



### RUBELLA OUTBREAK WORSENS, AS EXPECTED

The number of rubella cases has climbed to 17 since the start of 2019, with all but one case detected in the last two weeks

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### A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS

Red tie, golden eyebrows. The latest Cantonese opera in Hong Kong reimagines the personal life of Donald Trump and his fictional twin who lives in China

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# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

# Times



FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

**PHILIPPINES** Officials say U.S. DNA tests have confirmed the death of a Muslim militant leader who helped lead the 2017 siege of southern Marawi city and was regarded as crucial to helping the Islamic State group gain a foothold in the region.



**JAPAN** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the Fukushima nuclear plant, which sank into meltdowns after a tsunami eight years ago, in an effort to highlight revival and safety as the nation prepares to host the 2020 Olympics.



**NEPAL** A small passenger plane crashed into a parked helicopter during takeoff at the only airport in Nepal's Everest region yesterday, killing at least three people and injuring four others, officials said.



**VATICAN** Pope Francis warned against being judgmental and too full of oneself, including authorities in the Catholic church, in his Palm Sunday homily during Mass in St. Peter's Square, which was crowded with tens of thousands of pilgrims, tourists and Romans. The day ushers in Holy Week.

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# Ho Iat Seng rules on rules for CE election

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# One-pataca plastic tax too little, agrees nearly everyone

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## HEALTH

## Rubella cases climb to 17, measles 32

**T**HE number of rubella cases in the Macau SAR has climbed to 17 since the start of this year, according to information provided yesterday by the Health Bureau (SSM), with all but one case having been detected in the last two weeks.

After the latest case was recorded Saturday, the SSM has called on all health professionals, health care providers and the wider public who are not yet vaccinated to take the necessary precautions.

In the most recent case, a 29-year-old man from the Philippines, who works at the City of Dreams hotel as non-resident employee, was diagnosed with the rubella virus.

The patient had a fever on April 11 and rashes began to appear on the body, head and face from April 12, and then spread to the limbs. On April 12, he presented at the Kiang Wu Hospital and was referred to the public hospital's emergency services. On April 13, laboratory test results showed a positive result for rubella.

There have been four recent cases of rubella detected at the City of Dreams hotel, including this latest one.

Rubella is highly contagious and pa-

tients may already be affected up to one week before showing visible signs of the virus, such as a rash. The SSM says it is monitoring the health status of people who have had contact with the patient during the onset of the virus.

Late last week, the SSM warned that it expected a slight rise in the number of rubella cases this year. However, it stressed 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, the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The SSM recently increased its order of the MMR vaccine to 15,000 doses in response to the measles outbreak in the territory.

In a separate statement, the SSM corrected an earlier, incorrect diagnosis of measles, saying that the 37-year-old Macau resident, an employee at StarWorld Hotel, was found to have rubella after a more thorough analysis.

Accordingly, the SSM revised the number of people diagnosed with measles since the start of the year from 33 to 32. **DB**

## ARTS

## Mike Goodridge to complete IFFAM hat trick

## Staff reporter

**A**RTISTIC Director Mike Goodridge of the International Film Festival and Awards (IFFAM) is to head the festival for the third time in a row, it has been reported by Portuguese newspaper Hoje Macau.

He was appointed hastily in 2017 after his predecessor Marco Müller resigned from the post.

His repeated appointments may be in part because his vision is seen to align with that of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the organizing body behind the

festival.

The MGTO wanted to make Macau shine in international filmmaking. Goodridge commented that "there should be [dozens] of Asian and Western films shooting here in Macau every year" in his interview with The Times near the end of last year.

During his time directing the festival, stars of global fame were brought in as ambassadors. They have included Nicolas Cage and Jeremy Renner, as well as Hong Kong's Donnie Yen and Aaron Kwok.

He has picked quite a number of blockbuster films for

the festival, such as "Sink or Swim" and "The Truman Show", not to mention the 2017 festival's opening with the world premiere of "Paddington 2".

But Goodridge has also made space for not-so-accessible films, for example "Manta Ray" and "Loro".

Goodridge previously served as the chief executive officer of Protagonist Pictures, a film finance, production and sales company. Prior to that, he worked as a journalist for almost 20 years, including being the overall brand editor of Screen International from 2009 to 2012.

## SPORTS

## Diego Elias, HK's Annie Au take Squash Open titles

## Staff reporter

**T**HE Macau Squash Open came to a conclusion last night with Diego Elias taking the men's trophies home and Annie Au the women's. The trophy included a cash prize of USD50,000.

The women's final was played by Annie Au from Hong Kong and Low Wee Wern from Malaysia. Au won by three sets to nil, 11-5, 13-11, and 11-8, with the ma-

tch running for less than an hour and a half.

The men's final was between Diego Elias from Peru and Omar Mosaad from Egypt. It was another three-set straight victory as Elias won by 11-3, 11-4, and 11-9.

Noteworthy is that the former broke the "curse of the primary seed" of the Macau tournament by not only winning a place in the final, but also the trophy. Elias also eliminated title defender Hong Kong's Tsz Fung

Yip in the semi-final.

This year's matches were part of the Professional Squash Association (PSA) World Tour Bronze, which is one of the top-ranking tournaments on the circuit.

The finals were originally set to play in a glass court built specifically for this purpose at Tap Seac Square. However, the weather was so poor during the weekend that the organizer decided to move it to the Bowling Center in Cotai.

## ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

### AN INTRO TO DOG HEARING

## External ear

There are two parts to your dog's external ear. The pinna and the external ear canal. The pinna, or the ear flap, gives each breed of dog its distinctive look. The ear flap is made up of cartilage which gives the ear strength. The coned shape structure of the ear delivers sound to the external ear canal. The external ear canal also called the auditory canal picks up the sound and sends it down the canal to the ear drum. This canal runs down the side of the head diagonally and then horizontally into the head.

## Middle ear

The middle ear includes the tympanic membrane, or eardrum, and the tympanic cavity. The ear drum is a thin tissue that separates the external ear from the middle and inner ear.

Once the sound reaches the ear drum it vibrates through air vibration and sends it to the tympanic cavity. The tympanic cavity contains auditory ossicles which are three small bones that vibrate with noise. These bones are the malleus, the stapes and the incus. These bones are connected and are located just behind the ear drum to the window of the inner ear. Unless the ear drum is ruptured, the middle and inner ear is not visible. To keep the ear pressure normal, the middle ear is connected to the pharynx by the eustachian tube. This allows air to pass in and out from the pharynx to the middle ear.

## Inner ear

The inner ear is located by the petrous temporal bones of the skull. It contains cilia, which

are tiny hair-like strands that are responsible for changing sound impulses into electronic impulses. The inner ear houses a bony labyrinth or osseous that contains fluid filled membranes. There are three structures that are in the inner ear: the cochlea, vestibule and three semicircular canals. The cochlea contains nerves that pass on the sound impulses that are responsible for hearing. The vestibule and the semicircular canals are tissues that are responsible for equilibrium and balance maintenance. The cochlea, the vestibule and the semicircular canals are full of cranial nerves which transmit sound and balance to the brain.

## Deafness

When puppies are born they are not able to hear. Their eardrums are closed until they are 10 days old. They can start to hear sound in about 14 days. At 4 weeks their inner ears are fully developed and a veterinarian can then check for deafness. Deafness results in the damage to the ear drum, the middle and inner



structures or the nerves. Disease, trauma or certain drugs can cause deafness in your dog. Deafness can also be hereditary and can affect certain breeds such as Dalmatians, Boston Terriers, Rottweilers and Border Collies.

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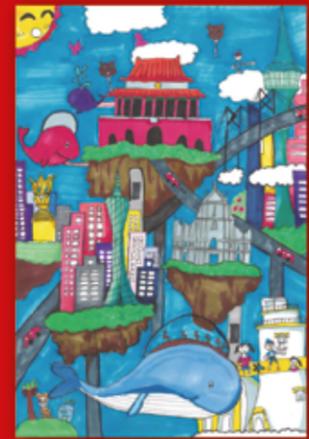
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Junior Individual Champion  
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Wai Pui Hei

Title-sponsored by Wynn, the third Wynn Cup — Macau Primary School Student National Education Drawing Competition attracted active participation from over 40 schools and over 10,000 Macau primary school students. Under the theme of "Looking forward to the Belt and Road Initiative from the perspective of the Greater Bay Area", children were encouraged to paint the country and national landscape through their eyes, and express their passion for China, Macau and their lives.



## Liaison Office in HK had Chinese flag upside down

The Liaison Office in Hong Kong has apologized after some of its staff members hoisted the Chinese national flag upside down, according to Hong Kong reports. The Liaison Office in Hong Kong said that the mistake was corrected immediately. The Liaison Office in Hong Kong claimed that the office has already reprimanded the relevant people. The office also thanked the public for its concern and issued a deep apology. Back in the year of 2017, the Macao Customs Service twice hoisted the Chinese national flag upside down. The Macau department even claimed that pictures of the incident had been photoshopped. However, the Judiciary Police (PJ), following an investigation, refuted the Customs Service's claim.

## Eight civil servants complaints recorded in 2018

The annual report of the city's civil servant's report system has disclosed a total of eight complaints were received through the civil servant's reporting mechanism in 2018. Although there were 10 complaints issued, two were not registered. Four cases were received by the committee that oversees the matter and by public government departments. As of December 31, 2018, the committee had communicated with the individuals and the relevant government departments 157 times, including face-to-face interviews and phone calls.

## 300 SMEs join cross-border e-commerce platform

A total of 300 local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have joined Macau's local cross-border e-commerce kiosk. On Friday, the Sino-Portuguese E-Commerce Chamber signed a cooperation agreement with Auto, a logistics and e-payment company, to open a cross-border e-commerce platform for local SMEs. In the future, local residents and tourists will be able to purchase Macau products on kiosks run by cross-border e-commerce operators. In total, 3,000 products will be available. Some of the kiosks are planned to be installed in hotels as well as at tourist attractions.

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# Rosário favors higher plastic tax, but not before public consultation

RENATO MARQUES



Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário

Julie Zhu

**T**HE local government is open to raising the plastic bag levy higher than the one pataca suggested in the law proposal, according to Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário, who revealed the information during Friday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting.

During the meeting, the government discussed the plastic bag fee bill with lawmakers.

The Secretary noted that, personally, he prefers higher fees for shopping bags, although a decision can only be made after society reaches a consensus, hinting at the need for a public consultation.

"Macau is a very wealthy place. If you ask for my personal opinion, I think we should charge more if it can yield some good effect," said Rosário. "I don't

think one pataca will have any effect. When a consensus is reached within [...] society, we will be able to increase the fee."

The move comes as many lawmakers recently expressed their opinion that the current one-pataca charge in the proposal was too little to act as a deterrent.

Despite having proposed the bill as a step toward further environmental protection, the government received a proposition from several lawmakers, including Mak Soi Kun, Sulu Sou and Pereira Coutinho, to ban certain alternatives for single-use plastics.

Mak Soi Kun specifically pointed out that a cotton-made shopping bag or eco-bag could actually end up being more of a pollutant than single-use plastic bags, especially if they are used only a few times, before being dumped in the trash.

"You have to simultaneously adopt other means. You cannot simply charge for plastic shopping bags. Non-plastic shopping bags can be a thousand times more of a pollutant than plastic shopping bags," said Mak.

The lawmaker added that "the government should encourage people to reuse plastic shopping bags more times, otherwise they throw away the eco-bags after using them only once."

Mak then opined that tourists would not bring an eco-shopping bag to a supermarket. However, the Times has discovered in interviews with supermarket staff that many visitors, especially those from Taiwan and Hong Kong, do in fact bring their own environmentally-friendly shopping bags with them.

Mak then demanded to know "why is the government letting

shops make more money by giving them that one pataca?"

In addition to Mak, Sulu Sou is concerned that Macau's environmental protection strategy will not end by passing the plastic bag fee bill. He argued that more actions need to be taken for the good of the city.

"The public should not misinterpret that, after this bill, plastic restrictions will end. Plastics are only one part of solid waste. Plastic shopping bags are only one type of plastic," Sou noted.

"Macau is a special place," said Secretary Rosário. "Many organizations hand out eco shopping bags. Nowadays, there is not much difference between plastic bags and eco-bags. I know that, in other places, nobody gives away eco-friendly bags; you have to pay for them. But in Macau, they are all free. We all have many eco-friendly bags because everybody gives them."

## Housing and fuel become biggest household expenses

**T**HE share of total consumption costs that the average person spends on 'housing and fuel' has surpassed the "food and non-alcoholic beverages" segment to become the largest category of expenditure. It rose by 1.2 percentage points from five years earlier to reach 26.9 percent.

The finding was revealed in the 2017/2018 Household Budget Sur-

vey released by the Statistics and Census Service.

Conducted every five years, the two categories contributed 48.8 percent to the total consumption expenditure, down by 2.6 percentage points.

As regards consumption pattern of households, monthly consumption expenditure outside Macau amounted to MOP791 million, up by 61 percent in real

terms compared with 2012/2013.

Meanwhile, spending in Zhuhai accounted for 44.1 percent of the consumption expenditure outside of Macau.

The survey showed that the monthly consumption expenditure of all households in the SAR amounted to MOP6.79 billion, up by 28.5 percent from 2012/2013 in nominal terms or 9.4 percent in real terms, af-

ter removing the effect of inflation.

The average monthly consumption expenditure was MOP35,488 per household, an increase of 3.6 percent in real terms.

### LAGGING INCOMES

The average income per household rose by 14.1 percent in real terms in the latest Household Budget Survey, with the total monthly income of all households reaching

MOP10.62 billion in 2017/2018.

The average monthly income stood at MOP55,497 per household and the monthly disposable income was MOP52,314 per household, up by 14.1 percent and 12.7 percent in real terms, respectively. The change indicates that essential costs have risen faster than incomes.

The Gini coefficient of Macau was 0.36 in 2017/2018, up slightly from 0.35 recorded in 2012/2013, which was attributed to population ageing and smaller household size. **LV**



# Sulu Sou to appeal Ho Iat Seng's rejection of election amendment

Renato Marques

**L**AWMAKER Sulu Sou is unhappy with the decision of the Legislative Assembly (AL), and more specifically its president Ho Iat Seng, for the refusal to consider a proposed amendment to the law for the election of the Macau Chief Executive (CE).

According to the lawmaker, the president of the AL, "thinks my bill involves a [change of] political system [and] according to the Basic Law, lawmakers cannot propose a change in that field."

"I don't agree and that is why I appealed," said Sou.

The democrat lawmaker had initially presented a proposal that aimed to introduce changes to the method of election of the CE based on the evolution of a system that has been used since the first election.

In the proposal delivered by Sou, the lawmaker, acknowledging the difficulty in moving into a system of universal suffrage, called for the enforcement of a system that would, at least, avoid a single candidacy for the CE, proposing that each election would have a minimum of two candidates running for the highest post

of the Macau government as a rule.

In case there were not at least two candidates, Sou proposes that the process should be halted, only to recommence when there are at least two candidates to choose from. The election should be postponed, if needed, until such a requirement is fulfilled.

The bill, presented in January this year, received a reply from the president of the AL one month after. The reply refused to consider the bill on the grounds that such a topic is reserved for the government only to propose changes.

Sou disagrees and that is why he has appealed decision to the Executive Board of the AL, noting that there is no such statement within the Macau Basic Law that forbids lawmakers to present bills or amendments to any laws.

In a long justification, Sou notes, among other aspects, "if the legislative intention about the electoral law for the Chief Executive was reserved for the government, the commission for the writing of the Basic Law would have regulated [the matter] clearly, like it happened [in the case of] Annex II," concerning the method of composition of the AL.

"In that sense, we can deduce that the legislative intention of the Basic Law does not forbid the lawmakers to present any initiatives to create new laws or review the electoral law [regarding] the Chief Executive."

Refuting the allegations of the AL president, Sou noted that the "process of proposing candidates" cannot be confused with a "political structure." By this latter term, Sou refers to organizations of political power, such as the executive, legislative and judiciary, as well as the relation between such powers and the entities

that exert control or supervision over them.

Sou also cites opinions from noted figures such as Professor Xiao Weiyun, a Chinese law expert who has a vast experience in the practice of the "one country, two systems" policy and who was intimately involved in the creation of the Basic Law of both of the Macau and Hong Kong special regions.

However, jurist and legal expert António Katchi expressed his agreement with the stance taken by the AL. He said that such amendments to the CE

election law should be of exclusive initiative from the government.

"I think this matter fits into the exclusive initiative from the government," Katchi told public broadcaster TDM. "I never saw arguments strong enough to turn [the discussion] in the opposite direction, including these that are now [discussed]."

Irrespective of Ho Iat Seng's decision as AL president, the issue has been accepted for discussion in the plenary.

Lawmaker Sou wants Ho to abstain from participating in the debate because he has already signaled an intention to run for the top post. That's an opinion shared by Katchi who believes that Ho should disqualify himself from debating the topic and delegate such duties to the vice president of the AL.

## Universal suffrage, a long way to go

**L**OOKING back at Macau when it was under Portuguese administration, Macau's leaders were appointed by Lisbon. However, nothing was able to be done back then because Macau was a colony. What makes people discouraged is that, in the Macau of 2019, in a city where people parade the one country, two systems initiative and the high autonomy [it apparently provides], the Chief Executive, who is responsible for leading the SAR and holding the SAR's fate in his hands, is still chosen by only a few hundred people behind a closed door," lawmaker Sulu Sou voiced during Friday's session at the Legislative Assembly.

"There are only four months left until the small-

circle election by 400 people. Being an important political affair, which should be of great relevance to residents, the residents have no knowledge of who the candidates [are]," said Sou.

"The small-circle candidates do not need to worry about not having enough time to campaign in all the districts of Macau. All they have to do is just wait for someone to give orders," said Sou.

"More than 300,000 voters continue to be on the sidelines watching the show," complained the democrat lawmaker. "I decided not to participate in the 22-member election committee because I have a very humble but big dream; that one day I will go to the polling station with all the Macau people to cast that one vote." **JZ**



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Property of the Week



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1,226 ft<sup>2</sup>

3

2



**NOVA PARK, TAIPA**

**\$16,400/mth**

1,134 ft<sup>2</sup>

2

2



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For Sale

- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 3 3 1,610 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$10,800,000** (ref: 18105563)
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MIGRANTS

# Myanmar social club providing community Cantonese lessons

**L**ANGUAGE barriers between Burmese non-residents living in Macau and their mostly Cantonese-speaking employers is one of the most pressing difficulties that workers from Myanmar experience in the SAR.

On the sidelines of a Burmese community event yesterday, the Chairman of Myanmar's Social Club of Macau, Ricky Myint, said that among other issues faced by migrants in the region, including long working hours and being underpaid, a number of his compatriots still find it challenging to communicate with their employers.

"It is also interesting that we found out that a communication problem between the employee and employer still exists because they only know a bit of Cantonese, so they have difficulties in dealing with their employers or with customers," said Myint.

To help solve the issue, the chairman said that the associa-



A performance during an event in Macau to celebrate Myanmar's New Year Festival "Thingyan," yesterday

tion provides lessons in Cantonese to these migrant workers.

Meanwhile, Myint noted that the association had co-organized, with the Myanmar Consulate General in Hong Kong, events for the community with a view to fulfilling their consular needs.

The Burmese community gathered yesterday at the Kam Pek Community Center to celebrate "Thingyan," Myanmar's New Year Festival that is celebrated over a period of four to five days.

The association is commemo-

rating the Buddhist festival for the fourth consecutive year. This year it involved a series of performances, including traditional dance and live music performances, along with food sharing amongst the community.

One of the traditions includes

splashing water on one another, as they believe that water cleanses a person of sins committed during the past year.

"We are expecting around 400 to 500 people to come. Everybody celebrates it in a traditional way. Today is exactly the right date to celebrate in Myanmar also.

The aim of the event is to gather the Myanmar people who work and live in Macau and just be united and celebrate our tradition together," the event organizer said.

"The association also wants to help them [...] through disseminating [information on] local laws including labor laws or assistance if there are conflicts between employee and employers," said Myint.

"We are like a bridge between the community and the Myanmar Consulate in Hong Kong," the chairperson added. "The consulate makes it convenient for the people working here to process any passport-related concerts."

The consulate currently opens its service in the region once a month.

The association also holds a series of events including World Migrants Day and participates in local activities such as the Walk for a Million and blood donation activities. LV

AD

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- Conduct regular site audit and supervision including quality assurance, quality control and site safety supervision;
- Instruct contractor to rectify unsatisfactory works and monitor remedial works as required;
- Coordinate with other site supervision staff to facilitate smooth works implementation; and,
- Coordinate with client and contractor for the completion of the Works.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

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- Minimum 10 years of relevant civil work experience, of which not less than 5 years' site supervision of civil engineering work experience on construction site; Preferable for experience in working as resident engineer on demolition works;
- DSSOPT Registered Professional Civil Engineer or equivalent;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Chinese and English;
- Demonstrated time management and organizational skills;
- Strong sense of commitment, willingness to learn, and desire to work in a dynamic deadline driven environment; and
- Ability to work on site.

**JOB TITLE:** Environmental Officer

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Participate in infrastructure demolition project, and conduct environmental, health and safety monitoring. Detailed work scope includes:
- Monitoring the collection, sampling, testing and disposal of dangerous materials by demolition contractor;
- Observe, inspect and check the pollution reduction measures implemented by the contractor in accordance with the Contract Specification and approved method statements;
- Conduct regular site audit and supervision including quality assurance, quality control and site safety supervision;
- Prepare and organize site documents, such as daily site records, meeting minutes and inspection reports;

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Macau Resident;
- Bachelor Degree or above in Environmental Sciences /

Environmental Engineering or equivalent;

- Minimum 5 years' experience in environmental monitoring, of which not less than 1 year environmental monitoring work experience on construction site; Preferable for experience in hazardous material handling and disposal;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in Chinese and English;
- Demonstrated time management and organizational skills;
- Strong sense of commitment, willingness to learn, and desire to work in a dynamic deadline driven environment and
- Ability to work on site.

**JOB TITLE:** Site Supervisor

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Carry out site supervision of Ground Investigation (GI), provide comments on the preliminary log, and ensure that all site work of GI and geotechnical assessment are complied with the GI specification, including:
- Supervise drillhole locations, method, requirement, and particular sequence of GI;
- Supervise laboratory testing of GI;
- Supervise the installation and operation of plant and equipment during the GI site works;
- Review the site record sheets, laboratory testing results and GI reports.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- At least 5 years of experience in Geotechnical Engineering, plus not less than 1 years of experience in site supervision of GI works;
- Experience in large scale ground investigation projects both in Hong Kong and Macau is preferred;
- Qualified with a higher certificate or higher in Civil/ Geotechnical Engineering;
- Capable of communicating in Cantonese and English.

## GAMING

# Australia billionaire mulls end of empire with Wynn's on-off bid

Angus Whitley

**T**HE Packer dynasty has sat astride corporate Australia for a century, forging newspaper, television and casino dominions with the power to make and break governments. The end of that reign was once unthinkable.

It's now a possibility, though, after James Packer's casino operator Crown Resorts Ltd. said this week it was discussing an AUD9.99 billion (USD7.16 billion) sale to Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts Ltd. While the talks collapsed just hours later, the billionaire has sent out a clear signal: he is willing to sell his firm's approximately 46 percent share in Crown and dismantle a family empire built up over four generations.

Wynn's unlikely to stay away and other suitors could join the fray, Deutsche Bank AG said. A sellout by Packer would be the culmination of a multi-year overseas retreat, a tumultuous period marked by a crackdown in China, an ugly split with his fiancée Mariah Carey and a public battle with his mental health that forced him to quit Crown's board in March 2018.

"It's the end of an era," said Damon Kitney, author of "The Price of Fortune: The Untold Story of Being James Packer," a biography published last year. "For James Packer, history and legacy is one thing. But the most important thing is getting healthy. He's putting his hand up and saying, I've had enough of the spotlight."

A spokesman for Packer's personal investment company, which holds his Crown stake, didn't return a call and an email seeking comment. A Crown spokesman



James Packer

declined to comment.

## BEAR-SIZED FATHER

Along with Rupert Murdoch and his family, who still control much of Australia's media assets, the Packers have rarely escaped public scrutiny. James Packer and Lachlan Murdoch, Rupert's eldest son, were also co-investors in One.Tel, the Australian phone company that collapsed in 2001.

Four years later, James had to shoulder the biggest inheritance in Australian history following the death of his father, Kerry - a bear-sized polo player with a temper and gambling habit to match his dominant stature. Pa-

cker Sr. also harbored a disdain for politicians who stood in the way of making money.

Still in Kerry's shadow, James set out to transform his late father's media empire into an international business equipped for the digital era. He amassed a collection of casino and entertainment assets that reached beyond Australia into North America and Macau. That sprawl included stakes in the award-winning Japanese restaurant Nobu and movie-production company Ratpac.

## YOUNG BILLIONAIRES

Packer's highest-profile new

venture was in Macau with Lawrence Ho, son of casino kingpin Stanley Ho. There, the young billionaires opened their first casino in 2007, aiming to lure mainland China's biggest bettors.

That was to mark the beginning of the end of Packer's global ambitions. The key turning point came in October 2016, when Chinese authorities rounded up Crown's staff on the mainland, before a court convicted 19 current and former employees of illegally promoting gambling.

According to Kitney's biography, based on extensive inter-

views with Packer, the arrests hit the billionaire hard. Packer was staying at the time in a house on the Los Angeles estate of Hollywood legend and close friend Warren Beatty. Packer recalled in the book that he was drinking as much as a bottle of vodka every day, and Beatty drove him to a psychiatrist for medication.

## 'SHOOK ME'

The episode "shook me to the core," Packer said in a rare interview with an Australian newspaper in October 2017. Packer also said he wanted a more "simple life" and acknowledged he'd lost friends, put on weight and had led a reclusive life at his polo estate in Argentina.

Within a year of the detentions in China, Crown had closed almost all its regional marketing offices in Asia, which funneled big-stakes players to Australia, and sold out of the Macau casino venture. The company also ditched an undeveloped plot in Las Vegas where Packer had once hoped to build a casino.

Crown stepped back to focus on its Australian casino resorts and the construction of another in Sydney.

Investors are betting the Melbourne-based company is now in play. Crown stock has this week clung on to the bulk of the gains triggered by Wynn's bid. The shares closed at AUD13 on Friday, clocking a gain of 11 percent this week as Crown emerged as a takeover target.

Wynn's AUD14.75-a-share proposal would have shrunk Packer's controlling share in Crown to a far smaller stake in the U.S. gaming giant, which owns resorts in Las Vegas and Macau and is one of many companies with designs on a casino license in Japan.

Handing control of Crown to Wynn could have given Packer a ringside seat overseas. It's what Packer had tried and failed to do on his own. **Bloomberg**



Chinese laborers gather in front of their living quarters before a protest in Saipan, last summer

## Saipan casino to pay USD3m for construction worker wage claims

**C**OURT documents say a Saipan casino developer will pay USD3.36 million to settle U.S. Department of Labor claims that construction workers weren't paid minimum wages and overtime.

The money is meant to cover back wages, civil monetary penalties and damages related to a string of labor violations committed by companies contracted by Imperial Pacific.

They reportedly did not comply with minimum wage

and overtime rules, nor did they maintain adequate payroll records in accordance with law for a two-year period spanning 2016 and 2017, reports Calvin Ayre.

A consent judgment filed last week says Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific will also deposit \$100,000 in escrow for any future violations. The company will pay for an independent monitor to inspect worksite conditions and ensure wage law compliance.

Seven Chinese men allege

in a lawsuit they were forced to work 12-hour days and live in dorms without showers.

Eugene Sullivan, an attorney for Imperial Pacific, declined to comment.

Last year, four China-based construction firms agreed to pay \$14 million in back wages and damages to thousands of Chinese workers building the casino in Saipan, in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **DB/Agencies**

HONG KONG

# In Cantonese opera, Trump finds his twin brother in China

**W**ITH the blond wig and red tie, the star of the Cantonese opera in Hong Kong may look familiar.

The Chinese actor and singer has the lead role in "Trump on Show," a four-day comedic opera reimagining the U.S. president's personal life and his fictional twin brother who lives in China.

The three-hour opera opens with America's first family moving into the White House, where Trump's daughter Ivanka discovers an old suitcase. Inside she finds an English version of "The Little Red Book," which details ideas on class struggle by the founding chairman of modern communist China.

In the show, Donald Trump goes to China and meets Mao and Zhou En-lai, the first premier of communist China. Trump also receives a visit from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the U.S.

Li Kui-Ming, a 64-year-old feng shui master turned Cantonese opera playwright, explains that his 34th opera piece does not aim to focus on serious international politics. Rather, the show simply uses current political characters to grab the audience's attention.

"It could definitely draw people's attention if the play is about popular political figures due to their popularity and influence. I hope this opera will get my ideas across to the audience," he said.

He hopes that one day, "Trump on Show" could even be performed at the White House or in Pyongyang for Kim Jong Un.

"This is definitely our dream," Li said.

The opera is showing at the Sunbeam Theatre, one of Hong Kong's long-established traditional Cantonese opera venues, created in 1972.

"This opera has to be performed in Cantonese, but of course there will be some English in it," said Loong Koon-tin, a Cantonese actor with more than 40 years



Hong Kong actors Chan Hung-chun (right) and Lung Koon-tin, dressed as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, pose during a press conference to promote their upcoming Chinese opera "Trump on Show" in Hong Kong

of stage experience, who plays Trump. "I will certainly portray Trump's special characteristics. I will wear a red tie and suit, with a blond hair wig and golden eyebrows. Apart from the appearance, I will also imitate the way he talks as well as his body language."

Roger Chan, a Cantonese actor who plays Kim, said they did a lot of research on the North Korean leader. "We try to get to know him through daily news reports," he said.

"I think the theme is very fresh, original and unimaginable because it must be difficult to use traditional Cantonese opera ele-

ments and performing methods to perform and interpret the role of these modern world-leading characters," said Chan Chi-kai, who came to see the show as a loyal fan of the playwright.

Another audience member, Justin Lee, came all the way from Shanghai.

"With the recent tense relationship between China and America due to the trade war, I want to watch this show and see how the playwright depicts Donald Trump, and hope the show will bring on new ideas to improve the U.S.-China relationship," he said. AP

## HK police hunt for gunman in suspected shooting

**H**ONG Kong police are hunting for a man who shot and hurt another man with a suspected gun in the Sham Shui Po district in Kowloon, the head of the Hong Kong Police Force said Saturday.

The police, highly concerned about such violent crimes, are hunting for the suspected gunman in full force, said Lo Wai-chung, commissioner of police of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Re-

gion government.

The two men were brawling near an underground railway station at around 10:30 p.m. on Friday, when one of them pulled out a suspected gun and shot the other in his right arm, according to Hong Kong police Sham Shui Po Divisional Commander Chow Ngai-kong.

Members of the Police Tactical Unit, Emergency Unit, Counter Terrorism Response Unit and Railway Res-

ponse Team have been dispatched to search for the suspected gunman.

The injured man was admitted to a hospital later for treatment, and was in a stable condition, Chow said.

The West Kowloon regional crime unit is investigating the case, Lo said, adding that the preliminary investigation showed the incident was due to a dispute over money.

Lo stressed that Hong Kong has very strict

laws and rules for gun control, and its number of cases involving guns in each of the last five years was five or less.

In some of the previous cases, guns were mailed from overseas, he said, adding the Hong Kong police have been working closely with Hong Kong customs and overseas law enforcement bodies in preventing arms from arriving in Hong Kong. Xinhua

## 11 dead after Shenzhen rainstorm floods

**E**LEVEN people were killed in floods triggered by a sudden rainstorm in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, local authorities confirmed Saturday.

The last missing person was found dead Saturday afternoon, said a source with the city's emergency management bureau.

At around 9 p.m. Thursday, the rainstorm began to pound Shenzhen, leading to floods that flushed away dredging workers at different river sections in the districts of Luohu and Futian.

Provincial authorities of

Guangdong Province in charge of workplace safety and emergency management on Friday issued a circular on strengthening safety and preventing deadly risks during flood season, demanding all projects be halted and workers be evacuated to safe grounds during heavy rainfall to prevent loss of life. Shenzhen falls under jurisdiction of Guangdong.

All water projects in the two districts of Luohu and Futian were ordered to stop operation for investigation and measures of rectification. Xinhua

## HERITAGE

# The future of China's growth glimpsed in historic town's revamp

A USD300 million plan to turn a country town famous for fine porcelain into a major tourist destination gives clues as to how China's new approach to stimulus works in reality.

Shenhou in central Henan province, home to the delicately-colored jun pottery since the Song dynasty about 1,000 years ago, began work in 2016 restoring its main street. The investment is starting to pay off: During February's week-long Lunar New Year holiday, Shenhou saw a quarter of a million visitors, boosting tourism revenue 90 percent from a year earlier.

About 500 million yuan (\$74 million) alone was spent restoring Shenhou's previously dilapidated Ancient Street, or Lao Jie, and its surroundings. Now, a walled archway greets visitors to the newly paved thoroughfare, where red lanterns and ornate roofs overlook shops stocked with fine earthenware.

"Before, only those interested in porcelain culture came here, but now even many young people come to check out the place," said Li Jing, owner of a nearby ceramics shop. "This has driven business across the board: at hotels, restaurants, businesses, every way you can imagine."

Since last year, the government has doubled down on this kind of "targeted" stimulus, emphasizing the role of consumption and the promotion of a long-standing shift toward services and higher-value manufacturing - and away from expensive mega-projects.

It's a big jump for a country more used to the command-economy style of Communist tradition, according to James Laurenceson, deputy director of the Australia-China Relations Institute at the University of Technology in Sydney.

"Governments in China have less experience with delivering in this way," he said. "It's not

AP PHOTO



immediately clear how many jobs it can create, and I expect there will still be significant waste as some default to old approaches."

Despite policy makers' determination to avoid a repeat of previous investment binges, the new stimulus strategy shares a lack of transparency over financing arrangements that plagued old-style investment spending. Local government offices contacted multiple times by telephone declined to provide details of the town's financing arrangements.

The 2 billion yuan investment that's planned for Shenhou is almost 30 times the town's 2016 fiscal revenue. That's largely because it's among 1,000 "special towns" prioritized for development by 2020 to encourage traditional culture, the natural environment or modern manufacturing.

Overall though, the relative restraint of the new stimulus strategy should help slow a

build up of debt that's headed toward 300 percent of gross domestic product. That holds out the hope that economic growth becomes more sustainable in the longer term. The flip-side is that the boost to growth is weaker, lacking the credit-driven sugar highs that helped China support the global expansion after the 2008 financial crisis.

The muted impact of China's more calibrated approach to stimulus is expected to be confirmed in economic data scheduled for release Wednesday.

Growth is seen ticking down a notch to 6.3 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, according to the median estimate of economists in a Bloomberg survey.

More importantly, the full-year expansion is seen slowing to 6.2 percent from 6.6 percent last year - the weakest pace since 1990. The moderate stimulus approach represents Beijing's acquiescence in the

long-term deceleration of the world's second-largest economy.

Industrial production, fixed-asset investment and retail sales are all seen picking up a tad, underscoring what some economists see as early signs of the economy's stabilization after slowing continuously since early 2018.

China's policy stimulus is now both more decentralized and consumption orientated than in the past, reflecting a broader, permanent reconfiguration of the economy, said Citigroup Inc. analysts led by Mark Schofield in a note.

Policy makers have implemented sweeping tax cuts to help shore up consumption, are striving to funnel more credit to efficient private companies rather than lumbering state enterprises, and cut red tape.

President Xi Jinping has also given himself more wiggle room by lowering the annual

growth target to a range of 6 to 6.5 percent this year, down from about 6.5 percent last year.

In Henan, the provincial government plans to spend 1.9 trillion yuan this year to boost "effective investment." About 20 percent of that spending is directed toward "modern services" that include tourism developments such as Shenhou, shopping malls and logistics centers.

Half a dozen businesses interviewed last week in Shenhou, a town of about 50,000 two hours drive from Henan capital Zhengzhou, were upbeat about the recent surge in tourist arrivals. Some even complained about chronic traffic jams and a shortage of parking at weekends and public holidays.

Stage two, scheduled to get underway next month, will see another 800-meter stretch of Ancient Street restored over more than two years. Overall investment upgrading Shenhou will reach 5 billion yuan over an unspecified period, says the local government.

Future plans include the construction of a traditional porcelain heritage park and a culture and art center, said Shanghai-based Joyu Group, the company contracted to run the town's tourist area, in an emailed response to questions.

Longer-term prospects for China's new stimulus approach are hard to judge just yet. For Shenhou, much will depend on whether the second stage of the development can create a more varied experience for visitors, said the owner of cafe Heshuiba on Ancient Street, who asked to be referred to by only her family name, Miao.

"People who come here once won't come back," said Miao. "There aren't enough specific attractions here. Our success depends on the second stage. I hope they can build it up well." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MGM TO LAUNCH EASTER DINING ACTIVITIES

This Easter, MGM Macau and MGM Cotai will hold an array of festive activities from brunch and afternoon teas to magician's performances and egg-painting workshops.

At MGM Macau, Rossio and Aux Beaux Arts will present lunch buffet and afternoon tea buffet respectively between April 19 and 21, offering guests the chance to

celebrate Easter at the iconic Grande Praça.

Meanwhile, Grill 58 at MGM Cotai will offer a brunch set on April 20 and 21 with a magical performance to complement. On offer are teppan grilled tiger prawns, grilled Kintoa pork ribs, as well as grilled dry-aged U.S. beef short rib, and many others.

For those who fancy Califor-

nian dishes, Coast has prepared a festive feast set menu designed to be shared by two. On top of a magic show, Coast has other activities planned, such as face painting and guess the weight of the giant Easter egg games.

Meanwhile, Janice Wong MGM will host a 'Chocolate Egg Painting Workshop' and Pastry Bar at MGM Macau will serve 'adorable Easter-themed pastries,' such as an earl gray-flavor Easter Bunny.

### SOFITEL MACAU TO HOST SERIES OF EGG-THEMED EVENTS

Sofitel Macau will be hosting a series of Easter egg-themed events on the day of Easter, according to a statement from the hotel operator.

Guests can first enjoy an assortment of egg specialties at Mistral Restaurant's Easter

brunch buffet, which offers the classic Egg Benedict with rich and silky Hollandaise Sauce and a choice of different ingredients filling. Other popular dishes on offer include garlic herb roasted chicken, honey glazed ham, lamb roulade with

red wine sauce.

Meanwhile, Le Chinois Cantonese Restaurant is offering the "King of the Sea" set menu, which features steamed Boston lobster with fresh and fried garlic, paired with trio of appetizers.

Families can also head over to the north terrace and participate in an array of Easter games.

AUTOMOBILE

# Show highlights electric ambitions



Joe McDonald, Beijing

**T**HIS year's Shanghai auto show highlights the global industry's race to make electric cars Chinese drivers want to buy as Beijing winds down subsidies that promoted sales.

Communist leaders are shifting the burden to automakers by imposing mandatory sales targets for electrics, adding to financial pressure on them amid a painful sales slump. Chinese purchases of pure-electric and hybrid sedans and SUVs soared 60% last year to USD1.3 billion — half the global total — but overall auto sales shrank 4.1% to 23.7 million.

Buyers of electrics were lured with subsidies of up to \$7,400 per car, but that support was cut by half in January and ends next year.

"Competition is getting more fierce," said industry analyst

Paul Gong of UBS.

Communist leaders have been promoting electrics for 15 years in hopes of cleaning smog-choked Chinese cities and gaining an early lead in a promising industry.

General Motors, Volkswagen, Nissan and other global majors are developing models to suit Chinese tastes. They have money and technology, but local rivals have experience: brands including BYD Auto and BAIC Group have been selling low-priced electrics for a decade.

At the Shanghai show, which opens to the public Saturday, automakers plan to display dozens of electrics, from luxury SUVs to micro-compacts priced under \$10,000. They aim to compete with gasoline-powered models on performance, cost and looks.

By the end of next year, "it will be very difficult for a customer to decide against an electric

car," said the CEO of Volkswagen AG, Herbert Diess.

"The cars will offer roominess, space, fast charging," Diess said during a January visit to Beijing. "They will look exciting."

Automakers are looking to China, their biggest global market, to drive revenue growth at a time when U.S. and European demand is flat or declining. That gives them an incentive to cooperate with Beijing's campaign to promote electrics.

This week, General Motors Co. is unveiling the first all-electric model in Buick's China-only Velite range, which includes a hybrid based on the Chevrolet Volt. VW will display a concept SUV as part of plans to launch 50 electric models by 2025.

Nissan Motor Co. and its Chinese partner will display the Sylphy Zero Emission, an all-electric model designed for China that went on sale in August. BYD Auto will display an all-

electric sedan with an advertised range of 400 kilometers (250 miles) on one charge.

Pressure to shift to electrics is "more an opportunity than a threat" to Chinese automakers, said UBS's Gong.

Latecomers to gasoline-powered vehicles, Chinese brands account for just 10% of global sales, mostly in low price tiers, Gong said. But they account for 50% of electric sales worldwide.

"In the EV world, Chinese companies started earlier and reacted faster," said Gong.

The ruling Communist Party has spent billions of dollars on research grants and incentives to buyers. State-owned power companies have blanketed China with 730,000 charging stations, a vastly larger network than any other country.

Meanwhile, automakers are struggling to revive sales of traditional SUVs, minivans and sedans that fell last year for the

first time in three decades.

A tariff war with Washington and weakening economic growth made jittery consumers reluctant to commit to big purchases. That skid worsened this year. First-quarter sales shrank 13.7% from a year earlier.

Despite that, people in the industry say Chinese sales could top 30 million vehicles a year by 2025.

Ford relaunched its China operation this year after 2018 sales plunged 37%. The company blamed an aging product lineup.

Global brands are linking up with Chinese partners with experience at low-cost production.

Ford has an electric venture with Zotye Auto. GM and its Chinese partners plan 10 electric models by next year. Mercedes Benz launched the Denza brand with BYD. VW's electric joint venture, SOL, started selling an SUV last year. **AP**

## Mnuchin says US open to facing penalties in China trade deal

Andrew Mayeda

**T**HE U.S. is open to facing "repercussions" if it doesn't live up to its commitments in a potential trade deal with China, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

said, in a sign that the two sides are edging closer to an accord.

"There are certain commitments that the United States is making in this agreement, and

there are certain commitments that China is making," Mnuchin told reporters Saturday at the IMF meetings in Washington.

"I would expect that the enforcement mechanism works in both directions, that we expect to honor our commitments, and if we don't, there should be certain repercussions, and the same way in the other direction," he said.

Mnuchin said the two countries are making progress in talks to end their nine-month trade and tariff war, which has cast a cloud over global growth and financial markets. Under the pact being discussed, the U.S. and China would each establish an "enforcement office" to monitor compliance, he said.

The U.S. and China are discussing whether

to hold more in-person meetings, Mnuchin said, after talks in Beijing and then Washington in recent weeks. "We're hopefully getting very close to the final round of these issues," he said.

The IMF cited trade tensions as a risk this week as cut its outlook for global growth to the lowest since the financial crisis a decade ago. **Bloomberg**

# Death of rare turtle leaves 3 remaining in the world

**T**HE only known female member of one of the world's rarest turtle species has died at a zoo in southern China, officials said yesterday.

The animal was one of four Yangtze giant softshell turtles known to be remaining in the world. The Suzhou zoo, where the female turtle lived, also houses a male Yangtze giant softshell turtle. The other two live in Vietnam, but their genders are unknown.

The turtle died Saturday afternoon, the Suzhou city government said in a statement, citing the zoo. It said experts have already used technology to collect the turtle's ovarian tissue for future research.

The state-run People's Daily reported

that the turtle was over 90 years old and had undergone a fifth attempt at artificial insemination shortly before she died.

A medical examination found the turtle to be in good health prior to the procedure, the People's Daily said, and the artificial insemination appeared to go smoothly. But the turtle died the following day.

Yangtze giant softshell turtles originated in China, making their homes in the Yangtze River and Taihu Lake, according to the People's Daily. The species is often referred to as the most endangered turtle in the world.

Suzhou authorities said Chinese and foreign experts are investigating the cause of the turtle's death. **AP**

## ECONOMY

# Gov't, Japan tout 'recovered' ties amid global uncertainty

Yanan Wang, Beijing

**C**HINA and Japan have the opportunity to "take charge of the economic field" during a time of worldwide uncertainty, Japan's foreign minister said Sunday, as trade pressures from the United States have prompted both countries to seek alternative markets.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono met with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, in Beijing to discuss youth exchanges and economic relations between the two countries, whose ties "completely recovered" last year, according to Kono.

The relationship was turbulent in previous years due to an unresolved dispute over islands in the East China Sea. High-level exchanges were frozen in 2012 after Japan nationalized the small group of remote islands claimed by Beijing. The act set off violent protests in China and sent Japanese investment and tourism into a nose dive.

Trade and investment have since rebounded, and companies from the



two nations are considering joint projects in third countries such as Thailand.

While "the current economic situation is complicated and profoundly changing," Wang said, "Sino-Japanese economic cooperation is constantly advancing at a solid pace."

China and the U.S. said a week earlier that they achieved new progress in talks aimed at ending a tariff standoff over Beijing's industrial and technology policies. A conclusion to the dispute, which has shaken financial markets, remains uncertain.

Meanwhile, Japan's exports have suffered as a result of slowing Chi-

nese growth. China is Japan's largest trading partner, and Japanese companies — from carmakers to department stores — play a major role in the Chinese economy.

President Donald Trump has also imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum from Japan, and threatened automobile tariffs that would leave Japan among the hardest-hit.

Kono said yesterday that Chinese President Xi Jinping will likely visit Japan this year. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China last fall was the first formal visit to Beijing by a Japanese leader in nearly seven years. **AP**

AD

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Stephen Wright &amp; Niniek Karmini, Palu

SIX months after Palu was ripped apart by an earthquake, tsunami and liquefying soil that sucked neighborhoods into the earth and killed thousands, a second crisis is looming as recovery efforts stumble and a city that feels ignored begs for humanitarian assistance.

Thousands of people in this city on Indonesia's Sulawesi island are still living in sweltering tent cities, while construction of new permanent homes has yet to start and almost a third of temporary housing is unoccupied after aid groups and authorities failed to connect the units to essential utilities.

President Joko Widodo, who is seeking a second term in elections this week, and his deputy promised that financial assistance to those whose homes were destroyed or whose loved ones were killed would be rapidly distributed. But not a cent has been paid out.

"It's like we're forgotten," said Ade Zahra, a mother of eight living in a tent city who says it's a miracle her family survived when the quake turned their village to mud and engulfed their home.

"We've received no more assistance in the past two months, not only the government, but also humanitarian groups and volunteers who used to provide a lot," she said.

The city's struggle to recover highlights a broader problem of neglect often suffered by remote regions in Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago home to hundreds of ethnic groups. Far from the center of economic, political and cultural power in populous Java, the region around Palu has a history of sectarian conflict and perceived indifference to its plight could embolden hard-liners.

City officials, meanwhile, are worried frustration among the displaced has reached a breaking point.

As anger among the refugees simmers, Widodo is focused on securing his reelection. Sulawesi mostly voted for Widodo in 2014, but he risks losing ground there this time. That could be crucial if the race is tighter than polls, which are predicting a strong Widodo victory.

The Sept. 28 earthquake spawned a large localized tsunami that wiped out coastal areas, while liquefaction caused by the shaking turned entire neighborhoods into rivers of sludge. The disaster killed more than 4,400 people, making it the world's deadliest seismic event in 2018.

The central government, at the time still grappling with the aftermath of deadly earthquakes on Lombok Island, appealed for international aid but didn't declare a national disaster, which would've opened the door wider to foreign assistance. It prohibited international aid organizations from operating on the ground.

AP PHOTO



INDONESIA

# Palu recovery in red tape months after tragedy

Though the tragedy is fading from the national consciousness, large parts of Palu look like they were struck only yesterday, a daily reminder to residents of the horrors they lived through.

About 90% of roads have been repaired, according to Palu's mayor, but the shoreline is littered in debris and hollowed out buildings that lean precariously.

Waves wash inside Apung Palu Mosque, which once sat majestically on pillars in Palu Bay. People looking for valuables pick through a vast jumble of personal belongings and house debris, all that's left of once thriving communities.

In Sigi district bordering Palu, several dozen white tents emblazoned with the U.N. refugee agency's logo are home to hundreds of evacuees, who look with envy and anger at temporary housing across the road — some of it occupied, some empty and some still unfinished.

During the day, the tents are blazing hot and at night refugees, who include a man incapacitated by a stroke and a boy with cerebral palsy, shiver.

Frustrated residents recall that not long after the disaster Vice President Jusuf Kalla visited and promised they'd soon get money to help rebuild their lives. Instead things seem to be getting worse.

They have clean drinking water, but a mobile kitchen provided by an aid group closed due to lack of donations. Members of some families have jobs, but

others have almost nothing, their former livelihoods gone. Some beg for money.

Zahra, the mother of eight, said she hopes the government finally fulfills its promise.

Officially, about 173,000 people were displaced by the disaster and about 20,000 are still living in tents that Palu's mayor says were designed to last three months. The actual number without stable housing is much higher.

## ■ The city's struggle to recover highlights a broader problem of neglect often suffered by remote regions in Indonesia

At a block of eight buildings built by a charitable foundation run by Kalla's business empire, a banner announced they were handed over to the city on Feb. 14. All sit empty and unconnected to utilities, the only sign of life a few cows grazing between them.

Temporary housing built nearby by another organization is occupied, some by residents of

a neighborhood wiped out by liquefaction.

Umira, who uses a single name, wept as she recalled the ordeal her family has endured since the night they fled a sea of moving trees and houses. Eight of her relatives were killed, including her grandson.

They've gone from sheltering in a sports stadium to fashioning their own makeshift lodging in the ruins of a house to finally being assigned to a room in a temporary housing unit.

"We all cried with happiness," she said of the moment two months ago when they learned they would have housing. "Even my husband cried and hugged the wall of our new home."

The family still gets aid, Umira said, such as staple foods and cooking oil, though it's distributed without any predictable schedule.

When the aid runs out they rely on income from running an on-call motorcycle taxi service.

"If there is a call, we can eat," she said. "If not, we will only eat rice with salt."

Presley Tampubolon, the head of Palu's disaster agency who oversees temporary housing, said the need for accommodation has been greater than anticipated.

For every house destroyed or damaged, there would often be several generations of a family living in it. He said it would be "inhuman" to expect such families to fit into the 3-meter-by-4-meter rooms

that have been built.

He said the government and aid groups have built temporary buildings with 5,300 total rooms that can accommodate nearly 41,000 people. But about 1,600 of those rooms are empty because they weren't connected to water, electricity or sanitation, he said.

Hidayat, the mayor of Palu who uses a single name, said the central government has stopped building temporary homes despite the need and construction of permanent dwellings hasn't started.

Compounding the problem is that the central government's social affairs and public works ministries haven't released "mourning allowances" and funds for people to build new homes.

He said he's worried anger will soon boil over.

The social affairs ministry's director of social protection and disaster victims, Margo Wiyono, said the ministry has verified 1,906 of the 4,400 names of heirs who would be entitled to mourning allowances and has proposed the finance ministry pay them.

He said they were still investigating the rest.

"We don't want the allowances worth USD1,050 per heir to fall into the hands of irresponsible people," he said.

The budget director-general at the finance ministry, Askolani, said it's in the process of approving money to pay the allowances. **AP**

# US Dems defend Omar after Trump retweets video against her

**T**OP Democrats on yesterday [local time] rushed to defend Rep. Ilhan Omar after President Donald Trump retweeted video that was edited to suggest she was being dismissive of the significance of the worst terrorist assault on U.S. soil.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi scolded Trump for using the "painful images of 9/11 for a political attack" against the first-term Minnesota Democrat.

And presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren, campaigning in New Hampshire, accused Trump of "trying to incite violence and to divide us, and every political leader should speak out against that."

The video Trump retweeted Saturday pulls a snippet of Omar's recent speech to the Council on American-Islamic Relations in which she described the 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center as "some people did something," and includes news footage of the hijacked planes hitting



the Twin Towers. Trump also tweeted, "WE WILL NEVER FORGET!"

Omar's remark has drawn criticism largely from political opponents and conservatives who say the lawmaker, one of the first Muslim women to serve in Congress, offered a flippant description of the assailants and the attacks that killed

nearly 3,000 people.

Neither Trump's tweet nor the video included her full quote or the context of her comments.

Omar told CAIR in Los Angeles that many Muslims saw their civil liberties eroded after the attacks, and she advocated for activism.

"For far too long we have lived with the discomfort of

being a second-class citizen and, frankly, I'm tired of it, and every single Muslim in this country should be tired of it," she said in the March 23 speech, according to video posted online. "CAIR was founded after 9/11 because they recognized that some people did something and that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties."

CAIR was founded in 1994, according to its website, but its membership skyrocketed after the attacks.

Many Republicans and conservative outlets expressed outrage at Omar's remarks. Fellow Democrats, including some who have disagreed with Omar in the past, defended her.

"First Member of Congress to ever describe terrorists who killed thousands of Americans on 9/11 as 'some people who did something,'" tweeted Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas. The retired Navy SEAL lost his right eye in 2012 in an explosion in Afghanistan.

"Here's your something," the New York Post blared on its cover beneath a photograph of the flaming towers.

Pelosi, who was in Germany visiting U.S. troops, said in a statement that "the memory of 9/11 is sacred ground" and should always be discussed "with reverence." The California Democrat said it is wrong for Trump to "fan the flames to make anyone less safe."

Omar didn't appear to be backing down.

She tweeted a quote from President George W. Bush, who said days after the attacks: "The people — and the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon!"

"Was Bush downplaying the terrorist attack?" Omar tweeted. "What if he was a Muslim."

Several of the 2020 Democratic presidential candidates condemned Trump's tweet.

Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, said the Republican president's tweet was an "incitement to violence" against Omar, who is Muslim-American, and others like her. O'Rourke, campaigning in South Carolina, likened the tweet to Trump's rhetoric about Mexicans, described in the past by Trump as murderers and rapists. O'Rourke said "there is a cost and there is a consequence" to Trump's comments. **AP**

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IMF

# Finance officials pledge cooperation, tensions persist

Martin Crutsinger & Paul Wiseman, Washington

**G**LOBAL finance officials are pledging closer cooperation in efforts to lift the world economy out of its current slowdown, but tensions persist between the United States and other nations over trade and other issues.

Officials wrapped up the spring meetings of the 189-nation International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on Saturday, expressing hope the slowdown that began last year will be followed by stronger growth in the second half of this year and into 2020.

The IMF's steering committee said all members, in order to protect the current economic expansion, would "act promptly to shore up growth for the benefit of all."

At a closing news conference, the committee chairman, Lesetja Kganyago, head of the central bank of South Africa, said every country needs to be ready to address issues involving financial stability "with



International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

all available tools."

Many nations were jolted last year when stock markets went into a nosedive, reversed only when major central banks, including the Federal Reserve, halted efforts to tighten credit policies.

Separately, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters that both the United States and China were moving closer to an agreement on trade. The trade war between the world's two biggest

economies and the punitive tariffs each nation has imposed on the other raised widespread concerns during the talks.

But Chen Yulu, deputy governor of People's Bank of China, struck a less positive stance in his remarks to the IMF policy committee, contending that rising trade protectionism in the form of punitive tariffs had already begun to disrupt global supply changes.

"The protectionism of some

countries has harmed mutual trust among countries, limited the scope for multilateral cooperation and impeded the willingness to achieve it," he said.

The U.S. and China have imposed tariffs on USD350 billion worth of each other's goods. They are battling over U.S. allegations that China deploys predatory tactics — including cybertheft and forcing foreign firms to hand over trade secrets — in a sharp-elbowed effort to challenge American technological dominance.

"If we are able to conclude this, it will be the most significant change in 20 years" in the economic relations between the two nations, Mnuchin said.

He said that the proposed agreement the two sides are working on has seven chapters and includes language that will allow both countries to set up enforcement offices to make sure the deal is followed.

In remarks to the World Bank's steering committee on Saturday, Mnuchin said the U.S. was encouraged that the bank's private sector

lending operation wanted to step up support for nations "affected by fragility, conflict and violence." But he said World Bank officials must ensure such support is aimed at boosting effective private investments in poor countries.

David Malpass, a longtime World Bank critic, took over as president of the bank on Tuesday with the backing of the administration. Reviewing the meetings this week, Malpass said that the challenges facing the World Bank were more urgent than ever with over 700 million people around the globe still living in extreme poverty.

"It is critically important that we work tirelessly to foster broad-based growth, raise median incomes, create jobs and fully incorporate women and young people in economies," Malpass said in a statement.

President Donald Trump said in a newly published interview that he had considered his daughter Ivanka, a White House adviser, for the job of World Bank president.

"She would have been great at that because she's very good with numbers. She's got a great calmness. [...] I've seen her under tremendous stress and pressure," he was quoted as telling The Atlantic.

When Jim Yong Kim resigned suddenly as bank president earlier this year, reports said that Ivanka Trump along with Malpass were being considered for the job, which has always gone to an American. AP

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## what's ON



## SEE SAW ZINE?

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

## 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

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## Offbeat

## GIRL NOT AMUSED BY 'SNL' JOKE ABOUT HER DISABLED PET CHICKEN



A Vermont girl isn't happy that her disabled pet chicken was joked about on "Saturday Night Live."

The chicken, named Granite Heart, is learning to walk with a custom wheelchair.

On a recent 'SNL' episode, the television show's "Weekend Update" co-host said she should "just eat the chicken."

Ten-year-old Alora Wood of Underhill, Vermont, tells NECN-TV that she knows the segment was meant to be a joke, but says what if it was a dog.

The chicken was born with a deformed foot.

The girl says: "Any creature, no matter how big, no matter how small, they deserve to have a perfect life."

The custom wheelchair came from a company in Amherst, New Hampshire, that makes pet wheelchairs.

## 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

11 - 16 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

## THE UPSIDE

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Neil Burger

Starring: Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston, Nicole Kidman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 126min



## US

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Jordan Peele

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

## BREAKTHROUGH

ROOM 3

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

Director: Roxann Dawson

Starring: Chrissy Metz, Topher Grace, Josh Lucas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

## P STORM

ROOM 2

9:30pm

Director: David Lam

Starring: Chrissy Chau, Louis Koo, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 96min

## this day in history



## 1998 FORMER CAMBODIAN DICTATOR DIES

The former Cambodian dictator, Pol Pot, whose regime led to the deaths of millions of his people, has died. Journalists who were shown his body in a village in western Cambodia were told he had died of a heart attack.

After initial scepticism most of the journalists said they were confident it was Pol Pot.

Pictures of the corpse on a bed in a jungle shack have also been broadcast on television.

Pol Pot never revealed his exact age but he was believed to be in his early 70s.

Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge movement he led were behind the deaths of approximately 1.7 million Cambodians in the so-called "killing fields" during the late 1970s.

Last year Pol Pot was deposed as leader of the Khmer Rouge and a special Khmer Rouge tribunal sentenced him to life imprisonment at the movement's headquarters in northern Cambodia.

News of Pol Pot's death came just hours after guerrilla officials said they were prepared to surrender him to end fighting with Cambodian government troops.

However, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, closely involved in the US bombing of Cambodia, said he thought the Khmer Rouge might have killed Pol Pot.

"I think so ill of the Khmer Rouge that I don't even exclude that they killed him in order to avoid pressure of this kind," he said.

Pol Pot became head of the underground Cambodian Communist Party in 1962 after becoming converted to Marxism while studying in Paris.

He and his guerrillas came to power in 1975 after a war against the US-backed Cambodian government.

The dictator immediately set about realising his vision of an agrarian utopia, abolishing money, private property and religion.

His troops forced people to leave the cities to set up rural collectives where many thousands died of disease and starvation.

Anyone suspected of being an "intellectual" was an enemy of the new state and hundreds of thousands of the educated middle-classes were tortured and executed.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Pol Pot's radical reforms so weakened Cambodia that its old enemy, Vietnam, was able to stage an invasion in 1979.

The Khmer Rouge government fell and fled into the jungle.

Vietnamese troops did not withdraw until 1989 leaving behind a country wracked by civil war.

In 1991 a United Nations-brokered peace agreement was signed and led to free elections and the restoration of the monarchy in 1993.

However, the country has not been completely free of strife - a coup was staged in 1996.

In 2001 Cambodia's Senate approved a law to create a tribunal to bring genocide charges against Khmer Rouge leaders.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're too busy being upset about reality to indulge in your usual inner musing.

Taurus April 20-May 20 If you made every decision based only on emotion, you would eventually burn out over something simple.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Everything you need to know is just outside your field of vision. But you can figure things out based on something deeper and more calculating than your observations.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Indecision is a powerful indicator. It helps you figure out what to get involved with and what to avoid, especially where your money is concerned.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Are plotters really out to get your few remaining pennies or is that fear just a smoke screen for more weighty matters?

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If you based all of your financial decisions on emotions rather than facts, then you should be in a good place right about now.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 What a difference a year makes. You needed a few major changes. When it comes to money and material possessions, it's always healthy to shake things up every now and then.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're having a rebirth of sorts. In other words, you're in business. Whatever plans you've been sitting on, it's time to get out of the way so they can hatch.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's disappointing when setbacks just make you moody and slow instead of fired up to face the challenge.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Stay organized. Your biggest hopes and dreams may be on the back burner, but at least they're not in the deep freeze.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You can't go full speed ahead forever. If your feelings of ambition have slowed down, it's only because you needed a breather.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Go ahead, treat me like your doormat. That's your own sneaky way of getting someone over the threshold.



SUDOKU

Easy Sudoku grid with numbers 3, 6, 4, 2, 8, 9, 1, 7, 2, 5, 3, 2, 9.

Easy+ Sudoku grid with numbers 5, 8, 7, 6, 9, 8, 6, 3, 9, 8, 2, 4, 5, 9, 1, 7, 5, 5, 1, 7, 5, 3, 2, 7, 6, 4.

Medium Sudoku grid with numbers 1, 9, 3, 7, 1, 6, 2, 5, 6, 8, 4, 3, 2, 2, 6, 9, 7, 4, 2, 3, 4, 7, 5, 1, 8, 6, 1, 9.

Hard Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 3, 8, 6, 1, 8, 9, 5, 4, 1, 7, 7, 6, 4, 2, 5, 1.

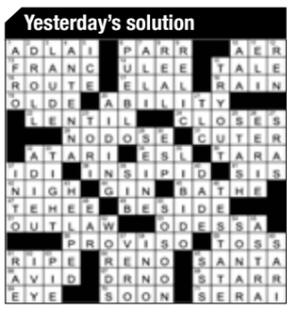
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Yes; 4- Singer Morissette; 10- Stump; 14- Gibson or Brooks; 15- African desert; 16- Window piece; 17- G-8 nation; 18- Divination through dreams; 20- K-O connection; 21- Close by; 22- \_\_\_-Saxon; 23- Words on a Wonderland cake; 25- Soft; 28- Poet's dusk; 29- Scarlett's home; 30- Like lungs; 31- Decked out; 32- Increase in size; 35- Breach; 36- Component of bronze; 37- Authoritative statement; 44- San Francisco's \_\_\_ Tower; 45- Anatomical passages; 46- Champagne name; 48- Tolkien ogre; 49- Abnormal plant swelling; 50- Sensation provided by buds on the tongue; 51- Puts away; 53- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 55- Blunder; 56- Spread injuriously; 59- Average guy; 60- Broadcast; 61- Bird enclosure; 62- Binges, briefly; 63- Stick around; 64- Magnetic induction units; 65- Maude portrayer;

DOWN: 1- Talisman; 2- Polite agreement; 3- Hyundai model; 4- Unanimously; 5- Narrow path for walkers, cars or ships; 6- Leading; 7- Capital of Kenya; 8- Discount rack abbr.; 9- \_\_\_ Paulo; 10- Reach across; 11- Hybrid citrus fruit; 12- Insanitary; 13- Surpassing; 19- Fannie \_\_\_; 24- Legless larva of certain flies; 26- Fond du \_\_\_, Wisconsin; 27- Boxes; 30- Fatty; 31- Picture theater; 33- One of the Bobbsey twins; 34- Russert of "Meet the Press"; 37- Omen; 38- Soft cheese; 39- Salt Lake City player; 40- Agent of retribution; 41- Pertaining to the skull; 42- Rhinoplasty; 43- Vacuum tube type; 44- Universe; 47- Singer Brewer; 49- Hook shape; 50- Low cards; 52- Undulating; 54- Poet Pound; 57- Rat-a- \_\_; 58- Hail, to Caesar;



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## MOTORSPORTS

## Hamilton wins sixth Chinese Grand Prix

**MERCEDES** has gone 1-2, 1-2, 1-2 in the first three races of the new Formula One season, a great start for the sport's dominating team.

Lewis Hamilton and teammate Valtteri Bottas completed their third straight double in yesterday's Chinese Grand Prix. That kind of start has not happened since 1992 when Nigel Mansell and Riccardo Patrese went 1-2 in the first three races.

"As a team, we didn't expect to have three 1-2s," Hamilton said. He acknowledged there's been some luck involved, particularly two weeks ago in Bahrain when Ferrari's Charles Leclerc should have won, but was undone by late engine trouble. "I think we're over-delivering a little bit at the moment," Hamilton said.

Yesterday's race was over in the first 30 seconds.

Second on the grid, Hamilton beat pole-sitter Bottas to the first turn and then led for the entire 56 laps. It was Hamilton's sixth victory on the Shanghai circuit. It was also the five-time and defending champion's 75th career victory, which moved



him into the lead in the overall standings after three races.

Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari was third ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari.

"The start is really what made the difference," Hamilton said. "And after that it was kind of history."

The Mercedes 1-2 streak — two

wins for Hamilton and one for Bottas — comes despite early hints that Ferrari had more flat-out speed.

"You can see it is still very close between us all," Hamilton said. "We have no idea how the next race is going to turn out."

Bottas acknowledged he was done in by his slow start, with Hamilton racing ahead out of

the first turn.

"I think I lost it in the start, honestly," Bottas said. "It's a shame about the start. It's small details, but it's early days in the season. But we've done three perfect weekends so far."

The 21-year-old Leclerc of Monaco was upset after about 10 laps when his Ferrari team ordered him to let Vettel pass.

Vettel was in fourth at the time and Leclerc was third. "Let Sebastian by. Let Sebastian by," the team radio told Leclerc. He replied, clearly irritated: "But I'm pulling away" as he backed off and watched Vettel pass.

Ferrari team head Mattia Binotto told reporters earlier in the week that preference would be given to the four-time champion Vettel over Leclerc. At least early in the season.

"If there is any 50-50 situation where we need to take a decision, the advantage would have been given to Sebastian, simply because Sebastian has got most of the experience," Binotto said.

Despite benefiting from team orders, Vettel was not thrilled with his finishing position.

He was asked about the team orders and didn't give a straight answer in the post-race press conference sitting alongside Bottas and Hamilton. "I'm not sure I want to answer," he said, chiding some reporters for taking his words out of context.

Hamilton has 68 points after three races followed by Bottas (62), Verstappen (39), Vettel (37) and Leclerc (36). **MDT/AP**

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LIGHT THE NIGHT RUN

# The only way is up for Eiffel Tower vertical run



THE second Light The Night Run vertical race at The Parisian Macao's half-scale Eiffel Tower was held on Saturday, raising funds for Macau-based charities while also serving as a source of fun for locals and visitors to the city. Now a fixture on the Macau sporting calendar, the Light The Night Run challenges professional athletes and fitness fans to race the 750 steps up to the tower's 37th floor observation deck finish line.

All registration fees for the event, which is part of a family fun and fitness weekend incorporating sport, wellness and health education, will be donated to Macau IC2 Association to sponsor its upcoming Art for Community event, and to Caritas Macau to allow its users with restricted mobility to gain free access to its stair climber service.

The Parisian Macao has again partnered with the General Association of Athletics of Macau, whose mission is to develop local sports and culture and promote the health of Macau citizens.

In the Tower Fun Run Group, Lok Chong Leng came in at a time of 5 minutes 46 seconds to be crowned male champion, while Lam Cho Teng put in 7 minutes 43 seconds to take the female title.

Over the weekend, The Parisian Macao also organized the Light The Night Run Wellness Fun Festival, a series of family events for everyone to enjoy, with wellness activities including yoga, meditation and workout sessions, as well as a chill-out zone with a kids' playground, and other entertainment. Popular Hong Kong group MIRROR also performed at the event.

"Light The Night Run offers participants an opportunity to enjoy some physical activities while at the same time help[ing] raise funds for some very worthy local charities," said Ruth Boston, senior vice president of marketing and brand management at Sands China, speaking at the presentation ceremony. "Plus, we wanted to include a range of fun, healthy events that the whole family could enjoy throughout the day, all set against the backdrop of the magnificent The Parisian Macao."

"We are again grateful to the organizations, sponsors and participants who have made it possible. We hope it will inspire people here in Macau to adopt healthier lifestyles."

All competitors received a memento from the day, with winners in each category awarded luxury getaways to The Parisian Macao, dining and spa vouchers and Cotai Water Jet round-trip tickets.



Ruth Boston, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Brand Management (center)



Hong Kong group MIRROR performed at the event



opinion

**Rear Window**  
 Severo Portela



**FEVER MOUNTS AT...  
 MACAU SAR**

Until the matter of the candidate - or candidates - selected to replace Chief Executive Chui Sai On is unequivocally settled, the political environment will be one in which the rumor mill will suggest anything that might be possible in the MSAR... anything within a stone's throw of wild guessing. As in times of mild epidemics affecting MSAR, we ought to put up as a disclaimer the unintentional choice of Luis Buñuel 50s movie *Fever Mounts at El Pao* (La Fièvre Monte à El Pao). It is simply a coloring of the anxiety towards the coming Typhoon Season as a metaphor for this political void.

Let us begin from a different angle, with the expectations of the sitting Chief Executive in the final leg of his double tenure. We believe Chui Sai On has been long wishing for a quiet period to lick the wounds of his office at the helm of MSAR, to let go of the past and take care of his legacy and immediate future.

That is why we cannot understand the CE opting to appeal the decision of the Court of Second Instance that ruled in favor of the former director of the Meteorological Bureau, thus ruling against the improper dismissal of disgraced Fong Soi Kun in the aftermath of the Typhoon Hato. Although it is perfectly legal, bringing the decision to the Court of Final Instance (TUI) may look like (to the average common-sense resident) a vindictive scapegoating, excessive force, if not despotic, since Fong Soi Kun, despite his alleged failures of accountability and diligence, seems to be footing the bill of everything that went astray during Hato.

All is set to prevent a second series of disruptions of the magnitude Hato brought to Macau. Besides having been piling up new equipment and human resources, the government, according to Secretary for Security, Wong Siu Chak, plans to submit a civil protection bill - including the new crime of false social alarm - before the Typhoon Season arrives to the region. All set, indeed, but fingers crossed as we are dealing with men dealing with Nature.

Regardless of the dire consequences, the anxiety the Typhoon Season brings to Macau is in a way routine; on the other hand, this anxiety is alien to a well-crafted process to select the Chief Executive; but not in this year of 2019. The dawdling of the selection of the candidates can be a source of worries to the incumbent Chief Executive.

The step by step unfolding of the preliminary selection seems to be a wicked game. The only candidate de facto is Ho Iat Seng. He was the only one to assume a "formal" will to run.

However, at the "material" level the agenda has been captured by the delegation Secretary for Economy and Finance headed to Beijing. Lionel Leong met with the Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council, Zhang Xiaoming, as well as the heads of Insurance, Finance, Banking and Securities regulatory commissions.

If we refer to the agenda - building the China platform for trade and cooperation, especially in the financial component, with Lusophone countries; Macau to become the Renminbi clearing house for the PSCs; communication between the SAR and the Country - and add the importance of the retouching of the casino business... it looks like an endorsement for five years.

In our final notes we mention that image the Cultural Affairs Bureau accidentally plagiarized, later to be solved by money (since there is no such thing as a copy as flattery); the verdicts upon Occupy Central 9 that Amnesty International HK called "a crushing blow for freedom of expression and peaceful protest". And an always appropriately quotable Zizek: we feel free because we lack the very language to articulate our unfreedom!

**THE FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, WHATSAPP  
 BUZZ BACK UP AFTER MASSIVE OUTAGE**

Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp were temporarily down yesterday.

All three social media platforms, including Facebook Messenger, were affected by the outage.

Downdetector.com, a site that monitors site outages, shows Facebook had been down since 6.30 p.m., Macau time, in much of the world, with thousands of reported outages concentrated in the northeastern U.S., Europe and the Philippines.

It appeared to be back up and running for most

users by 9 p.m.

An email requesting comment about what caused the outage was sent to Facebook.

#FacebookDown, #instagramdown and #whatsappdown were all trending on Twitter globally.

Facebook acquired Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014.

There are more than 1.52 billion daily active Facebook users, according to the social media network's website.

**Diana? Alice? Elizabeth?  
 Britons bet on new royal  
 baby name**



**P**rince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, may be keeping plans about their impending baby under wraps, but that hasn't stopped everyone in Britain from trying to guess the gender and the name of their first child.

If Britain's bookmakers are to be believed, it's definitely a girl — and Diana may well be one of her many names.

The William Hill agency closed the betting on the baby's gender a few days ago after an "avalanche" of bets poured in from people convinced the royal couple is having a girl.

"The secret's out, as far as we're concerned," firm spokesman Rupert Adams said. "It could be because someone somewhere has seen the scan, or someone has heard something."

While Adams acknowledged there's always a chance the surge was based on nothing, he said average betting patterns over the years suggest there's usually some truth in rumors.

So far, Diana is topping the bookmakers' list as a front-running name — William Hill has put the odds at 4/1. Victoria, Alice, Grace and Elizabeth are close behind, while Albert, Arthur and James are popular guesses for a boy.

"A ridiculous number —

80% of bets taken — are for the name Diana," Adams said. He said he personally doubts Harry would choose a name that so directly evokes his iconic mother's tragic death in 1997 but added: "There's every chance of it being a middle name."

Carolyn Harris, a royal historian who teaches at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies, agrees that Diana could be a middle name. That's what Harry's brother, Prince William, and his wife Kate did for their daughter, Princess Charlotte (the 3-year-old's full name is Charlotte Elizabeth Diana).

"The choice of Diana as a first name would place a lot of pressure on the royal baby, as the press would constantly compare her to her famous grandmother," she said.

Harris believes Harry and Meghan may adopt a similar approach to the naming of other recently born royal children lower down the line of succession: Choosing a moniker that's traditional, but one that doesn't frequently appear within the royal family.

She also thinks a possible middle name could be Ruth — after one of Meghan's great-grandmothers, as well as Diana's maternal grandmother, Lady Ruth Fermoy.

Some observers speculate that Meghan, who has long spoken out about women's rights, could go for a name that evokes strong women in history — a theory Harris thinks has substance.

"A name associated with prominent female historical figures in Britain and/or the United States is certainly a possibility," she said. Eleanor, for one, could honor both Eleanor Roosevelt and Eleanor of Aquitaine, queen of England in the 12th century.

Harry and Meghan haven't announced the baby's gender or the due date, which is widely believed to be sometime in late April.

Whatever name they choose, the new baby will not automatically have the official title of prince or princess. Those titles were given to all three children of William, the eldest son of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne.

Instead, Harry and Meghan's baby is expected to be styled the Earl of Dumbarton if a boy and Lady Mountbatten-Windsor if a girl. That said, the child's great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, could change that if she wants the baby to be a prince or princess.

Harry's first child will be seventh in line for the throne, bumping down Harry's uncle, Prince Andrew. **MDT/AP**

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**FINLAND** Voters in Finland are casting ballots in a parliamentary election after fierce debates over how best to tackle climate change dominated the campaign, even overshadowing topics like reforming the nation's generous welfare model.



**MADAGASCAR** Babies wail as a nurse tries to reassure mothers who have come to vaccinate their children. They fear a measles epidemic that has killed more than 1,200 people in this island nation where many are desperately poor. As Madagascar faces its largest measles outbreak in history and cases soar well beyond 115,000, resistance to vaccinating children is not the driving force.



**US** Powerful storms in Mississippi that killed at least two people continued to move across the South yesterday after spawning suspected tornadoes that left several people injured and multiple homes and businesses damaged or without power.

**US** The U.S. is open to facing "repercussions" if it doesn't live up to its commitments in a potential trade deal with China, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said, in a sign that the two sides are edging closer to an accord. **More on p11**

**ECUADOR** A lawyer representing jailed WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange says the Ecuadorian government has been spreading lies about his behavior inside its embassy in London.