers.

Tai and eight other academics, activists and politicians are free on bail, District Court Judge Johnny Chan said before adjourning in West Kowloon yesterday.

Chan on Tuesday found Tai, a University of Hong Kong associate law professor, guilty of conspiracy to commit public nuisance and incitement to commit public nuisance. He also

convicted the others on charges related to their roles in the 2014 movement, including Occupy's two other main leaders - Reverend Chu Yiu-ming and Chan Kin-man, an associate professor of sociology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Supporters outside the courtroom applauded as the group left yesterday, chanting: "We are Hong Kongers" and "We are fearless."

Ranging in age from their 30s to 70s, the nine defendants span generations of Hong Kong citizens who have been agitating for full democracy. The defendants had all pleaded not guilty, calling the prosecutions politically motivated.

Hong Kong has been in pursuit of those who led the demonstrations, which pushed for the open nomination of candidates for what was supposed to be the first direct election for the financial hub's leader. The so-called "Umbrella Movement" - named after the mostly student demonstrators who shielded themselves from police tear gas with umbrellas - focused global attention on Chinese authorities' efforts to constrain the local democracy movement.

Leaders of the student groups were sentenced to up to eight months in jail in 2017. More than 1,000 people were arrested during and after the sit-ins, which

ended without securing any pledges to amend the Chinese government's framework for the 2017 chief executive's election.

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.

Since the protests, Beijing has increased its efforts to quash what it sees as the more radical element of Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp, notably a small independence movement that gained speed after Occupy. The moves have helped fuel concerns that the city's autonomy is slowly being eroded. **DB/Agencies**

HK overtakes Japan as world's third largest stock market

BRAGGING rights to Hong Kong, for now.

The city's equity market has overtaken Japan to be the world's third largest in value, behind only the U.S. and mainland China, courtesy of a rebound in Hong

Kong stocks after their worst year since 2011.

Hong Kong's market cap was USD5.78 trillion as of Tuesday, the latest available data show, compared with \$5.76 trillion for Japan. The Asian city's benchmark Hang

Seng Index climbed 17 percent this year through Tuesday, when it closed at its highest since June 15. Internet giant Tencent Holdings Ltd. has been the main driver with a 22 percent gain. Japan's Topix Index advanced

8.3 percent in that period.

Both markets were lower yesterday, as an economic outlook from the International Monetary Fund renewed concern about a slowdown in global growth and after the U.S. threat-

ened tariffs on the European Union. The Hang Seng Index fell 0.3 percent as of 11:38 a.m. in Hong Kong, still just above the 30,000-point level that it broke through earlier this month. The Topix was down 0.7 percent. **Bloomberg**

Senior Shenzhen party official punished

Li Huanan, former secretary of the Political and Judiciary Committee of Shenzhen city committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), has been dismissed from public office and expelled from the Party. The discipline inspection and supervisory committee of Guangdong Province announced the decision yesterday, saying Li, also former member of the Standing Committee of the Shenzhen city committee of the CPC and vice Party secretary, violated discipline in both work and life and was engaged in illegal activities. His illegal gains were confiscated, and he will continue to be investigated, the discipline watchdog said.

Guangzhou to develop rail transit into pillar industry

Southern China's Guangzhou has issued a three-year plan to develop its rail transit industry, vowing to expand its scale to 120 billion yuan (USD17.8 billion) by 2021, and realize an output value of 180 billion yuan by 2023. The city's development and reform commission said that the rail transit industry, due to its capital and technology-intensive features, has become one of the city's priorities. According to the plan, the city government will promote its major equipment manufacturing capacity, develop standard vehicles with independent intellectual property rights, and build an industrial park and maintenance and manufacturing bases. An inter-city rail transit network will also be developed in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, said Ding Jianlong, president of Guangzhou Metro Group.

Guangdong boosts ultra-high definition video industry

The annual output of ultra-high definition televisions will reach 40 million units by in south China's Guangdong Province 2022, local official Yang Pengfei, deputy head with Guangdong's Industry and Information Technology Department, said at a work conference held in Shenzhen. Yang said Guangdong plans to foster three world-class ultra-high definition video industrial clusters, following strong growth in the industry in recent years. The province has opened a 4K TV channel, reaching 15.9 million households. The number is expected to reach 23 million by 2022. To boost the growth of the 4K industry, Guangdong will speed up the construction of 5G-led information infrastructure and promote the coverage and commercial use of 5G networks in the core urban areas of Guangzhou and Shenzhen this year.

CLSA culture clash boils over as more top executives quit

THE culture clash between CLSA Ltd.'s old guard and its Chinese owner may have reached a tipping point.

At least four of the Hong Kong brokerage's senior managers are following Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Slone out the door amid mounting tensions with Citic Securities Co., which bought CLSA in 2013, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Chief Operating Officer Nigel Beattie, who was in discussions to take over as CEO in the wake of Slone's recent resignation, quit this month after failing to reach an agreement on how to run the company, the people said, asking not to be identified because the matter is private. Xen Gladstone, who ran sales and trading; Edmund Bradley, head of research; and Meade Thomson, head of Japan, also resigned, one of the people said.

The latest departures, which



include three members of CLSA's executive committee, underscore growing concerns among some employees that the firm is losing its independence as Citic, China's biggest state-owned brokerage, tightens its grip on the business and overhauls the way staff are compensated.

The Citic-CLSA tie-up has been closely watched by some

in the industry as a test case for whether a Chinese brokerage can successfully expand overseas and compete with the likes of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Morgan Stanley. While Citic said last month that it's committed to growing internationally, it has yet to come anywhere close to matching the global reach of Wall Street's giants.

Some analysts have said that the departure of highly paid executives such as Slone will help CLSA cut costs and boost profitability. But questions remain over whether the loss of seasoned international leaders will hurt the firm's ability to grow its business outside China.

CLSA's executive committee now includes just one voting member who originated from CLSA, with the other five coming from Citic, the people said. John Sun, formerly of Citic Securities International, was appointed as interim COO to replace Beattie, one of the people said.

A CLSA representative declined to comment, as did Beattie. Gladstone, Bradley and Thomson didn't respond to requests for comment. Citic, whose chairman Zhang Youjun took over the same role at CLSA in February, didn't reply to an emailed query.

Skeptics of the Citic-CLSA

combination have warned of a culture clash since day one, yet the two camps managed to keep tensions under control long enough to combine the businesses and weather a turbulent period for global capital markets.

Relations soured after a controversial drop of about 60 percent in CLSA's 2018 bonus pool and a number of other recent changes instigated by Citic, including staff adjustments and a new compensation system, people familiar with the matter said last month.

The moves followed an expiry in mid-2018 of the management agreement that enabled CLSA to operate more or less independently, one of the people said. Some members of CLSA's executive committee, including Slone, didn't receive a bonus for 2018 and were asked to take a pay cut for this year, two people said.

Citic tried to convince Slone to stay, Zhang told a media briefing last month. He said Slone resigned for personal reasons and would spend more time with his family in New York.

Citic's stock fell 2.1 percent in Hong Kong yesterday, its fourth straight day of losses. **MDT/Bloomberg**

HILTON Grand Vacations has announced the promotion of Yoji Ishii to vice president of Asia sales. In his expanded role, Ishii will be responsible for developing and executing sales strategies in Asia.

"Yoji has played an integral part in strengthening HGV's culture, driving growth and enhancing the owner and guest experience," said Jeff Bernier, senior vice president, sales and marketing – Asia at Hilton Grand Vacations. "We are fortunate to have Yoji as part of the HGV leadership team, as he brings

Hilton Grand Vacations promotes Yoji Ishii to vice president of Asia sales

integrity and energy to our industry-leading company. We are confident that he and the Asia sales team will continue to convey our vision of inspiring people to go further and share more."

In his previous role as senior director of Japan sales, Ishii helped HGV expand its vacation galleries from six to 11 loca-

tions throughout Japan, allowing the company to introduce more potential owners to a vacation ownership lifestyle.

Ishii has more than 20 years of experience in the travel industry in Japan and abroad. He joined HGV in 2008 as a sales executive and developed his career by taking on increasingly progressive

roles in the organization. Under Ishii's leadership, the Japan sales team has been selected as a 2019 ARDA award finalists in two categories for delivering outstanding customer experience. Prior to HGV, Ishii held management roles in the travel industry in Japan and Australia.

Ishii graduated from IMG Academy in Braden-

ton, Florida.

Since its entry into Asia market in 2003, HGV has expanded its presence in response to an increasing interest in a new vacation lifestyle. HGV continues to expand its footprint in the Asia market and currently has more than 61,000 club members in Japan. HGV opened its first property – The Bay Forest Odawara

by Hilton Club – in Japan in April 2018 and plans to open its second Japan property in Sesokojima in 2021.

HGV operates 11 vacation galleries and more than 40 marketing desks throughout Japan, offering customers opportunities to learn about high-quality vacation ownership experiences. **MDT/Business Wire**

corporate bits

WESTLIFE TO HOLD CONCERT IN JULY



Westlife is set to bring "Westlife The Twenty Tour in Macau" to The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena on July

27, 2019, Sands China Ltd. announced in a statement. The tour is named The Twenty Tour as the band will

be celebrating their 20-year career of hits.

The pop stars will perform new songs alongside all 14 of their UK No.1 hits including "Swear It Again", "Flying Without Wings", "You Raise Me Up" and "Unbreakable".

Kian Egan, Nicky Byrne, Markus Feehily and Shane Filan announced their return to music in October 2018 and will launch a new album later this year.

Their first new single in eight years, "Hello My Love", was released in January.

Westlife have sold over 55 million records worldwide, and are the only band to have had their first seven singles enter the U.K. chart at No.1.

Tickets will be on sale at all Cotai Ticketing box offices beginning April 15.

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL, RITZ-CARLTON ANNOUNCE FESTIVE MENUS



JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The Ritz-Carlton, Macau have announced three dining promotions to help usher in

the Easter season.

Available on Easter Sunday, April 21. The Ritz-Carlton Café's Easter Sunday

Brunch will feature dishes such as "Whole Roasted Baby Lamb Provençal," served tableside; "Cioppino Stew," a stew of crab, calamari, mussels, clams and prawns; and its popular Honey Ham with Mixed Sausages.

From April 19 to 21, The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge's will present its Spring Blossom Afternoon Tea that will feature Easter-themed delicacies.

At JW Marriott Hotel, Urban Kitchen, headed by new Chef de Cuisine Daniel Ng, is offering traditional Easter favorites "Hot Cross Buns and Easter Tarts," plus specialties by the chef such as "Whole Red Snapper with Seafood Bouillabaisse" and "Oven-roasted Whole Baby Lamb."

US, Chinese negotiators said to further talks on cloud access in trade deal

U.S. and Chinese negotiators are discussing adding a concession on cloud computing to their trade agreement that would give foreign companies greater access to the USD12 billion Chinese market, people familiar with the talks said.

Chinese officials called a meeting this week with representatives of companies including Microsoft Corp, Apple Inc and Amazon.com Inc to talk about the proposal in detail, said one of the people. The discussions include possibly scrapping the requirement that providers of remote computing services form joint ventures with local companies, another person said. Both asked not to be named discussing the private negotiations.

China introduced sweeping cyber-security laws in 2017 that bolster control over the collection and movement of Chinese users' data, and potentially grant the government more access to foreign companies' technology. Foreign cloud companies are

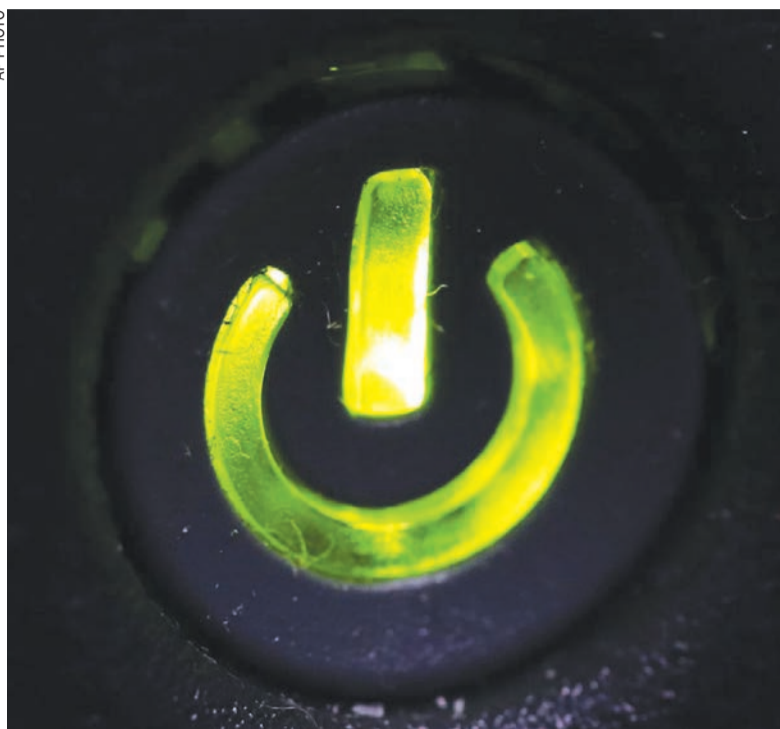
required to license their technology to local partners in order to operate in China, and have been forced to store some information within the country.

China's Ministry of Industry and Information did not reply to a fax requesting comment. Amazon, Microsoft and Apple didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

President Donald Trump's top economic adviser Larry Kudlow has said the two sides are nearing a trade deal and officials will talk over the phone after recent high-level meetings in Beijing and Washington. The text of an agreement being worked on covers technology transfers, intellectual property protections, non-tariff measures, services, agriculture, trade balance and enforcement, according to China's state-run Xinhua.

The Wall Street Journal reported in March that Premier Li Ke-qiang floated the idea of allowing foreign firms to own data centers in the China's free-trade zones and have better access to its

AP PHOTO



cloud-computing market.

In 2017, Apple agreed to shift storage of data for Chinese users of Apple's iCloud services to server farms operated by Guizhou Cloud Big Data, a company with

local government ties. Amazon also agreed to sell some of its Chinese cloud assets to its local partner to comply with government regulations.

Drafts of the broader trade

agreement now under discussion would give Beijing until 2025 to meet commitments such as allowing American companies to wholly own enterprises in China, people familiar with the talks said earlier. Those would be binding pledges that could trigger U.S. retaliation if unfulfilled, the people said.

The nine-month trade war between the world's largest economies has disrupted supply chains, whipsawed markets and weighed on the world economy. The International Monetary Fund cut its outlook for global growth to the lowest since the financial crisis, while including a breakdown in U.S.-China talks among possible risks.

Negotiators are still working out details and discussing when Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping could sit down to sign off on the agreement. Despite touting the idea of a "signing summit" at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida a month ago, Trump said last week there are no guarantees the two will meet. **Bloomberg**

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Defense: Accused in Chinese scholar's death denied proper care

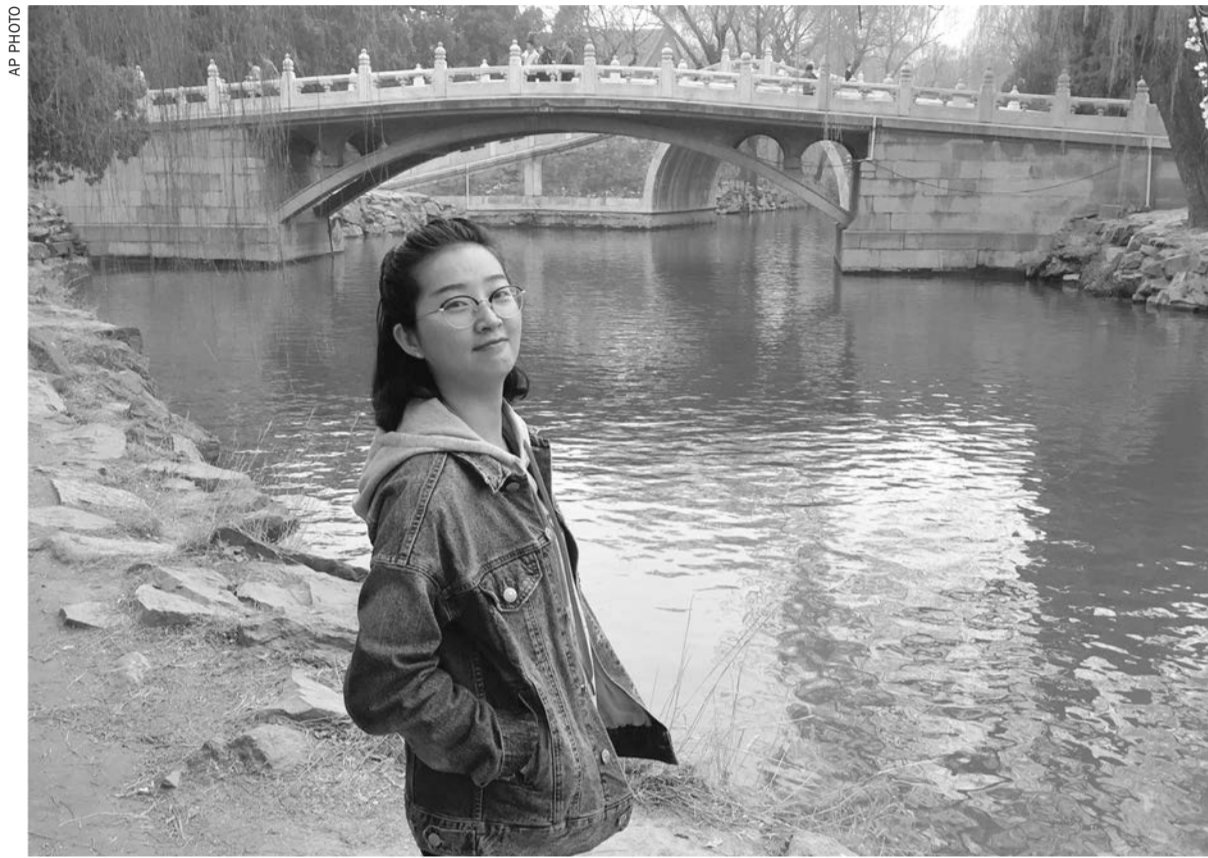
Michael Tarm, Chicago

LAWYERS for a former University of Illinois student accused of killing Chinese scholar Yingying Zhang say university counselors didn't offer him adequate care when he sought help for suicidal and homicidal thoughts three months before the 26-year-old Zhang went missing.

Brendt Christensen, now 29, walked into a campus counseling center on March 21, 2017, saying he had recurring thoughts of committing murder, "ruminating about how one might go about killing a person and 'get away with it,'" according to a defense filing unsealed this week. The physics student said he even bought items as part of plans to kill someone and dispose of a body but later returned them.

Defense attorneys want a Peoria-based federal judge to allow clinical psychologist Susan Zoline to tell jurors that "the treatment of Mr. Christensen [...] did not comply with the applicable standards of care," the filing says. Prosecutors want the judge to bar Zoline from testifying, saying those claims would be inaccurate and irrelevant, as well as confusing to jurors. The trial is set to begin June 3.

The Champaign-based school said in a statement yesterday [local time] that it can't comment on treatment for individual students. However, it



AP PHOTO

said staff members at the University of Illinois Counseling Center "are trained to provide care ... consistent with the best practices in mental health care nationally."

Prosecutors argue in their filing that there's no indication counselors were remiss in treating Christensen, noting he "described his urge to commit homicide as a fantasy, and repeatedly downplayed that fantasy." He never threatened Zhang or anyone else by name, they said.

The defense and government filings were submitted earlier but only unsealed Monday.

Prosecutors, who are seeking the death penalty, say Christensen lured Zhang into his car in June 2017 as she headed to sign an apartment lease off campus, torturing and killing her. He was arrested three weeks later, though Zhang's body has never been found.

Defense attorneys say they aren't casting blame on the university for Zhang's death. But as they endeavor to

persuade jurors not to put to Christensen to death, they want to demonstrate how he had sought help but didn't get the help he needed.

Christensen, the filing says, also told counselors that prescription drugs and alcohol were "ruining my life." He spoke about becoming deeply depressed after his wife said she was leaving him for another man, and after dropping out of a Ph.D. program and settling for a master's degree. "That he voluntarily sought

out treatment [...] is highly relevant to a host of issues in a capital trial, including his character, the circumstances preceding the offense, his rehabilitative potential and future dangerousness," the defense filing says.

It says Christensen went to the same school center again nine days later, telling another counselor he was open to someone evaluating the risk he posed to himself and others.

The filing, among other things, cited the center's purported "failure to develop an adequate treatment and safety plan," "failure to make appropriate referrals for further treatment" and failure to adequately coordinate with psychiatrists who had treated him elsewhere.

Prosecutors point to Illinois law in their filing, saying there's no obligation on counselors "to respond to statements made in therapy unless the patient makes a specific threat against a specific and identified victim."

The government filing says other courts in death penalty cases "routinely refuse to allow a capital defendant to assert mitigating evidence which serves only to lay blame for the offense at another party's feet."

Issues about Christensen mental state have arisen before.

In announcing last year that they were seeking the death penalty, prosecutors said Christensen once expressed his aspiration "to be known as a killer." And 2017 charging documents say his phone had been used to view a forum called "Abduction 101" on a fetish site. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

US sends Beijing signal with F-35-laden warship in disputed sea

Ditas Lopez

THE U.S. sent a fighter-jet-carrying warship to join drills near the disputed Scarborough Shoal for the first time, sending a pointed message to China as tensions simmer over territorial claims in the region.

The USS Wasp - an amphibious assault ship outfitted last year with F-35B jets - joined the annual Exercise Balikatan with the Philippines this month. A ship matching the USS Wasp's description was spotted in waters "near the Scarborough Shoal," a feature occupied by China since a tense standoff in seven years ago,

the Philippines' ABS-CBN News reported Tuesday.

The USS Wasp didn't pass within 25 nautical miles of the shoal, according to a U.S. defense official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The figure suggests that the ship wasn't conducting a so-called freedom of navigation operation, a practice criticized by China that the U.S. uses to assert international sailing rights within 12 nautical miles of disputed features.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a briefing in Beijing yesterday that he hopes "non-regional forces don't stir up troubles in the South China Sea."

'FREE AND OPEN'

The moves come as officials in Manila escalate protests over the presence of more than 200 Chinese ships near the Philippine-occupied South China Sea feature of Thitu. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has urged China to "lay off" the feature, saying he would order a military action.

The U.S. has been seeking to firm up its treaty alliance with the strategically located Southeast Asian nation ever since Duterte was elected in 2016 and announced his "separation" from Washington in favor of Beijing. In March, U.S.

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo assured local officials during a visit to Manila that their treaty would apply to Philippine vessels or planes attacked in disputed waters.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin said earlier this week that the U.S. would remain the country's only military ally.

Read more: U.S. Will Be Philippines' Only Military Ally, Foreign Chief Says

More than 7,000 soldiers from the Philippines and the U.S. are participating in Exercise Balikatan, according to General Benjamin Madrigal Jr., the Philippine military chief.

AP PHOTO



The combined information bureau for the joint military drills said Tuesday that the USS Wasp "has been training with Philippine Navy ships in Subic Bay and international waters of the South China Sea as part of the Exercise Balikatan for several days."

The training is focused on "maritime security and amphibious capabilities, as well as multinational interoperability through military exchanges," the bureau

said. This year's joint exercise was the first to incorporate the USS Wasp with the U.S. Marines Corps' F-35B Lighting II aircraft.

"Together they represent an increase in military capability committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the bureau said. "Participating in Balikatan demonstrates their ability to forward deploy in support of an ally should a crisis or natural disaster occur." **Bloomberg**

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

POLITICS

North Korea's parliament to open as Kim mulls US strategy

NORTH Korea's Supreme People's Assembly is expected to convene today to formally approve leader Kim Jong Un's latest economic policies and possibly endorse a shift in U.S. strategy following his failed summit with President Donald Trump in Hanoi.

Kim set the stage for the assembly meeting on Tuesday, when he told a gathering of senior party members to "fully display a high sense of responsibility and creativity" in accordance with the "prevailing tense situation," according to state media reports.

The reports yesterday made no mention of any comments regarding the Hanoi summit.

But Kim has previously used the opening of the assembly and the party political meetings that normally precede it as an opportunity to clarify his political priorities.

The country's economic growth and efforts to get trade sanctions lifted are Kim's top concerns. North Korean officials, who blamed the "hard-line" stance taken by Trump's advisers for the collapse of the Feb. 27-28 summit, have also hinted Kim is mulling some sort of a new approach to his dealings with Washington.

North Korea's Deputy Foreign

Minister Choe Son Hui told diplomats in Pyongyang last month that Kim would soon make clear his post-Hanoi position, though she didn't say exactly when.

In what appeared to be an attempt to test the waters ahead of such an announcement, she said her country might pull out of the nuclear negotiations with the United States, citing a lack of corresponding steps to some disarmament measures North Korea took last year.

She also hinted Kim was considering whether to continue the talks and his moratorium on nuclear and missile tests.

Choe, who attended the summit in Hanoi, said Kim was puzzled by the "eccentric" negotiation position of the U.S. She suggested Trump was willing to talk, particularly if there was a "snapback" provision for violations, but an atmosphere of hostility and mistrust was created by the uncompromising demands of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton.



Pompeo and Bolton have disputed the allegation.

While the assembly prepared to meet in Pyongyang, South Korean President Moon Jae-in flew to the United States to discuss how to strengthen their countries' alliance and joint efforts to achieve their goal of complete denuclearization and peace on

the Korean Peninsula.

The Supreme People's Assembly, which is North Korea's version of a parliament but has little real power, generally meets at least once a year to approve the annual budget, hear progress reports and endorse policies and personnel changes that have already been decided upon by Kim

and the ruling party leadership.

Today's session will convene a new lineup of nearly 700 "deputies" approved in a nationwide election last month. The seats aren't contested at the polls — each district has just one candidate who is pre-approved by the ruling party. Voters can merely approve or, theoretically, disapprove of the candidate.

Kim holds a seat in the assembly, but did not run for re-election, suggesting he may have assumed some sort of special status as the representative of the entire nation, instead of a single district or constituency. His younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, was elected to a seat last month.

Also being watched this time is the fate of the current head of the assembly Kim Yong Nam, who is 91 years old. Though he remains active in his role of ceremonial elder statesman — receiving foreign dignitaries and attending important public functions — his retirement has long been expected. AP

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JAPAN

Ghosn's lawyers appeal to Supreme Court over detention

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

THE lawyers for Nissan's former Chairman Carlos Ghosn, who was sent back to detention while out on bail, filed a protest with the Japanese Supreme Court on yesterday.

Lawyer Junichiro Hironaka told reporters that Ghosn's fourth and latest arrest is unfair. Ghosn was arrested in November, released on bail last month but re-arrested last week.

Multiple arrests and long detentions are routine in Japan, but arresting a suspect who cleared bail is unusual.

Ghosn's detention has been extended through Sunday but may be prolonged. He is charged with falsifying financial documents in underreporting his retirement compensation and breach of trust in what prosecutors call dubious payments.



He says he is innocent, noting the compensation was never decided or paid and the payments were for legitimate services.

The latest arrest is over suspicion Nissan money paid to a dealership that

was diverted to a company effectively controlled by Ghosn.

Hironaka was among 1,010 lawyers, academics and other legal professionals who signed a call to eliminate Japan's so-called "hostage justice."

Kaku Imamura, a lawyer who led the initiative, told reporters Wednesday that

Ghosn's case has set off international criticism about the longtime detentions without convictions.

He said innocent people who refuse to sign confessions suffer and are kept for months, sometimes years, even for relatively minor charges that won't result in prison time. During detention, prosecutors can grill the suspect for more than eight hours, he said, while the suspect's contact with lawyers is limited, and often banned with family and friends.

He declined comment on the specifics of Ghosn's case.

"Detention is used as a form of torture," Imamura said at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan. "It becomes difficult for people to get a fair trial." AP

MALAYSIA

Former first lady hit with fresh corruption charge

THE wife of Malaysia's former Prime Minister Najib Razak was hit yesterday with a new corruption charge over a solar energy contract.

Rosmah Mansor pleaded not guilty to accepting a 5 million ringgit (USD1.22 million) bribe through her aide from a manager at Jepak Holdings as a kickback for helping secure a contract from the Education Ministry. She has also been charged with laundering illegal proceeds and tax evasion in a massive graft scandal that led to Najib's electoral loss last May.

The Education Ministry awarded the 1.25 billion ringgit contract to supply and install

solar energy panels in 369 schools in eastern Sarawak state on Borneo to Jepak without open tender.

Najib, his former deputy and several high-ranking former officials have already been charged with corruption after the election ushered in the first change of power since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.

Najib, whose first trial began last week after months of delay, has accused the new government of seeking political vengeance. But Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has said the court cases were based on the rule of law and that those accused will be given fair trials. AP

AD

Songkran party
 APRIL 12 - 15
 泼水节派对
 4月12-15, 一连4日

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Mike Corder & Raf Casert, Brussels

UK

May to ask EU for Brexit delay; long extension expected

JUST days away from a potentially calamitous no-deal Brexit, European Union leaders are meeting to discuss granting the United Kingdom a new delay — possibly of up to a year — to its departure from the bloc.

It's likely to be a rough day for British Prime Minister Theresa May as she pleads for a second extension until June 30, to prevent Britain's scheduled departure from the EU tomorrow.

European Council President Donald Tusk has suggested an even longer delay of up to a year with conditions attached to ensure Britain does not stymie EU decision-making if it remains a member.

Britain's Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay told the BBC he doesn't want a delay of up to a year.

"But, the key with any delay is we are able to terminate it once we ratify in order that we can then get on and get a deal through Parliament, ratify that agreement and leave the EU," he said. "That is what the EU leaders want, it is what the Prime Minister wants."

May arrives in Brussels for a pre-summit meeting with Tusk before explaining her delay request to the leaders who will then discuss their next move.

If they don't grant an extension, Britain leaves the bloc tomorrow with no deal regulating the departure. A drastic cliff-edge exit would have huge costs to businesses and trade across the English Channel and be very cumbersome to travelers as it would



likely hit airports, ports, tariff rules and standard regulations overnight.

EU countries, especially France, have become increasingly exasperated with the political division and uncertainty in Britain about a way forward.

The bloc's leaders have tried to help May over two years of negotiations, even after she missed her hand-picked Brexit departure date on March 29 because of a parliamentary revolt.

Seeking support from European heavyweights Tuesday, May flew to Berlin and Paris to plead for good terms with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Emmanuel Macron, who has been taking a tou-

gh stance ahead of the Brussels summit.

May's charm offensive appeared to bear fruit with an official in Macron's office saying that France was ready to accept a new delay.

While Macron still has a long list of conditions, it was a notable shift in France's tone compared to last week. The reason for the change was unclear, though concerns have been growing about how badly a hard Brexit would hit the French economy, too. France was also encouraged by May's outreach last week to Britain's political opposition to find a compromise, and Macron may have been swayed in part by a

meeting with the Irish prime minister.

Among conditions France is now setting to agree to a new delay: A "credible prospect" of some kind of solution to the British political deadlock. A promise that Britain won't keep asking for more delays. And guarantees that Britain would not be involved in future EU decisions while its Brexit drama is playing out.

"The longer the extension might be, the more guarantees are needed," the French official said, speaking on condition he not be named in keeping with presidential policy.

Every British initiative to get a deal has floundered so far. Several days of talks between May's

Conservative government and the main opposition Labour Party aimed at finding a compromise Brexit deal have failed to produce a breakthrough. Labour favors a softer Brexit than the government has proposed, and wants to retain a close economic relationship with the bloc.

■ If they don't grant an extension, Britain leaves the bloc tomorrow with no deal regulating the departure

After further talks Tuesday over an informal lunch of sandwiches and sausage rolls, the two sides said they would resume their discussions after Wednesday's EU summit.

"If they fail, the prime minister has said that we will come back to Parliament and look at how we then get clarity on a vote," Barclay told the BBC. **AP**

ISRAEL

Netanyahu appears headed toward 5th term as PM

Aron Heller, Jerusalem

BENJAMIN Netanyahu appeared to be headed toward a historic fifth term as Israel's prime minister yesterday, with close-to-complete unofficial election results giving his right-wing Likud and other nationalist and religious parties a solid majority in parliament.

The outcome affirmed Israel's continued tilt to the right and further dimmed hopes of a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Re-election will also give Netanyahu an important boost as he braces for the likelihood of criminal charges in a series of corruption scandals.

With 97.4% of the vote counted, Likud and its traditional political allies were in command of a 65-55 majority in parliament. A couple of small parties were still teetering along

the electoral threshold and fighting for their survival, so the final makeup of the next parliament has yet to be decided. Final results are expected today.

Two of his potential allies, hawkish former Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman and economic-centric Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, have yet to formally confirm they would sit with Netanyahu and could emerge as wildcards. In any case, the country now faces what could be weeks of political negotiations over the composition of a ruling coalition.

But under nearly every scenario, Netanyahu was the big winner.

The long-time Israeli leader had fought a tight, ugly race against centrist ex-military chief Benny Gantz, whose nascent Blue and White party emerged as a viable alternative to Netanyahu's decade

in power. The near-final results showed it deadlocked with Likud at 35 seats. But most of its support seems to have come at the expense of the venerable Labor and leftist Meretz parties, who both earned historic lows in Tuesday's election.

Together with his current Jewish ultra-Orthodox and nationalist partners, Netanyahu seemed to have a clear path toward building a coalition government that has a majority in the 120-seat parliament.

With a victory, Netanyahu would capture a fourth consecutive term and fifth overall, which this summer will make him Israel's longest-ever serving leader, surpassing founding father David Ben-Gurion.

"It's a night of tremendous victory," Netanyahu told supporters yesterday. "I was very moved that the



nation of Israel once again entrusted me for the fifth time, and with an even greater trust."

He said he had already begun talking to fellow right wing and religious parties about forming a new coalition.

"I want to make it clear, it will be a right-wing government, but I intend to

be the prime minister of all Israeli citizens, right or left, Jews and non-Jews alike," he said.

Netanyahu's message of unity was a sharp contrast from his campaign theme in which he accused Gantz of conspiring with Arab parties to topple him. Arab leaders accused Netanyahu of demonizing the

country's Arab community, which is about 20 percent of the population.

His attacks on the Arab sector fueled calls for a boycott and appeared to result in relatively low turnout by Arab voters.

Overnight, with fewer of the votes counted, Blue and White still appeared to be ahead by one seat and Gantz projected optimism that he would be tasked with building a coalition. But by morning, he seemed to have realized his dream of becoming prime minister was lost, even if he didn't formally concede defeat.

"Though the skies appear gloomy, nothing is final. There could be changes and some political options could open up," he wrote to his supporters. "Our voters asked for hope and we gave it to them. They wanted a different way and we outlined it." **AP**

what's ON



SEE SAW ZINE?

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

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

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

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

PRINCE HARRY, OPRAH WORK ON MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR APPLE



Kensington Palace says Britain's Prince Harry will be partnering with Oprah Winfrey to create a documentary series on mental health for Apple's new streaming service.

The documentary builds on Harry's work on mental health issues, which included work with brother Prince William and his wife Kate in their Heads Together campaign.

Harry says the series will share "global stories of unparalleled human spirit fighting back from the darkest places" and the "opportunity for us to understand ourselves and those around us better."

Earlier this year, Apple enlisted Winfrey, together with Jennifer Aniston and Steven Spielberg, to try to overcome the TV and movie streaming service business dominated by Netflix and Amazon.

The service, dubbed Apple TV Plus, will feature Apple's original shows and movies.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Millionário
18:00	No Trilho dos Naturalistas - Moçambique
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
21:55	Todas as Palavras
22:20	As Linhas de Torres
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	Arquivos do Entendimento - O Poder 'Reconhecimento Formal da Soberania'
00:40	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:25	RTPi Directo
03:00	Liga Europa: Benfica - Frankfurt (Directo)
05:00	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

04 - 10 Apr



SHAZAM

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 pm

Director: David F. Sandberg

Starring: Zachary Levi, Djimon Hounsou, Michelle Borth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 132min

P STORM

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Lam

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Louis Koo, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 96min

US

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Jordan Peele

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min



DUMBO

ROOM 3

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

Director: Tim Burton

Starring: Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min

MASQUERADE HOTEL

ROOM 3

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

Director: Masayuki Suzuki

Starring: Takuya Kimura, Masami Nagasawa, Nozomi de Lencquesaing

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 133min

this day in history



1957 BRITAIN AGREES TO SINGAPORE SELF-RULE

The British government is to allow the island colony of Singapore to govern itself under a new constitution agreed in London.

The Singapore Constitutional Conference ended today after four weeks of talks when Chief Minister of Singapore Lim Yew Hock and Alan Lennox-Boyd, secretary of state for the Colonies, signed an agreement.

The constitution comes into effect some time after 1 January 1958 when the colony will become known as the State of Singapore.

Britain will remain in charge of external affairs and defence.

There was, however, one major pre-condition that the Singapore delegation would not agree to - that "persons known to have been engaged in subversive activity" would be barred from standing for the Legislative Assembly.

This demand is aimed at excluding extremist left-wing activists in the People's Action Party (PAP), some of whom have been detained for inciting anti-British riots last year.

At the signing ceremony at Lancaster House, Mr Lim rejected this demand as "a departure from normal democratic practice" but agreed to put it before the Legislative Assembly.

Under self-government, the office of Governor will be abolished and replaced with a Malayan-born representative of the Queen known as the Yang di-Per-tuan Negara.

An internal security council preventing subversion is to be set up under the chairmanship of the UK Commissioner charged with safeguarding British affairs in the territory.

Last April, David Marshall, first Chief Minister of Singapore, led a delegation to London to ask for internal self-government with the aim of achieving independence or "merdeka" in Malay.

The talks failed, and as a result Mr Marshall resigned as Chief Minister last June. He was succeeded by Lim Yew Hock.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A few days later former Chief Minister David Marshall resigned from the governing Labour Front in protest at the agreement which he felt did not go far enough. He called it "a pock-marked beauty shrouded in chloro-form".

The Constitutional Agreement was finally signed in London on 28 May 1958 and self-government achieved after Singapore held general elections in 1959.

The first government of the State of Singapore was sworn in on 5 June with Lee Kuan Yew as Prime Minister.

It joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 and became totally independent in 1965, nearly 20 years after it was made a British crown colony. The People's Action Party (PAP) has been the dominant political force since independence.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have the power to succeed today - even if it feels like you're losing ground. Just keep pushing yourself. Things may look dark early in the morning, but by tonight you should see a glimmer of hope.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your earthy nature asserts itself in a big way today, but that may put off those with their heads in the clouds. You should just ignore them and let them enjoy their silly fantasies - you've got work to do!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You rely on others to help get your own business done, but today you may be on your own. Things aren't terrible just yet, but you may want to take extra time for all your important tasks.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You feel a new sense of balance today - though it might come at a cost. See if you can just enjoy what you've got and worry about the consequences when they actually start to affect you.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're making great progress toward some personal goal - but you need to keep it personal for now. Let others take center stage, and they will have more time and attention for you later.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your romantic world is spinning a little faster - so take a chance or snuggle up with your sweetheart! All that great energy needs to be shared with someone, and you can feel it when it's right.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Be wary of new situations - something isn't quite right, though that's not to say you need to avoid dealing with it entirely! Just make sure you're careful to see the bad as well as the good today.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your potent energy is the driving force behind today's big mission - so make sure that you're talking it up or inspiring others to the cause. Things should start to look really good this evening.

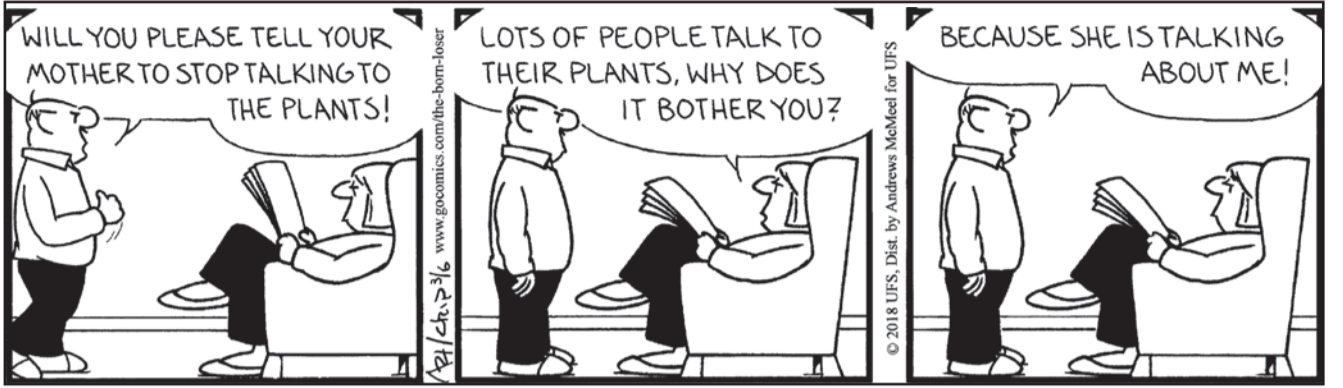
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are firmly committed to doing it all yourself today, whether it's making your own lunch or building your own shed. Whatever it takes to get it done is readily available in your skill set.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to deal with all this energy in a positive way - which isn't such a hard task for you! Just make sure that you're actively engaged with everything that needs to happen by tonight.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're more tired than you feel you ought to be, so go easy on yourself and make sure that you're delegating responsibilities as much as you can. There's not much point in driving yourself to exhaustion!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your assistance is needed in a big way - so ask around or look for opportunities to save the day. Things may move slowly at first, but once you enter the picture, the pace picks up considerably.

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 for China and World locations, including min/max temperatures and conditions.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cordwood measure; 6- Parsley piece; 11- It has a wet floor; 14- Squelched; 15- I ___ vacation!; 16- Atlanta-based cable channel; 17- Free from; 18- Synthetic fiber; 19- Goddess of the dawn; 20- Shrek, for instance; 22- Author Calvino; 24- Situated on the side; 28- Mohammedan; 30- Morals; 31- Balance sheet plus; 32- Curt; 33- Protein building block; 37- Persian Gulf fed.; 38- Rotates; 39- Pig-poke connection; 40- Ready; 43- Started; 45- Take down a peg; 46- Messenger; 47- Smart; 50- Stingy; 51- Twix's partner; 52- Big rig; 53- Sushi option; 54- Indonesian island; 57- Cherished ones; 62- Singer Torme; 63- Temple leader; 64- Cookie Monster cohort; 65- Thoroughfares: Abbr.; 66- As ___ resort; 67- Because;

DOWN: 1- Abbr. on old maps; 2- ___ chi; 3- LAX posting; 4- Friend of Pooh; 5- Compel; 6- Traffic mess; 7- Dijon dad; 8- Cartoon dog; 9- Ox tail?; 10- U.S. space probe to Jupiter; 11- Water vapor; 12- Imitative; 34- Prop for Groucho; 35- Counting everything; 36- Fop; 38- Mmes., in Madrid; 41- Ashen; 42- From within; 43- Furthermore; 44- Before, to bards; 46- That guy; 47- Stalks; 48- Chirp; 49- Shouts; 50- Deserve; 52- Weeps; 55- Proverb ending?; 56- Wharton deg.; 58- ___ tu (Verdi aria); 59- Former Texas governor Richards; 60- Rock's Ocasek; 61- Get the picture;



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Property of the Week advertisement for 'THE MANHATTAN' with a photo of a modern apartment and price details.

FOR SALE advertisement listing properties in Taipa and Macau with prices and contact info.

FOR SALE advertisement listing properties in Taipa and Macau with prices and contact info.

Advertisement for jml property (卓雅物業) with contact number (853) 2835 2699 and website.

FOOTBALL

Son gives Tottenham CL lead over Man City after Kane injury

Rob Harris, London

TOTTENHAM 1, MAN CITY 0

WITH Tottenham's Champions League quarterfinal scoreless and oozing intensity, Harry Kane launched into a challenge to block Fabian Delph's run, clattering into the Manchester City opponent and twisting an ankle.

It was the same left ankle the Tottenham striker damaged just a couple of months ago, and soon he was hobbling down the tunnel.

Son Heung-min once again seized the opportunity to become Tottenham's savior, just as he did when Kane missed seven games during January and February.

Son gave the crowd at Tottenham's new stadium his own injury scare. But moments after being treated — and 20 minutes after Kane's departure — Son put the ball in the net



Spurs' Son Heung-min

yesterday.

After receiving a pass on the right from Christian Eriksen, Son's poor first touch nearly put the ball over the byline, but he just kept it in play. The South Korean then cut the ball back and skipped past Delph's

challenge before striking a low shot under goalkeeper Eder-son in the 78th minute.

It was enough to secure a 1-0 lead to take to City next Wednesday for the second leg. There is little prospect of Kane playing at the Etihad Stadium,

and the striker might not be fit to feature again this season after he left the stadium on crutches.

"We need to check tomorrow but it looks the same, a similar issue," Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said. "Very sad, very disappointed, and it's going to be tough for the rest of the season. We hope it's not a big issue but there's not much time to recover."

Son has already shown he can more than fill in for Kane, who has 24 goals this season. When Kane missed those six weeks with a damaged ligament, Son scored four times.

"As a team, we never give up for 90 minutes — we fight," Son said. "It was a very difficult game and in the end, we were more clinical than them."

Son also scored in Tottenham's first game at its \$1.3 billion new stadium last week, and he now has 18 goals in a season that has seen him miss

spells to go on South Korea duty at the Asian Games in August and the Asian Cup in January.

"If he is one player who deserves to score, it's him," Pochettino said. "He always smiles."

City was smiling — initially — early in the first leg when a video review gave the Premier League champions a penalty.

No City players appeared to be appealing for the penalty when the screens signaled the VAR had intervened to check whether Tottenham defender Danny Rose blocked Raheem Sterling's shot with his hand.

Pochettino didn't think it was a clear error that warranted a review.

"I want to help VAR be a protocol to help the referee," Pochettino said. "But today showed there is still a lot of work to do with the system."

But goalkeeper Hugo Lloris saved the third consecutive penalty he has faced this year, diving to block Sergio Ague-ro's spot-kick in the 13th minute.

City would struggle to test Lloris for much for the rest of a game when Moussa Sissoko helped to control the Tottenham midfield and cut out attacks from Pep Guardiola's quadruple-chasing side. **AP**

AD



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FOOTBALL

Brazilians score decisive goals in Asian Champions League

A trio of Brazilian forwards scored decisive goals in the Asian Champions League yesterday.

Talisca got the first two for Guangzhou Evergrande in a 4-0 win over Melbourne Victory in Group F. The former Benfica forward scored both in the opening 10 minutes.

Yang Liyu added the third and Leigh Broxham made it 4-0 with an own-goal.

In the other group match, there was another Brazilian on the scoresheet as Douglas Vieira scored the opener in Sanfrece Hiroshima's 2-0 victory over South Korean club Daegu FC. Vieira scored from the penalty spot and Daiki Watari added the second.

Guangzhou, Sanfrece and Daegu all have six points in the group, while Melbourne has zero.

The third Brazilian scorer was Shanghai SIPG striker Elkeson, who scored the final goal of the match to give his team a 3-3 draw with Sydney FC in Group H.

Also, South Korean club Ulsan Horangi beat Kawasaki Frontale 1-0. Kim Su-an scored late to put Ulsan in first place in the group. AP

Japan Olympic minister resigns over disaster gaffe

JAPAN'S Olympic minister resigned yesterday after making remarks deemed offensive to the people affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, a gaffe that had questioned his credentials.

Yoshitaka Sakurada said he submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He said he made comments that hurt the feelings those in the disaster-hit areas, and just retracting them would not be enough.

Sakurada, at a party earlier Wednesday for Hinako Takahashi — a ruling lawmaker from Iwate, one of the prefectures severely hit by the disaster — said Takahashi is more important than reconstruction.

Sakurada was in charge of the 2020 Games, whose main theme is to promote reconstruction of the disaster-struck region.

Abe was quick in his damage control. Soon after accepting Sakurada's resignation,

he apologized for the minister's remark to the people in the disaster-hit region, reassuring them that his government has an unshakable policy to do the utmost for reconstruction while staying close to the feelings of the people affected.

"As prime minister, I offer an apology to everyone in the disaster-hit areas," Abe said. "I have a responsibility for having appointed him."

Former Olympic minister Shunichi Suzuki is expected to return to the post to replace Sakurada, Japanese media reports said.

Sakurada joined Abe's Cabinet as part of its reshuffle last year, quickly making a reputation as a gaffe-prone minister.

Sakurada, who also doubled as cybersecurity strategy chief, said in November that he does not use a computer. In February, he was forced to apologize after expressing disappointment over swimming gold medal hope-



Yoshitaka Sakurada

ful Rikako Ikee's disclosure of her leukemia diagnosis. Sakurada was also scolded for being late and holding up a parliamentary session.

"Minister Sakurada's resignation is only natural. It was an unbelievable comment that hurt the feelings of the people in the region and others working hard for the reconstruction," said Yukio Edano, leader of a main opposition Constitutional

Democratic Party of Japan.

Edano also criticized Abe for repeatedly defending Sakurada despite his repeated problems since his appointment.

Sakurada's resignation is also an embarrassment for Abe, who saw another Cabinet member step down over a questionable remark. Deputy minister of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism minister Ichiro Tsukada quit last week. AP

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opinion

World Views

Daniel Moss, Bloomberg

WE'RE NOT EVEN CLOSE TO THE NEXT GREAT RECESSION

What's all the fuss about? Maybe the world economy isn't in such terrible shape after all. New projections from the International Monetary Fund, published this week, show that expansion still has some legs. Growth will be a not-too-shabby 3.3 percent this year.

That's down from a previous forecast of 3.5 percent. So, yes, it's a cut. But not a dramatic one. These numbers are a ways from one IMF definition of recession, 2.5 percent, and miles from the contraction recorded in 2009. Superlatives about the lowest growth since the Great Recession are misleading.

These updates from the IMF also make you wonder where all the drama — so prevalent in headlines — is coming from. A bounce in U.S. job growth last month, signs of a partial recovery in China and a dovish pivot from big central banks give some comfort.

Let's not get too giddy, though. A recession in, say, the U.S. is inevitable at some point. The current expansion will this year become the longest ever. Germany is flirting with recession and China is on a long-term trajectory of slower growth.

On the surface, the IMF numbers don't say anything dire. Their direction does make an impression — this was the third time the lender has marked down its numbers in six months. You have to give them credit for staying current. Is the IMF's track record perfect? Far from it. (I'm writing this column from Indonesia, scene of one of the IMF's most contentious programs).

Private sector doomsayers deserve equal scrutiny. Next time you see a survey showing recession odds, question why and how far it deviates from consensus. Same with the hagiographies accorded some individual investors whose prognostications just glide by without review. I'm all for putting the IMF under the microscope; let's do the same for others.

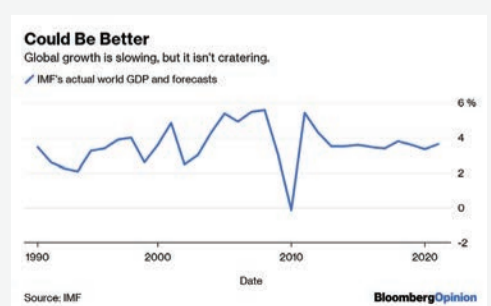
The list of risks outlined by the IMF in its World Economic Outlook could use a little refreshing. Trade wars? Check. Brexit? Sigh. What else you got?

IMF chief Christine Lagarde calls this a "delicate moment" for the world economy. Central banks have a role to play as well, in the U.S., Europe and Asia.

As I wrote late last month, the idea of interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve was a fringe theory that's now come into the mainstream, even if it's not quite consensus. If cuts do come to pass, it won't be because the Oval Office wants it. It will be because of reasoned analysis that inflation is too low, or at risk of being so, and that risk management requires the Fed to take out some insurance.

It's entirely possible the world economy muddles through this year. It might be messy and there will be regional divergences aplenty.

The economy may not feel great, particularly depending on where you are. That doesn't mean it's terrible.



THE MAN WINS OVER USD110K, BREAKS SINGLE-DAY RECORD ON 'JEOPARDY!'

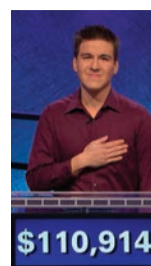
A 34-year-old professional sports gambler from Las Vegas won more than UDD110,000 on "Jeopardy!" yesterday (Macau time), breaking the record for single-day cash winnings on the trivia television game show.

The show says in a statement that James Holzhauer (pictured) won \$110,914 during the episode. The previous episode record of \$77,000 was set by Roger Craig in 2010.

This win was the fourth consecutive victory for Holzhauer, whose winnings total more than \$244,000. He will face two new challengers today.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek revealed in March that he was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer but said he intends to fight the disease and keep on working.

The episode that aired yesterday was taped Feb. 11.



ROSE MARIE BENTLEY

Woman lived to 99 with most organs on wrong side of body



Andrew Selsky, Salem (Ore.)

Rose Marie Bentley was an avid swimmer, raised five kids, helped her husband run a feed store, and lived to the ripe age of 99. It was only after she died that medical students discovered that all her internal organs — except for her heart — were in the wrong place.

The discovery of the rare condition, which was presented this week to a conference of anatomists, was astounding — especially because Bentley had lived so long. People with the condition known as situs inversus with levocardia often have life-threatening cardiac ailments and other abnormalities, according to Oregon Health & Science University.

Cameron Walker's class at the university in Portland was examining the heart of a cadaver last year when they noticed the blood vessels were different. When they opened the abdominal cavity, they saw that all the other organs were on the wrong side. The unusual blood vessels helped the heart compensate.

In a telephone interview yesterday [Macau time], Walker described his reaction to the find as "definitely a mix of curiosity, fascination and a sense of wanting to explore a little bit of a medical mystery — a medical marvel really — that was in front of us."

"And I would say the students felt something very similar," Walker, an assistant professor of anatomy, told The Associated Press.

Bentley's family had not known about the condition, which OHSU says occurs only once in every 22,000 births. Apparently Bentley didn't either.

The discovery of the rare condition, which was presented this week to anatomists, was astounding — especially because Bentley had lived so long

Bentley, who lived in Molalla, 40 kilometers south of Portland, had led a normal life. Her only recurrent physical complaint was arthritis, her daughter Louise Allee remembered.

But there were signs. When Bentley was in her 50s, she underwent a hysterectomy, and the doctor also wanted to remove the appendix but couldn't find it, Allee said in a phone interview. She said it was removed later. Oregon Health & Science University noted that Bentley had three organs removed during her life, but only the surgeon

who removed her appendix recorded its unusual location.

When Bentley had her gallbladder removed, it was on the opposite side of where it should have been, Allee said. "No one said a thing," Allee said. "I was surprised. This was before they did it with a scope, and she had a good-sized incision. You'd think they would have said something, but they didn't."

Walker expressed his gratitude for Bentley agreeing to donate her body to OHSU, Oregon's only academic health center.

"This is an important case that really gave us an opportunity to talk about the importance of future clinicians paying attention to subtle anatomic variations, not just large anatomic variations, in terms of addressing their future patients as individuals," Walker said. "Don't judge a book by its cover, and always check and see what you've got before you talk about care."

He has researched how long people with the condition have lived, and he found no documented cases in which a person lived beyond age 73. Bentley surpassed that by 26 years.

Allee said her mother would have been delighted that the donation of her body led to a learning experience.

"She would have been tickled to know she could educate with something unusual," Allee said. "Dad would have loved to know about it so he could tease her."

Her husband, James, died about 15 years ago. **AP**

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

WORLD BRIEFS



VENEZUELA The International Committee of the Red Cross regained access to prisons in Venezuela, including highly guarded military facilities where dozens of inmates considered political prisoners are being held, as President Nicolas Maduro seeks to counter mounting criticism of his government's human rights record.



TRUMP President Donald Trump says there's only one person in charge of his immigration policy: Him. Asked by reporters whether he considers tapping his aide, Stephen Miller, to lead the Department of Homeland Security given Miller's focus on the issue, Trump was ready with praise — but not a promotion.



BREXIT Just days away from a potentially calamitous no-deal Brexit, European Union leaders meet yesterday to discuss granting the United Kingdom a new delay — possibly of up to a year — to its departure from the bloc. **More on p15**



SPACE Scientists yesterday revealed the first image ever made of a black hole. The picture, assembled from data gathered by eight radio telescopes around the world, shows the hot, shadowy lip of a supermassive black hole, one of the light-sucking monsters of the universe theorized by Einstein.