



MASS MARKET REVENUE CLIMBS AT VIP EXPENSE
The mass gaming segment proved to be the big winner for Macau in the first quarter of 2019

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THE SPECTACLE GETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

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ZHONGSHAN-MACAU YACHT SCHEME NOT SAILING

The free yacht scheme between Zhongshan and Macau is not operating well, Susanna Wong, the marine and water chief said

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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-US High on the list of President Donald Trump's priorities as he tries to close a trade deal with counterpart Xi Jinping is making sure China faces consequences if it doesn't live up to its promises, but it may also be giving China a new cudgel to use on American companies and striking another blow to the international rule of law. [More on p11](#)



MYANMAR More than 9,500 prisoners were ordered released yesterday in Myanmar under a presidential amnesty, but they did not include two Pulitzer Prize-winning Reuters reporters. The Office of President Win Myint said he has signed a pardon for 9,551 prisoners, including 16 foreigners. [More on p13](#)



INDIA A powerful storm bringing dust, lightning and unseasonal rain has killed at least 47 people in central and western India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish in a tweet over the loss of lives and announced relief for the victims' families.

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DANIEL BETTLER



TRADE UNION LAW

Coutinho high hopes on Chui's 7

▲ P3 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

AP PHOTO



Widodo poised to win Indonesia's massive vote

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MGM earns Guinness World Record for the Spectacle



MGM China has been awarded a Guinness World Record for the Spectacle at its Cotai property, after its free-span self-supporting grid shell-glazed roof was recognized as the largest structure of its kind. The record was approved on January 19, according to MGM, although the certificate was only received this week.

Dubbed by the casino operator as a dynamic blend of nature and cutting-edge technology,

the Spectacle is a 360-degree digital canvas home to more than 100,000 plants, an array of dining experiences and 25 LED screens in varying sizes that cycle through a digital art collection.

Its centerpiece is the 138.5-meter tall Spectacle roof which, covering more than 8,000 square meters or the playing area of about 30 tennis courts, consists of a free-forming triangulated steel grid shell supported only along its perimeter. It cost over

USD37 million to build, according to MGM.

MGM challenged Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, who collaborated with Arup, to conceive the structural concept and geometry of this expansive glass canopy. Engineered by Siu Yin Wai & Associates Limited (Hong Kong), the diagrid structure spans over the podium space with a clear longitudinal spacing up to 138.5 meters, without being supported by any internal columns. Consisting of

4,365 beams and 1,531 beam nodes, the roof structure weighs approximately 2,000 tonnes.

Siu Yin Wai & Associates Limited (Hong Kong), the same engineer for the Grande Praça in MGM Macau, helped to apply for the Guinness World Record after the construction was completed.

Arup generated the 3D geometry of the steel diagrid shell using dynamic relaxation software and utilized an iterative sizing algorithm to minimi-

ze the weight of components but ensure their resilience to typhoon winds.

The gaming operator boasts that the efficient structural shell helps to maximize the volume of space within the podium area, while minimizing the obstruction of views to the exteriors.

The structure allows for natural light to penetrate the resort. Being able to respond to different times of the day creates a microsystem of the Spectacle that resembles an outdoor experience – minus the spring rain and humidity.

Pansy Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM China, described the structure as “a seemingly impossible architectural feat that embodies [MGM’s] commitment to connecting guests to nature.”

MGM informed the Times that it is currently working with Guinness World Records to install a plaque in the Spectacle for visitors to the property to see.

The latest achievement is the third Guinness World Record for MGM China, following two others set at its property on the peninsula for a 20-foot-long and 14-foot-wide dancing lion and the world’s most expensive cocktail, which sold for MOP94,880 in 2014.

Like Grande Praça at MGM Macau, the Spectacle is being used for events and exhibitions. At the Art Macao event to be held in June, MGM will be working with internationally renowned, cross-disciplinary artists to showcase a multimedia installation in the space.

GAMING

Mass market revenue climbs at VIP expense

THE mass gaming segment proved to be the big winner for Macau in the first quarter of 2019.

According to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), the mass segment saw growth of 16.1% in the first quarter, helping the city take in MOP38.9 billion in gross gaming revenue.

Meanwhile, VIP bacarrat slipped across the first three months of 2019, with revenue that fell 13.4% year-on-year to MOP37.2 billion.

It accounted for 48.8% of Macau’s casino revenue for the quarter, compared to 53.3% in the previous quarter, indicating a diminishing reliance on the volatile market segment.

Gross gaming revenue dipped 0.4 percent year-on-year in March, rounding out the quarter with a 0.5 percent contraction in the latest sign of market stabilization. First quarter gross gaming revenue amounted to MOP76.15 billion in 2019, compared with MOP76.51 billion a year earlier.

In the first quarter of the year, there were 6,624 live-dealer gaming tables in Macau, an increase of 36 from the last quarter of 2018. The DICJ had fulfilled previous agreements to allow more tables at a small number of venues, resulting in the uptick.

However, the number of slot machines fell by 0.5% year-on-year to stand at 17,122. Despite the year-on-year decline, the number was 6.6% higher than the 16,059 seen in the last quarter of 2018. **DB**

COURTS

Man lost Macau residency upon obtaining Tongan nationality

A citizen of Tonga, the Polynesian country and archipelago, who was born on the Chinese mainland and who lived in Macau for 10 consecutive years has had his Macau residency revoked by the Court of Second Instance.

According to a statement released by the Court, the person lived permanently in Macau between 1983 and 1993. In 2015, the person applied for a residency certificate from

the Identification Services Bureau, but the bureau did not issue the certificate because the person did not have proof that he still held his Chinese nationality in 2015.

The person then appealed to the administrative court.

According to the court’s ruling, the person had to provide proof that he was still a Chinese citizen in 2015 when he was applying for Macau residency. The court

said that there were records showing that the person was already holding Tongan nationality, and according to Chinese law, the person’s Chinese nationality was lost the moment he obtained his Tongan nationality.

The person appealed to the Court of Second Instance. The Court completely agreed with the decision of the administrative court, citing the abovementioned reason for rejecting the person’s appeal. **JZ**

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Times

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Trade union bill now in the hands of CE-appointed lawmakers

DANIEL BETLER



Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho

Renato Marques

LAWMAKER José Pereira Coutinho is presenting, for the seventh time, a bill that aims to create and regulate the activity of trade unions in Macau.

The bill proposes to establish a law that enforces rights over freedom of association as well

as the right to collective bargaining in regards to all aspects of workers' rights and compensation.

After the six failed attempts to pass the bill since 2007, the lawmaker said that this time the fate of the bill is in the hands of the Chief Executive's (CE) appointed lawmakers.

"I have hope that the seven

appointed lawmakers can pass this bill. If the Chief Executive really wants to leave his footprint in the memory of the MSAR's 20 years and in the 10 years of his mandate, he can give a voting direction [to the seven appointed lawmakers to vote in favor] and that instruction can be very important to approve this bill for the good of society and in order to balance what is happening in Macau."

"I have hope in the Chief Executive," added Coutinho during yesterday's press conference at which he presented the bill again.

The bill will be discussed and voting will be carried out at the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary on Tuesday, April 23.

For Coutinho, president of the Macau Civil Servants' Association, the most important question to see answered on Tuesday is how the appointed lawmakers will vote. He said, "they do not have any voting freewill, as they vote according to the orders of the Chief Executive."

Asked about why the Chief Executive would now give the green light to a bill that was so many times refused by the AL, Coutinho noted that this would be the last opportunity for Chui Sai On to leave a significant footprint within a 10-year mandate that had "no other relevant notes," and that the Chief

Executive is now subjected to little or no pressure at all.

"Chui is months away from finishing his mandate and leaving the post as Chief Executive. He might feel less pressure from all businessmen and the business sector [to let the bill pass] and besides, he now has no other issues to worry about, contrary to previous times, when the rights of the people were always second to issues regarding economy or finance."

Remarking on the changes in the current bill when compared to its predecessors, Coutinho said that the only major difference is the addition of the possibility of the workers to register and be members of more than one union association concurrently, when previously the bill only allowed the workers to be part of one organization.

They would also be able to request help from these different institutions according to the issues or problems they encounter, added the lawmaker.

In his speech, Coutinho mentioned the need of such a bill for all the workers in Macau, including civil servants, as well as other workers in the gaming sector. He said, "This bill aims to end the exploitation of the workers and to give them an opportunity to defend themselves and to effectively negotiate [with employers]."

'Foreigner' detained after discarding plastic in Sai Van Lake

A 'foreigner' has been detained by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) on account of being suspected of dumping plastic foam into Sai Van Lake. The incident was reported yesterday morning, after an abundance of plastic foam was found floating on the surface of the lake. The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has already cleaned the lake. According to Macau's law, littering is subject to a fine of 600 patacas.

GIT head to be LRT company chairman

Ho Cheong Kei, head of the Office for Transport Infrastructure (GIT), has been appointed the chairman of the board of directors of the city's Light Rapid Transit (LRT) company. Ho will not be receiving any salary as the LRT company head until his duties at the GIT have ended. His salary will be decided by the shareholders of the company. Director of the Economic Bureau, Tai Kin Ip, and chairman of Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT), Ma Chi Ngai, have also been appointed as members of the board of directors.

Taiwanese politician wants GBA 'red and professional'

Taiwanese politician James Soong has expressed hope that the Greater Bay Area (GBA) development may be "red and professional". Soong, who is chair of the People First Party of Taiwan, made his remark during his visit to the University of Macau. 'Red' stands for political views that conform with those of the Chinese Communist Party, while 'professional' refers to skills and knowledge. Soong hopes that the GBA can integrate western management concepts from Macau and Hong Kong toward the end of becoming "red and professional." He also said that the GBA should be primarily loyal to the country, and simultaneously upgrade itself as the world changes.

Coutinho supports Sulu Sou's election law appeal

LAWMAKER José Pereira Coutinho says he supports Sulu Sou's idea of an appeal to the plenary on the AL Executive Board's decision to reject Sou's proposal on the electoral law for the Chief Executive election.

"I think he has some point right there," said Coutinho. "What he is trying to do is to improve the current system."

"I think the Legislative Assembly has a significant role in any amendments to this law, which is important for the future of Macau."

According to Coutinho, it is unfair to have a college of only 400 people deciding the next Chief Executive, as these people are "easily manipulated."

Coutinho explained that in Chui's first election "there was a second candidate which never got to be effectively considered as he did not manage to gather the minimum support from the college, which massively supported Chui."

As for the claims of conflict of interest, Coutinho says, "they are obvious and happen on a daily basis at the AL."

Remarking not only on the case of Ho Iat Seng, he also asked: "How can Chan Chak Mo have a business of restaurants and hotels and be the judge of the bill which was recently approved on the topic and handed to the second standing committee, [over] which he presides?" **RM**



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Healthcare vouchers going electronic

Julie Zhu

YESTERDAY, the Executive Council (ExCo) completed its discussion on the amendment of two administrative regulation drafts and one draft law. These drafts are related to drugs, education subsidies, and healthcare coupons.

HEALTHCARE COUPONS GO ELECTRONIC

The budget for healthcare coupons for 2019 is MOP415.2 million, according to the amendment of the administrative regulation of the subsidy scheme for 2019 healthcare.

Every beneficiary will receive 600 Macau patacas as a healthcare subsidy.

The coupon distribution will start on May 1 and last until April 30, 2020.

This year, the coupons will be

issued electronically. Starting from this year, beneficiaries will no longer need to show paper coupons. They will only need to present their permanent resident ID card to the relevant clinic when they wish to use the coupons.

The coupons can be fully or partially transferred to a spouse, and to other immediate relatives who are permanent Macau residents.

The healthcare coupon scheme was first launched in 2009. For eight consecutive years, more than 80 percent of Macau permanent residents obtained coupons, with 90 percent of the coupons eventually being used.

From 2009 until now, the government has registered a total of 697 violations of coupon usage. The concerned parties involved in 69 of these violations were prosecuted. About 48 individuals or organizations had

their eligibility for healthcare coupons revoked.

In two other cases, the concerned individuals used the coupons of their late relatives. The violators were fined.

MORE DRUGS TO BE BANNED

The amendment of the regulation banning the illegal production, sale and consumption of anesthetics and psychoactive drugs proposes to ban 21 additional substances.

These substances include seven types of Fentanyl and two types of Prodrug.

According to ExCo spokesperson Leong Heng Teng, the newly listed substances may cause harm such as dizziness, respiratory depression, rapid heartbeat, epilepsy and hallucinations, among other symptoms.

This batch of recently banned

drugs was listed by the United Nations in 2017 and 2018 as restricted substances, together with three other types of substances that are already restricted by the city's drug law.

EQUAL FOOTING IN GUANGDONG SCHOOLS

The government is expecting 4,500 Macau residents to study in non-tertiary schools in Guangdong province in 2019, according to the latest amendment of the administrative draft of the tuition subsidy for local residents who study in Guangdong's non-tertiary schools in the academic year of 2018/2019.

The eligible students must have been enrolled in non-tertiary schools in Guangdong before March 31, 2019, and they must not be benefitting from Macau's local free education and tuition subsidy.

The maximum subsidy for primary, middle and high schools is MOP6,000. For pre-school, the value is MOP8,000.

The subsidy budget for this year is estimated to be MOP30 million.

Furthermore, according to Guangdong's most recent policy, the SAR's students can enroll in Guangdong's public schools, with the requirement for SAR residents being the same as those for Guangdong residents.

According to Chinese law, Guangdong students do not pay tuition fees if they attend a public school. According to the abovementioned policy, the SAR's students will be treated the same as the Guangdong students, which means that Macau students will not need to pay tuition fees if they study at a public school.

HEALTH

Students diagnosed with enteroviral, influenza infection

A case of enteroviral infection has been detected among children in the kindergarten class of Hou Kong, affecting a total of 16 students aged between 2 to 3 years old.

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement that the early symptoms of infection were seen on April 11, with parents turning to medical institutions to treat their children.

One of the affected chil-

dren was hospitalized for high fever, while the other cases were considered mild and there was no case of abnormal nervous system symptoms or other serious complications.

The SSM said that it had already taken blood samples for laboratory analysis, and that it reinforced its general cleaning and disinfection measures to the local school.

Symptoms of the virus

include a runny nose, sneezing, coughing, a sore throat and body and muscle aches, amongst others.

The virus has a higher incidence rate in the summer.

This virus is also the source of several diseases, including common diseases from hand, foot and mouth disease, to myocarditis and aseptic meningitis.

The incubation period ranges from three to se-

ven days and is transmitted by direct contact with infected stools, saliva droplets or contact with contaminated materials.

"Due to the close contact of children in kindergartens, especially in [play] activities, an outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease is easy because the enterovirus has a high degree of contagion," the SSM explained in the statement.

The health authority ad-

ded that it is paying attention to the development of the enterovirus epidemic and pointed out that most enterovirus infected patients can recover on their own.

However, a few of the infected cases can involve fatal complications.

The bureau warned that parents and schools should take preventive measures and encourage parents not to take their children to daycare centers if symptoms persist.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, the health authority also confirmed a case of collective influenza infection, diagnosing nine students aged 5 to 6 years old in pre-primary at The Worker's Children

High School.

Since April 11, students have had symptoms of upper respiratory tract infection, such as fever, cough and throat pain. The SSM said that there were no cases of hospitalization that had been reported.

The bureau said that the school has already implemented control measures, such as reinforcing the disinfection, cleaning and maintenance of air ventilation inside the premises, as well as isolation of sick students, which is in strict compliance with the health standards.

The health authority has called on the public to ensure that all members of the infected households are vaccinated. **LV**

Wynn Partners Environmental Sectors to Build Green Macau

In further response to the Macao Government's green policies, Wynn recently partnered the Macau Institution of Engineers to host the Wynn Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Campaign, during which several environmental protection forums were held, eco-friendly straws were distributed, and the Macau Secondary School Green Campus Competition was launched. By creating and participating in such initiatives the company seeks to encourage the greater reduction of waste and improved recycling throughout the community.



The half-year campaign - the first community-based sustainable development campaign jointly organised by a large-scale integrated resort company and the professional engineering sector in Macau - attracted participation from the business and academic sectors in a joint effort to 'build a greener community'.

Ms. Linda Chen, Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Wynn Macau, Limited, noted in her keynote address at the inaugural event that Wynn has deepened its roots in Macau over the years, with the company enthusiastically committed to fulfilling its corporate social responsibilities. "This series of sustainable development activities being launched in partnership with professional engineering organisations," she remarked, "signifies closer co-operation between Wynn and other sectors, and highlights the company's commitment to thriving with the community. This joint effort will benefit the wellbeing of local SMEs and the next generation."

SEMINARS TO INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The strengthening of environmental awareness among the public and within the F&B industry an acknowledged priority, it was agreed that regular promotional activities will tap into the expertise of environmentalists, scholars and representatives from relevant industries to host seminars, workshops, forums and lectures themed around environmental protection and sustainable development.

With single-use plastic products very much under the microscope both here and abroad, the public and enterprises

will be encouraged to reduce their usage by greater exposure to the impact plastic and solid waste has on community health and wellbeing.

DISTRIBUTION OF ECO-FRIENDLY STRAWS

To further promote the awareness of plastic waste in the community and encourage restaurants and the public to reduce the usage of single-use plastic products, one million eco-friendly straws will be offered to local restaurants during the campaign period.

"I'm thrilled that Wynn has put significant effort into promoting environmental protection," said Wu Chou Kit, Chairman of the Macau Institution of Engineers. "I also hope that over time the use of plastic bottles for drinking water as well as plastic containers for beverages will be abandoned. Today, let us begin by distributing environmentally-friendly straws."



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ON CAMPUSES

Recognising that environmental protection policies and education should be propagated as early as possible, Wynn - in tandem with the Macau Institution of Engineers - will launch the Macau Secondary School Green Campus Competition in order to nurture secondary students' environmental awareness.

The results of the competition are slated to be announced in the second half of the year. The winning entries will be publicly displayed to further raise awareness among students from local primary and secondary schools, thereby fostering the desire to build a green Macau.

Meanwhile, Wynn has also implemented a range of environmental protection activities and measures within and beyond its hotels, much of which is channelled through the company's Green Team, which plans and implements sustainability policies.



RECYCLING FOR THE FUTURE

Over the past year, Wynn has partnered with suppliers to launch a coffee capsule recycling programme whereby Wynn collects all used coffee capsules from its hotel rooms on a daily basis and stores them in its Recycling Room prior to their collection and dispatch to Hong Kong for recycling every two weeks.

This initiative seeks to enable everyone to enjoy their coffee while incrementally nursing the earth back to health by reducing waste and supporting green living. Every little helps.

In another bid to build a sustainable, eco-friendly future Wynn recycles all used light tubes and light bulbs, with 60 kilograms of these fixtures, on average, sent for recycling each and every month; this includes the lighting equipment serving the Performance Lake, back-of-house office area light tubes, and LED lighting around the resort, all of which are sent to an overseas recycling plant where they are crushed, separated and washed.

To ensure the recycling process is completed thoroughly, Wynn even receives a certificate of disposal with accompanying photos.

TURNING WASTE INTO TREASURE

Kitchen waste also presents its own particular challenges, which Wynn addresses in a number of ways,

including purchasing a kitchen waste processor to convert tons of food waste into fertiliser. Furthermore, categorised recycling equipment has been introduced to the staff canteen, with regular checks ensuring the effective reduction of waste.

Wynn also actively supports Clean the World's (CTW) soap recycling programme, which it linked up with five years ago. In this initiative Wynn has collected and recycled 22,696 kilograms of leftover soap to date from its hotel rooms. In 2018, Wynn and its WE (Wynn Employees) Volunteer Team also joined hands to produce 5,000 goodie bags filled with hygienic necessities to be delivered to local people in need.



GREEN TEAM ROADSHOW

The primary mission of Wynn Palace's Green Team - currently numbering more than 50 members and growing - is to nurture employee awareness of environmental protection as well as providing specific guidance and assistance to staff to enable them to practice low-carbon eco living in their daily lives and working environment.

A promotional recycling event held in the back-of-house office areas, in fact, recently served as the ideal relaxed environment for the Green Team to share information and details of the company's initiatives and achievements with colleagues. In addition, the team offers ongoing special LED offers and promotions to employees in the hope of integrating eco-friendly home equipment into employees' daily lives - not only lighting up their homes but their aspirations for a greener, healthier future.



The Drew in Las Vegas

GAMING

Vegas Strip's USD3.1 billion resort postponed for more than a year

Christopher Palmeri

REAL estate mogul Steven Witkoff is pushing back the opening of a USD3.1 billion resort on the Las Vegas Strip by more than a year, slowing efforts to complete a partly built casino that was abandoned during the financial crisis a decade ago.

The Drew Las Vegas, as the project is called, will open in the second quarter of 2022, Witkoff said in an interview. The project was originally scheduled to debut late next year. By delaying, Witkoff will have more certainty about his construction budget, he said.

Witkoff, 62, bought the unfinished Fontainebleau resort from billionaire investor Carl

Icahn for \$600 million two years ago. The 3,780-room resort will feature a giant pool, with restaurants and shops adjacent. It is located on the north end of the Strip, on the same side of the street as the Wynn Las Vegas and near the city's convention center, which will be a big draw, Witkoff said.

The resort is affiliated with hotel giant Marriott International Inc., which doesn't have a big presence in one of America's busiest tourist cities. It will target high-end clients who might normally visit the Bellagio or Caesars Palace.

'ELEGANT, EDGY'

The architecture firm of Diller Scofidio & Renfro, whose work

includes the High Line in New York and the Broad museum in Los Angeles, will lead a design effort creating something "cool, elegant, edgy," according to Witkoff. It will emphasize non-gambling amenities more than craps tables, reflecting the growing popularity of Vegas with visitors who come as much for the dining and nightlife as the gambling.

"The market has not seen new build to address who the new customer is," Witkoff said.

The Drew is designed to be easy to navigate, with 32 guest elevators situated right next to the front desk and a circular design for the shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. "When you build a great campus, you don't want people migrating off

your campus - and we'll build a great campus," he said.

While many Las Vegas operators have remodeled or renamed their hotels, a major new resort hasn't opened since the Cosmopolitan Las Vegas in 2010. The previous developer of the Drew site, Miami's Jeffrey Soffer, spent \$2.8 billion before putting the project into bankruptcy. Witkoff said he had existing financing from JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Deutsche Bank AG. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Deutsche Bank have been hired to raise additional capital.

The Drew isn't the only resort in the works. Genting is building a Resorts World casino on the site of the unfinished Echelon resort nearby.

SON'S MEMORY

Witkoff has bought, sold or redeveloped more than 18 million square feet of property, mostly in his hometown of New York. He named the Las Vegas hotel after his son Andrew, who died of an opioid overdose eight years ago at 22. Witkoff said he hoped the Drew would eventually become a hospitality brand with multiple boutique hotels - and that a substantial piece of the profits would go to a family foundation that battles addiction.

"We want to do something good, give something back and tell the story when you come, there is this name that spiritually honors someone," Witkoff said. "And we'll do a good thing with the money." **Bloomberg**

Caesars names gambling-industry veteran as new CEO

CAESARS Entertainment is appointing a gambling-industry veteran as its new chief executive.

The casino giant named Tony Rodio as CEO Tuesday. He'll replace Mark Frissora, who guided the company through bankruptcy reorganization after joining Caesars in 2015.

The change in leadership comes two months after billionaire investor Carl Icahn disclosed a large stake in the casino and began pushing for

fundamental changes.

Caesars, which operates more than 35 casinos in the U.S., emerged from bankruptcy protection in late 2017, but it's been struggling since. A committee is being put into place to consider a sale, among other things.

Its stock has fallen 16% over the past 12 months. Rivals MGM Resorts International and Wynn Resorts have fallen further, however.

Caesars' stock, however, has risen about 40% from where it stood at

the beginning of the year. It was up 14 cents, or 1.5%, at USD9.53 in afternoon trading Tuesday.

Rodio, 60, has over three decades of experience in the industry, including seven years as president and CEO of Tropicana Entertainment, which Icahn sold last year for \$1.85 billion.

He is leaving his job as CEO of Affinity Gaming to join Caesars. Frissora was initially scheduled to end his tenure at Caesars in February, but de-

layed his departure until this month.

Icahn, whose stake in Caesars is larger than 17%, was adamant that he have a say in who led the company going forward, in addition with some control over board seats.

Caesars agreed to replace three members to its board with directors chosen by Icahn. The Icahn Group also held the option to appoint a fourth director if Caesars failed to appoint an acceptable CEO. **AP**



AP PHOTO

RENATO MARQUES



Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário (left) and Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak

GOVERNMENT

Macau has too few secretaries to cope with city's development

ACCORDING to local media reports, there are a growing number of voices calling for structural changes at the highest levels of the government. These voices suggest that the current establishment of five secretaries will not be sufficient to handle the changes brought about by the Greater Bay Area plan. According to news service CLBrief, such tasks will demand from Macau a significant "boost in its administrative capacity to be able to cope with these directives." "Over the past 20 years, the city has made giant leaps on all fronts. The territory's area grew by 29%; GDP shot up by 748%; the population increased by 52%, casino revenue leaped by 2,156%, real estate increased by 463% and government revenue grew by 461%. Despite this boom, the government structure has remained very similar to the one before the handover in 1999," CLBrief notes. Among the secretariats allegedly strained by the increased workload resulting from Macau's development, the

Transport and Public Works and Social Affairs and Culture have been highlighted as not having enough staff for the challenges they currently face, let alone those in future. At the same time, legal experts and legislators believe that the appointment of a new Chief Executive and, consequently a new government could be the right opportunity to increase the number of Secretaries. Central government officials who visit Macau frequently mention that the city should not miss the "development and modernization train" of the Pearl River Delta region, now transformed into an even larger project under the Greater Bay Area initiative. The restructuring of the government, at its highest level, could be seen as a leap forward, with community leaders suggesting to increase the number of Secretaries from five to at least seven. The CLBrief report suggests the government follow the examples of the Secretariats of Security and Administration and Justice, which it says have a structure

"that works well." As for the previously mentioned, the Secretariat currently led by Raimundo do Rosário will be facing a number of new land reclamation development projects; a complex public transport network; subsidized home-ownership and social housing projects; public tenders for the construction of the fourth bridge and a tunnel linking the peninsula and Taipa; and the management of the Taipa's Light Rapid Transit (LRT) and its connection to the peninsula. At the same time, the Secretariat now led by Alexis Tam will face challenges in enhancing the medical facilities of Macau, namely the new Islands Medical Complex construction, which has been delayed several times. In a few months, Macau will have a new Chief Executive chosen by 400 electors representing associations and organizations across several sectors of Macau. So far, two Macau politicians are widely understood to be entering the Chief Executive race as in February,

though neither has officially confirmed their candidacy. The candidates, Legislative Assembly Chairman Ho Iat Seng and Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong, both indicated they were considering a bid for Macau's top job when interviewed by the media. Known for his family ties with mainland China, Ho is the CEO of the Ho Tin S.A.R.L. Industrial Society, one of the oldest companies in Macau. As for Leong, he is a leading member of the Macau Industrial, Commercial and Importers and Exporters Association, and a former member of the National People's Congress in Beijing. Prior to assuming his duties as Secretary for Economy and Finance in 2014, Lionel Leong was CEO of the industrial laundry company, Smartable Holdings Limited. Leong's family was reportedly linked to the New Democracy Movement of Macau in the 1940-50s, which was the precursor of the founding of the Macau Daily News newspaper. **MDT/MacauNews**

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

Easter: Traditions meets treats

As we herald the arrival of Spring with its warmer weather and budding flowers, we also welcome one of the most anticipated holidays of the season: Easter. This celebration marks an important event in Christianity. It's also a fun-filled time for all as families unite over a sumptuous meal and children hunt for Easter eggs and chomp on chocolate bunnies. But wait a minute, how did this tradition of eggs and bunnies begin?

The history of Easter eggs can be traced back to Medieval Europe. One of the most popular stories originated in the 13th century, when residents of English villages brought gifts of Easter eggs to their churches as a special offering on Good Friday. These eggs were dyed red, a colour that signified happiness and joy. Through the years, the eggs evolved to become even more colorful and vibrant, with chocolate eggs being a particular favorite among children and adults alike.

The Easter bunny, on the other hand, is as mythical as Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy. That said, this furry creature's Easter role is quite easily explained. Back in the day, many people celebrated the springtime renewal of life by thanking the goddess of dawn and spring, Eastre — and it's no coincidence that her name sounds very similar to Easter. The goddess Eastre was associated with newborns during spring. As rabbits are known to be rapid breeders, it wasn't long before the idea of a bunny became closely associated with the Easter celebrations of today.

Thanks to years and years of traditions and celebrations, the Easter of today isn't quite the same without these two icons. And this year will be no different as MGM brings combine these festive favorites with plenty of delicious food and fun to make Easter a truly memorable affair.



At MGM COTAI, choose from a champagne brunch with magic show at Grill 58; lunch with face painting, Easter egg games and a lucky draw at Coast; as well as irresistible carrot cake treats and egg painting at Janice Wong MGM. If you're at MGM MACAU, don't miss the buffet lunch with a magic show and balloon twisting at Rossio; fancy French-style afternoon tea at Aux Beaux Arts; as well as the chance to taste beautifully shaped Easter bunny and Easter egg desserts at the Pastry Bar. There'll also be a host of Easter games with dining vouchers, and chocolate Easter egg giveaways to make it a celebration to remember.

Don't miss these fun events. Call 8802 8888 for MGM MACAU and 8806 8888 for MGM COTAI if you wish to make a reservation or for enquiries.



Elevação da capacidade geral da prevenção e redução de desastres

Na sequência da criação do mecanismo eficiente de longo prazo para a prevenção e redução de desastres e para elevar a capacidade geral de resposta a emergências, em prol da salvaguarda da segurança da vida e dos bens da população, o Governo da RAEM procedeu ao aperfeiçoamento da estrutura, do mecanismo e do regime jurídico da prevenção e redução de desastres e implementou um conjunto de acções, designadamente a criação do regime jurídico da protecção civil, a melhoria dos planos de contingência, a optimização do mecanismo de divulgação de informações da protecção civil, o estabelecimento

da Plataforma de Comando para Resposta a Emergências, a criação de vários centros de acolhimento de emergência e locais de permanência para evacuação de emergência, a instalação de sistemas de alarme nas zonas mais altas e nas zonas baixas, a promoção da construção de barragem de maré e de bacia de retenção de água, a implementação de acções de sensibilização e educação sobre a prevenção de desastres e riscos, e a congregação dos esforços de todos os sectores sociais para a execução de trabalhos de rescaldo pós desastre.

Divulgação em breve do «Plano decenal para prevenção e redução de desastres na Região Administrativa Especial de Macau (2019-2028)»

- Reforço do sistema de planos de contingência. No início do ano de 2019 ficaram concluídos os trabalhos tendentes à melhoria dos planos de contingência dos serviços públicos.
- Salvaguarda da segurança da vida e dos bens da população e implementação eficaz de medidas preparatórias para a prevenção e resposta a situações imprevistas.
- Desenvolvimento ordenado de acções de prevenção e redução de desastres em 9 áreas prioritárias.
- Optimização do sistema de contingência e gestão de situações imprevistas, dotado de uma maior capacidade geral de resposta com vista a evitar situações imprevistas muito graves ou especialmente graves e minimizar as eventuais perdas de vidas humanas e de bens.
- Estarão basicamente concluídos os principais projectos e obras da prevenção e redução de desastres, permitindo que Macau se torne numa cidade resiliente e segura, com uma salvaguarda mais eficaz da segurança da vida e dos bens da população.

Aumento de dois centros de acolhimento de emergência

- Até finais do ano de 2018 foram criados 16 centros de acolhimento de emergência e 4 locais de encontro/locais de permanência para evacuação de emergência.
- Em 2019, Macau está dotado de 17 centros de acolhimento de emergência, dos quais dois são novos (o do Campo dos Operários e o da Escola Keang Peng). O Centro de Formação do Instituto do Desporto (Edifício Centro Comercial Chong Fok) encontra-se encerrado por questões relacionadas com o contrato de arrendamento.
- Estudo sobre a distribuição de estabelecimentos de abrigo de emergência em Macau.
- Melhoria contínua das instalações e equipamentos dos centros de acolhimento de emergência, designadamente com a aquisição de novos equipamentos:

- Máquina de escada, rampa enrolável
- Material médico e clínico, tais como esfigmomanómetro, gama para diagnóstico e tratamento, desfibrilhador automático externo

Obra de construção de box-culvert da estação elevatória de águas pluviais do norte do Porto Interior

- Construção de uma estação elevatória de águas pluviais na área aquática situada entre as pontes-cais n.º 25 e 26 do Porto Interior
- A nova estação elevatória de águas pluviais terá uma capacidade máxima de drenagem de águas residuais de 14,26 metros cúbicos por segundo.
- Construção de box-culvert ao longo da Avenida de Demétrio Cinatti, colocação de tubos de drenagem, encerramento de nove bocas de emissão de águas antigas na zona costeira, aumento da pavimentação, entre outros.
- O novo box-culvert terá uma capacidade de armazenamento de água de mais de 2200 metros cúbicos.
- A obra é realizada em quatro fases:

- 1.ª fase: Iniciou-se em Fevereiro do ano corrente.
- 2.ª fase: Iniciou-se em princípios do mês de Abril, com a realização de obras de colocação de novos tubos de abastecimento de água e aumento da parte da pavimentação. Deverá estar concluída em finais do mês de Julho.
- 3.ª fase: Construção do box-culvert.
- 4.ª fase: Execução de obras de estrutura e fundações da estação elevatória de águas pluviais e colocação de tubos de drenagem.

Instalação de estação de águas pluviais. Capacidade máxima de 14,26 metros cúbicos por segundo.

Box-culvert Mais de 2200 metros cúbicos

Ponte-cais n.º 26 do Porto Interior
Ponte-cais n.º 25 do Porto Interior

Melhoria de equipamentos de alarme nas zonas baixas e nos pontos altos da cidade

- No ano corrente serão instalados mais 50 sistemas de alarme sonoro e sistemas de difusão em 50 postes de sistema de videovigilância nas zonas baixas, aumentando-se para 140 o número total de postes destinados à emissão e difusão de alarme e aviso.
- Instalação de sistemas de alarme de alta frequência no ponto mais alto da Escola Superior das Forças de Segurança, em Coloane, e aumento de 4 para 8 altifalantes nos actuais três sistemas de alarme de alta frequência (Colina da Guia, Taipá Grande e Alto de Coloane).

Alívio contínuo das inundações

- Elevação da capacidade de escoamento de inundações
- Desde Março, e antes do início da época de tufões, que têm sido implementadas medidas de curto prazo, designadamente a instalação de válvulas de drenagem nas instalações de prevenção de inundações existentes no Porto Interior. Servem, para o efeito, construídas 14 válvulas de drenagem.
- Prevenção eficaz da intrusão de água do mar.
- Está planeada a substituição de válvulas de retenção da maré do Porto Interior.
- Está em curso a concepção preliminar do projecto de elevação da altura do dique do Porto Exterior.
- O projecto de tratamento de inundações de Coloane deve ser alargado a Lai Chi Yuen.

Aquisição de mais equipamentos de resposta a desastres

- Aquisição de 107 tipos de novos equipamentos
- Veículo anfíbio apto a dar resposta a quaisquer operações de salvamento independentemente do nível das inundações.
- Embarcações, motores de água, bombas elevatórias, serras eléctricas, entre outros, para operações de salvamento e remoção de obstáculos.
- Geradores eléctricos de reserva aptos para assegurar o funcionamento de instalações durante algum tempo após a suspensão do fornecimento de energia eléctrica.

Desenvolvimento de esforços para iniciar este ano a construção da barragem de maré no Porto Interior

- Está concluído o estudo de viabilidade do plano geral da barragem de maré no Porto Interior, aguardando-se a apreciação e autorização do Governo Central.
- Promoção de estudos temáticos sobre a protecção ambiental, o mar, o curso de água, a navegação, a areia, entre outros.
- Está em curso a 1.ª fase da consulta pública sobre a avaliação do impacto ambiental.
- No final de 2019 iniciar-se-ão os trabalhos preliminares de articulação das infra-estruturas no âmbito da construção da barragem de maré.

Simulacro no âmbito do «Plano de evacuação das zonas baixas em situações de storm surge durante a passagem de tufão»

- Em 27 de Abril será realizado o simulacro de tufão «Peixe de Cristal 2019»
- Estão abertas 450 vagas para os cidadãos participarem no simulacro

Leis e Regulamentos

- Está finalizado o texto do projecto da «Lei-Quadro da Protecção Civil», que será apresentado ao Conselho Executivo com a maior brevidade possível, no sentido de ser submetido à apreciação da Assembleia Legislativa no 1.º semestre.
- Acompanhamento da revisão das normas reguladoras dos critérios de segurança relacionados com a acção do vento, aplicados aos edifícios.
- Necessidade de revisão dos «critérios para implementação do mecanismo de prevenção de inundações em espaços subterrâneos».

Zhongshan-Macau yacht scheme not working well

THE free yacht scheme between Zhongshan and Macau is not operating well, according to Susanna Wong, head of the Macau's Marine and Water Affairs Bureau, who disclosed the information yesterday on the sidelines of an event held by the bureau.

The reason behind the suboptimal operation is explained by the tax barrier posed by both regions' policies, not by the demand for the yacht service.

According to Wong, at the current stage, yachts going from Macau to Zhongshan are required to pay mainland taxes, as well as a relatively high deposit. This situation creates a negative influence over the promotion of the free yacht scheme.

The local government is currently seeking a solution for the tax barrier, hoping that the state of the free yacht scheme between the two cities



The Coloane berth, revamped under the yacht scheme

can improve.

The mainland government is also said to be looking for solutions for the problem. However, presently, no updates can be announced to the public.

The free yacht scheme was first planned in 2013 by both the Macau and Guangdong governments. In 2016, it was proudly launched as a new cooperation mode under the one country,

two systems policy.

Just one year after its launch, Wong admitted that the scheme was underperforming and had failed to attract much interest, citing high docking fees. **JZ**

Council collaborates with four cities on urban planning

MACAU'S Urban Planning Council visited Guangzhou, Dongguan, Huizhou and Shenzhen last month to exchange views with the Planning and Natural Resources Administration officials of these cities regarding the design and development of the Greater Bay Area.

The delegation was informed by officials about the urban planning, industrial development, use of urban space and urban renewal carried out in these four cities during the visit.

After the presentation by the representatives of these cities, the officials discussed and shared their views and proposals for Macau to aid in the planning and development of the Greater Bay Area.

The planning of the

urban space between Macau and the four cities is included in the central government's mega project. The parties concluded that there would be more exchange and collaboration in the academic and technological spheres in the future.

The move is aimed at ensuring that the development of each city in the region is understood by its partners under the Greater Bay Area initiative.

The aim is also to understand and take as a reference point the experiences and modes of innovation for planning this urban space.

The Urban Planning Council is a government advisory body focusing on issues related to the elaboration, execution, revision and modification of urban projects. **LV**

AD

Environmental protection is so easy - No single-use plastic articles, please!

1. A swan character is shown with a recycling bin.
2. A person is shown using a recycling bin.
3. A person is shown using a smartphone app.
4. A person is shown using a recycling bin.

環境保護局
Direcção dos Serviços de Protecção Ambiental

Easter Fun Fiesta

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Scan to play rewarding Easter game

BLOOMBERG



OCBC CEO Samuel Tsien

Singapore's OCBC seeks partner for China securities business

Chanyaporn Chanjaroen & Juliette Saly

OVERSEA-CHINESE Banking Corp. is looking for a Chinese firm to team up with on a securities joint venture on the mainland, the latest foreign bank seeking to capitalize on the nation's financial-industry loosening.

Obtaining a Chinese securities license would allow OCBC to do asset management, investment banking and fund management business in the nation, Chief Executive Officer Samuel Tsien said in an interview in Singapore this week. Southeast Asia's second-biggest bank by assets is talking to various firms that have shown an interest in such a partnership, he said.

"We will prefer to partner with companies that have a larger franchise already" so OCBC can sell into its existing client base,

Tsien said, adding that the bank hasn't applied for a license yet.

Under President Xi Jinping, China is gradually taking steps to give foreign financial firms more access to the world's second-largest economy. That's prompted banks from Credit Suisse Group AG to JPMorgan Chase & Co. to seek a piece of the more than USD40 trillion financial industry through controlling stakes in local ventures.

"For us, what we need is to be able to reach out to as many potential customers as we can" through a securities joint venture, Tsien said. Without extensive branch networks or a digital presence in China, "it's very difficult for foreign banks to be able to reach out to them."

UBS in December became the first foreign bank to gain majority control of a Chinese securities joint venture under new

rules. JPMorgan and Nomura Holdings Inc. received their approvals last month.

Any Chinese joint venture would complement OCBC's existing business in the country, which includes corporate, consumer and wealth banking.

Tsien said OCBC is on track to achieve a goal of doubling pretax profit in China's Greater Bay Area to SGD1 billion (\$740 million) by 2023. "It's possible that we're able to beat that," he said.

Greater China has emerged as the second-largest location for the lender, behind only Singapore

China is embarking on a sweeping plan to combine nine cities in the Pearl River Delta with Hong Kong and Macau - a region known as the Greater Bay Area - to create a financial and technology hub that could rival California's Silicon Valley. OCBC plans to boost technology spending and staff in the region, Tsien said in June.

Still, Singapore will remain the most important market for the lender, even though Greater China has emerged as its second-largest location in the past two years, Tsien said. About 16 percent of OCBC's revenue came from Greater China in 2018, compared with 58 percent from Singapore in the same year, according to its annual report.

Speaking on the business outlook, Tsien said the first half of the year will be "challenging" as market woes

from 2018 continue to weigh on sentiment and business decisions. Loan growth is likely to slow and the bank will focus on regional trade finance, he said.

In the second half, "if those uncertainties were to be removed, then I think the investments will continue, and it will be a more conducive market for the banks to perform."

Tsien signaled that stresses persist in Singapore's energy industry services sector - which triggered bad debts at local banks from 2016 - despite the recent rebound in oil prices. Ample U.S. oil supply has discouraged exploration activities and vessels remain underused, hurting the value of collateral held by banks, according to the CEO.

"The lingering effect of that will continue for the banking industry," Tsien said.

OCBC's non-performing loans ratio rose to 1.49 percent in December 2018 from 1.38 percent three months earlier, according to its latest results. Most of the soured assets are in the oil and gas sector. The bank will publish its first-quarter earnings on May 10. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

THE PARISIAN MACAO LAUNCHES LE FRENCH GOURMAY



The Parisian Macao will celebrate the taste of France during Le French GourMAY, an annual French food and

wine festival taking place in Hong Kong and Macau throughout the month of May, organized by Business

France. The spotlight this year is on Loire Valley cuisine and wine.

To celebrate the event, The Parisian Macao's signature restaurants, Brasserie, Le Buffet and La Chine will present a superb array of food and wine from May 1 to 31, 2019.

Brasserie is offering a four-course Loire Valley set menu, accompanied by wines from the region and Le Buffet will offer "La Touraine", featuring a selection of French-themed dishes, while La Chine will pair exquisite freshly shucked Geay oysters with Domaine Vacheron Sancerre Sauvignon Blanc 2017.

Guests can also pair dishes with a selection of wines from the Loire Valley, available both by the bottle and glass.

SUNCITY GROUP PRESENTS 'GRASSHOPPER 17385 WORLD TOUR - MACAU'



Famous Hong Kong group Grasshopper will perform their "Grasshopper 17385 World Tour - Macau" concert

at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena on May 18, 2019. The trio - Calvin Choy, Remus Choy and Edmond

So - will thrill fans with their renowned dynamic song and dance medleys along with all their classic heartfelt ballads, all of which have been updated with new music arrangements. The show will also incorporate elaborate stage and lighting designs, superb audio-visual, extravagant costumes, stylish choreography and upbeat dance moves.

Named due to the similarity of the number 17385 in Mandarin to the phrase "Let's samba together", fans will get to sing and dance along to timeless hits including "Baby, I'm Sorry", "Club Broken Heart", "Blame It On The Samba", and "Glamorous Stage".

Tickets go on sale April 17 at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

Shawn Donnan & Jenny Leonard

Trump stirs alarm that he may be giving China a new trade weapon

HIGH on the list of President Donald Trump's priorities as he tries to close a trade deal with counterpart Xi Jinping is making sure China faces consequences if it doesn't live up to its promises. Yet in pursuing that goal Trump may also be giving China a new cudgel to use on American companies and striking another blow to the international rule of law.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said the U.S. has made its own commitments to China and agreed that both sides will be subject to an enforcement mechanism. "This will be a two-way agreement in enforcement," Mnuchin said Monday, after saying over the weekend that the U.S. would be open to "certain repercussions."

Details of the U.S. commitments and how the enforcement mechanism will operate remain scant. But Mnuchin's comments have caused plenty of raised eyebrows from legal scholars to the business community and Congress.

If the U.S. allows China reciprocal enforcement powers, it would make China "judge, jury and executioner as to whether we have honored our obligations," said Daniel Price, who served as a senior economic adviser to President George W. Bush and is now at Rock Creek Global Advisors in Washington. "I don't think the U.S. business community is sufficiently alert to the risk of constantly being exposed to unilateral enforcement action by China."

The Trump administration wants to have a mechanism that would allow it to quickly punish any foot-dragging by Chinese officials by imposing tariffs or other sanctions without having



Robert Lighthizer, the US trade representative

to go through the World Trade Organization or other adjudicators that they argue have been ineffective in the past. But any reciprocal deal would give Chinese leaders another way to quickly apply their own pressure on American companies.

The mechanism being contemplated, U.S. officials have said, would require consultations between U.S. and Chinese officials over disputes but ultimately allow either side to impose trade sanctions unilaterally. The deal may also see both sides agree to forego their right to retaliate or challenge any enforcement ac-

tion by the other at the WTO.

Business groups have declined to comment publicly about Mnuchin's statements, saying the model of the enforcement system isn't clear yet. Lobbyists nevertheless complain they're not being consulted by the administration and fret that once a deal is announced American companies will be forced to accept it as a fait accompli.

ENFORCEMENT POWERS

Robert Lighthizer, the U.S. trade representative who previously indicated the U.S. would insist on unilateral enforce-

ment powers, has said he's not planning to seek approval from Congress for a China deal. The administration is though already facing disquiet in Congress over the impact of tariffs, its authority to impose them and the perception by lawmakers that they've been largely left in the dark during the deal-making process.

Congressional aides say concerns about Trump's trade policies are only likely to grow on Capitol Hill if a deal gives China power to strike American exports as it wishes.

At its extreme such a construction would also be a blow to the

WTO as the independent arbiter of global trade rules.

The Trump administration is already attacking the WTO's dispute settlement system by blocking the appointment of new appellate judges. A U.S.-China deal that sets up a parallel system for the world's two largest economies would take things a step further.

WTO POWERHOUSES

Jennifer Hillman, a former WTO judge who teaches at Georgetown University, said while trade pacts often include dispute mechanisms the brewing U.S.-China pact would be unique if it didn't have a role for third-party arbitrators. It also could see much of the WTO case load go away with the U.S. and China historically two of the biggest users of the dispute system. "When it is the two biggest countries that have brought the majority of cases at the WTO, it is a big blow to the system," Hillman said.

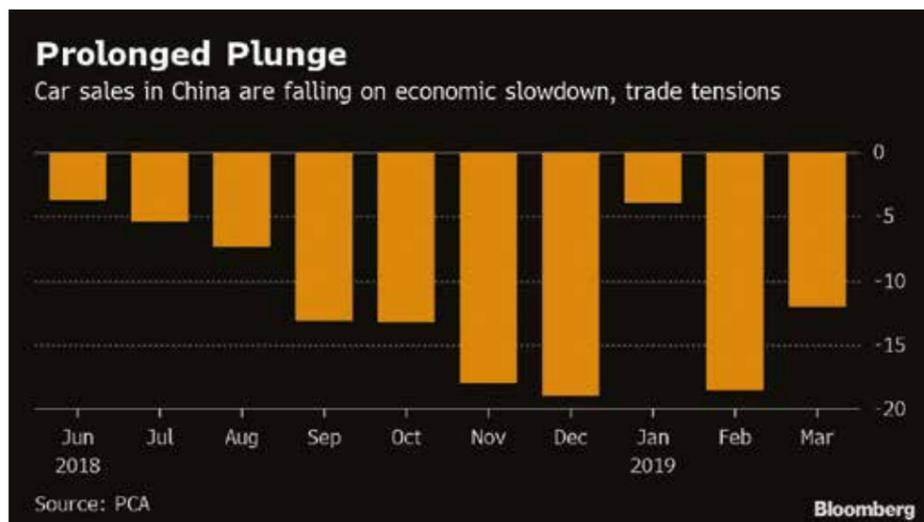
Administration officials argue that Trump has a more pragmatic approach to trade than previous presidents, one that views prior U.S. commitments such as to the WTO and its rules through the lens of self-interest. The WTO has failed to restrain China's rise, they argue, and its dispute system is too slow, which is why they want a nimbler enforcement mechanism in a deal with China.

But escaping the grasp of the WTO may still be difficult. **Bloomberg**

Gov't said to weigh stimulus measures to bolster consumption

CHINA is drafting a series of stimulus measures to bolster sales of cars and electronics, according to people familiar with the matter.

The draft includes subsidies for new-energy vehicles, smartphones and home appliances, said the people, who asked not to be named because they aren't authorized to discuss the plan. The proposals are at a consultation stage with other government branches, and there is no guarantee that they'll be approved, the people said. The National Development and Reform Commission, which is said to have drafted the



plan, didn't immediately respond to a fax seeking comment.

The move indicates

Chinese leaders are stepping up attempts to bolster consumption and mitigate the threa-

ts posed by trade tensions with the U.S. The government, which already unveiled its most

ambitious tax reduction in years, is seeing some signs its efforts are bearing fruit: retail sales expanded 8.7 percent in March to beat expectations, and first-quarter gross domestic product expanded more than economists estimated.

Speculation over the stimulus swirled in the markets yesterday, pushing up shares of domestic carmakers such as BYD Co. and automakers in Europe. The Stoxx Europe 600 Automobiles & Parts Index rose 1.8 percent to an intraday high, led by Volkswagen AG, Daimler AG and Faurecia SA. General Motors Co. rose in pre-market trading in the U.S. Home-appliance maker Electrolux AB also rose.

It's notoriously difficult to own a car in major Chinese cities becau-

se of quotas put in place to tackle traffic congestion and air pollution. In Beijing, the annual new vehicle quota dropped to 100,000 in 2018, and each licensed gasoline-fueled car has to be idle one day a week. That's prompted the government to provide incentives for motorists to drive new-energy vehicles - including pure-battery electrics, plug-in hybrids and fuel-cell cars.

Existing ownership restrictions have hindered the growth of car sales, Cui Dongshu, secretary-general of the China Passenger Car Association, said in February. In Beijing and Shanghai, for example, drivers wanting a license plate for a gasoline-powered car must enter a years-long lottery or pay as much as 90,000 yuan. **Bloomberg**

Woman sues Chinese billionaire Liu for alleged rape

Amy Forliti, Minneapolis

A woman who said she was raped by JD.com founder Richard Liu filed a lawsuit yesterday (local time) against the billionaire and his company alleging he and other wealthy Chinese executives coerced her to drink during a dinner in the hours before she was attacked.

Liu Jingyao, a student at the University of Minnesota, claims Liu forced himself upon her in his vehicle after the dinner and later raped her at her apartment. The lawsuit seeks damages of more than USD50,000.

Richard Liu, founder of the Beijing-based e-commerce site JD.com, was arrested Aug. 31 in Minneapolis on suspicion of felony rape and released within hours. Prosecutors announced in December that he would face no criminal charges because the case had "profound evidentiary problems" and that it was unlikely they could prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Liu's defense attorneys said



Richard Liu, CEO of JD.com celebrates the IPO for his company at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York back in 2014

at the time that his arrest was based on a false claim. Liu released a statement on Chinese social media then saying he broke no law, but that his interactions with the woman hurt his family, especially his wife, and he hoped she would accept his apology.

Jill Brisbois, an attorney for Richard Liu, said in a statement that based on the lack of charges and her belief that Liu

is innocent "we feel strongly that this suit is without merit and will vigorously defend against it."

Peter Walsh, lawyer for JD.com, said: "We are not in position to comment at this time, but we will vigorously defend these meritless claims against the company."

The alleged attack happened while Richard Liu was in Minneapolis for a weeklong

residency as part of the University of Minnesota's doctor of business administration China program. The four-year program in the university's management school is geared toward high-level executives in China and is a partnership with Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management.

Liu Jingyao is a Chinese citizen studying at the university on a student visa, and was a volunteer in the doctorate program while Richard Liu was there. The Associated Press does not generally name alleged victims of sexual assault without their consent; her attorney Wil Florin said Liu Jingyao had agreed to be named.

The lawsuit said she was 21 at the time of the alleged attack. Florin said Richard Liu and Liu Jingyao are not related.

On the night of the alleged attack, Richard Liu and other executives went to Origami, a Japanese restaurant in Minneapolis. The woman went as a volunteer at the invitation of Charlie Yao, another executive

in the program. He pitched it as an event to honor volunteers, but no others were invited and Richard Liu had privately asked Yao to invite the plaintiff, the lawsuit said.

Liu Jingyao felt coerced to drink as the powerful men toasted her, with Richard Liu saying she would dishonor him if she did not join in, according to the lawsuit.

Text messages reviewed by The Associated Press and portions of the woman's interviews with police show the woman claims Liu pulled her into a limousine and made advances despite her protests. The woman texted a friend: "I begged him don't. But he didn't listen."

The lawsuit said a Liu aide turned the limousine's rearview mirror upward so the chauffeur could not see Liu groping the student in the rear despite her protests. It says Liu forcibly raped her at her apartment, again over her protests and resistance.

Liu, known in Chinese as Liu Qiangdong, is a prominent member of the Chinese tech elite, with a fortune of \$7.5 billion. He is part of a generation of entrepreneurs who have created China's internet, e-commerce, mobile phone and other technology industries since the late 1990s. AP

AD

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 April 24th 2019, 6:30PM
 (Wednesday)

Duration of the Exhibition:
 April 24th until May 12th, 2019

Opening Hours:
 Monday from 3:00pm to 8:00pm
 Tuesday to Sunday, from 12:00PM to 8:00pm

Exhibition Venue:
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MYANMAR

Leader pardons 9,500 prisoners but not two reporters

MORE than 9,500 prisoners were ordered released yesterday in Myanmar under a presidential amnesty, but they did not include two Pulitzer Prize-winning Reuters reporters.

The Facebook page of the Office of President Win Myint said he has signed a pardon for 9,551 prisoners, including 16 foreigners, to be released nationwide on the occasion of the country's traditional New Year.

Official lists of those to be freed are usually not made public, but activists monitor releases, especially at Yangon's Insein Prison, where most important detainees are held.



Two men are celebrated by their mother (center) after being released from Insein prison

Sympathizers waited outside the prison for the possible release of the two Reuters reporters jailed for breaking the Official Secrets Act, but they were not freed by late afternoon.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo are serving a seven-year sentence. They say they were framed because

of official displeasure over their reporting on the crackdown by security forces on members of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine state.

More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh following the crackdown, which began in August 2017. Critics have described

the campaign as ethnic cleansing, or even genocide, on the part of Myanmar security forces.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, an independent human rights organization, said it knew of only two political detainees, imprisoned since 2000, being released yesterday. The group said last month that Myanmar has a total of 364 political prisoners: 45 serving sentences, 94 being held awaiting trial, and 225 awaiting trial but not jailed.

Last year 8,490 Myanmar citizens and 51 foreigners received New Year's pardons. At least 36 of those freed in 2018 were political prisoners, according to the association. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Ex-president requests temporarily release

Tong Hyung Kim, Seoul

IMPRISONED former South Korean President Park Geun-hye yesterday requested a temporary release so she can be treated for health problems her lawyer says are causing "burning" and "cutting" pain.

An official from the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said it will soon review Park's request. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules against speaking to the media.

South Korean criminal law allows prisoners with serious health problems to be treated at hospitals under the eye of prosecutors before returning to prison after recovery.

Yoo Young-ha, Park's lawyer, said she has been dealing with disc problems and spinal stenosis, a narrowing of the passageways for spinal nerves, in her neck and

back areas, which he said have caused intense pain and sleeping problems.

While Park has been permitted to make several visits to a Seoul hospital to receive pain management treatments, her conditions have worsened to a point where more serious medical care and surgery are required, Yoo said.

Park "has been struggling with a level of pain that makes it impossible for her to sleep normally, but she has been persevering with superhuman will," Yoo said. "It's no longer possible to treat the conditions while she stays in prison."

The prosecution official did not confirm any details on Park's health.

The 67-year-old Park is serving a prison term of more than 30 years after being convicted in a massive corruption scandal that led to her removal from office and arrest in 2017. **AP**

AD

FRANCE MACAU Chamber of Commerce
法國澳門工商會

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FMCC Breakfast Meeting
Wednesday, 24th Apr 2019

A Journey to a Sustainable Future Explained
Speaker: Ms. Meridith Beaujean, Director of Sustainability, Sands China Ltd

Introduction:
Sands' ECO360 Global Sustainability Strategy has been designed to help minimize environmental impact and reflects their vision to lead the way in sustainable integrated resort operations. This presentation will provide deep insights.

Date: Wednesday, 24th April, 2019
Time: 9:00 - 10:30am (Reception: 8:45am)
Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16
6th floor, Promenade Meeting Room

RSVP before 2 pm on April 22nd
info@francemacau.com or Tel: (853) 8798 9699

- 2019 FMCC members join free-of-charge*
- Guests and non-members @ MOP188*
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- * Breakfast included

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INDONESIA

Widodo set for second term as president

NinieK Karmini
& Stephen Wright, Jakarta

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo has won a second five-year term, preliminary election results showed yesterday, in a victory for moderation over the nationalistic rhetoric of his rival, Prabowo Subianto.

Vote counts from five independent survey groups showed Widodo with a clear lead over Subianto, a general during the era of the Suharto military dictatorship who warned Indonesia would fall apart without his strongman leadership.

The so-called "quick counts" from reputable survey organizations that use a sample of polling stations have been reliable in past elections. With an average of 80% of sample polling stations counted, the five survey organizations showed Widodo winning 54-56% of the vote, a modest improvement on his 2014 showing.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, is an outpost of democracy in a Southeast Asian neighborhood of authoritarian governments and is forecast to be among the world's biggest economies by 2030. A

second term for Widodo, the first Indonesian president from outside the Jakarta elite, could further cement the country's two decades of democratization.

Addressing jubilant supporters a few hours after polls closed, Widodo said he was aware of his lead and called for the nation to reunite after the divisions of the campaign.

"From the indications of the exit poll and also the quick counts, we can see it all, but we must be patient to wait for the official counting from the Election Commission," he said.

Subianto, who also lost to Widodo in the 2014 presidential election, had not yet conceded defeat. He said his campaign's exit poll and quick count showed that he had won but urged his supporters not to cause chaos.

His campaign team has alleged massive voter list irregularities, but analysts say the claims are absurd and designed to undermine the election.

The balloting was a huge logistical exercise with 193 million people eligible to vote, more than 800,000 polling stations and 17 million people involved in ensuring the polls ran smoothly.

AP PHOTO



Supporters of Indonesian President Joko Widodo celebrate during a rally in Jakarta yesterday

Helicopters, boats and horses were used to get ballots to remote and inaccessible corners of the archipelago.

Conservative opponents had tried to discredit Widodo, a furniture exporter whose political career started as a small city mayor, as insufficiently Islamic.

Widodo tried to neutralize the not-a-real-Muslim whispers with the selection of Ma'ruf Amin, the leading Islamic cleric in Indonesia, as his running mate, though he risked alienating progressive

and moderate supporters.

Pre-election polls consistently gave a lead of as much as 20 percentage points to Widodo, widely known by the nickname "Jokowi."

"I've voted for Jokowi because five years in office was not enough for him to complete his brilliant programs for infrastructure, health and education," said Eko Cahya Pratama, 43, after voting in Tangerang on the outskirts of Jakarta.

"For me, this country is better to be managed by a man with a clean

track record rather than a dirty one in the past," he said.

After the results became clear, hundreds of Widodo supporters marched through downtown Jakarta, some holding aloft a giant red and white Indonesian flag.

Widodo's campaign highlighted his progress in poverty reduction and improving Indonesia's inadequate infrastructure with new ports, toll roads, airports and mass rapid transit. The latter became a reality last month in chronically congested Jakarta with the opening of a subway.

A strident nationalist, Subianto ran a fear-based campaign, highlighting what he sees as Indonesia's weakness and the risk of exploitation by foreign powers or disintegration.

His ultra-nationalist tactics preceded President Donald Trump's polarizing rhetoric by several years and the party he founded in 2008, Gerindra, is officially known as the Greater Indonesia Movement. He has long been dogged by his dismissal from the military in 1998 after soldiers under his command kidnapped student activists, 13 of whom were never seen again. **AP**

AD



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Trump vetoes measure to end US involvement in Yemen war

Deb Riechmann, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump vetoed a resolution passed by Congress to end U.S. military assistance in Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen.

The veto — the second in Trump's presidency — was expected, and Congress lacks the votes to override it. But passing the never-before-used war powers resolution was viewed as a milestone for lawmakers, who have shown a renewed willingness to assert their war-making authority after letting it atrophy for decades under presidents from both parties.

"This resolution is an unnecessary, dangerous attempt to weaken my constitutional authorities, endangering the lives of American citizens and brave service members, both today and in the future," Trump wrote in explaining his veto.

Congress has grown uneasy with Trump's close relationship with Saudi Arabia as he tries to further isolate Iran, a regional rival.



A view of the site of an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition in Sanaa, Yemen

Many lawmakers also criticized the president for not condemning Saudi Arabia for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi who lived in the United States and had written critically about the kingdom. Khashoggi went into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last October and never came out. Intelligence agencies said Saudi

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was complicit in the killing.

The U.S. provides billions of dollars of arms to the Saudi-led coalition fighting against Iran-backed rebels in Yemen. Members of Congress have expressed concern about the thousands of civilians killed in coalition air-

trikes since the conflict began in 2014. The fighting in the Arab world's poorest country also has left millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and has pushed the country to the brink of famine.

Trump said the measure was unnecessary because except for counterterrorism operations against Islamic State militants and al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the United States is not engaged in hostilities in or affecting Yemen.

He said there were no U.S. military personnel in Yemen accompanying the Saudi-led coalition fighting Iran-backed Houthis, although he acknowledged that the U.S. has provided limited support to the coalition, including intelligence sharing, logistics support, and — until recently — in-flight refueling of non-U.S. aircraft.

The president also said that the measure would harm bilateral relations and interferes with his constitutional power as commander in chief.

He said the U.S. is providing

the support to protect the safety of more than 80,000 Americans who live in certain areas of the coalition countries subject to Houthi attacks from Yemen.

"Houthis, supported by Iran, have used missiles, armed drones and explosive boats to attack civilian and military targets in those coalition countries, including areas frequented by American citizens, such as the airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia," Trump said. "In addition, the conflict in Yemen represents a 'cheap' and inexpensive way for Iran to cause trouble for the United States and for our ally, Saudi Arabia."

House approval of the resolution came earlier this month on a 247-175 vote. The Senate vote last month was 54-46.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a statement Tuesday night saying: "The conflict in Yemen is a horrific humanitarian crisis that challenges the conscience of the entire world. Yet the President has cynically chosen to contravene a bipartisan, bicameral vote of the Congress and perpetuate America's shameful involvement in this heartbreaking crisis."

Pelosi added: "This conflict must end, now. The House of Representatives calls on the President to put peace before politics, and work with us to advance an enduring solution to end this crisis and save lives." AP

AD

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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

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

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

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

100-YEAR-OLD YOGA INSTRUCTOR KEEPS MOVING, DANCING



A 100-year-old yoga instructor has no plans to stop practicing and teaching.

On a spring day in Hartsdale, a northern suburb of New York City where she leads her classes, Tao Porchon-Lynch said she first encountered the ancient practice at age 7 in her native India. Strolling along a beach, she was transfixed by a group of boys doing yoga poses. When her aunt told her the movements were "not ladylike," she responded, "If boys can do it, I can do it."

By the time Porchon-Lynch was a teenager, already teaching yoga, she was able to explain how to breathe in a healthy way — especially to people in awkward sitting positions.

"I said, 'You're squashing your lungs. Your lungs are not down in the navel, they are above,'" she said.

She also has advice for herself. "When I wake up in the morning, I look at the sun and I say, 'This is going to be the best day of my life' and it will be. It always is."

Earlier this year, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded her the prestigious Padma Shri Award for exceptional achievement.

Despite four hip replacements, she also does ballroom dancing at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio. And she's been featured on the television show "America's Got Talent."

Porchon-Lynch lives alone in her suburban apartment, but when needed, she has a circle of care that includes current and former students and friends dropping by, plus members of a wine society she's in.

"Her life is a yoga path," says Sylvia Samilton-Baker, her yoga student who is also an instructor.

And that comes down to just breathing, which keeps Porchon-Lynch nimble as she approaches 101 on Aug. 13.

"The breath is teaching us — listen to it," she says. "Feel your lungs expand outward, stretch your hands up towards the ceiling and feel the energy there. Breathe in the breath of life and breathe out peace."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:55	Perguntas e respostas sobre as Linhas de Acção Governativa e assuntos sociais, com a presença do Chefe do Executivo (Directo)
18:25	Moda Portugal Sr.3
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	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 - A Diplomacia 'Ritos e Formulários'
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo
03:00	Liga Europa: Frankfurt - Benfica (Directo)
05:00	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

18 - 23 Apr



THE QUEEN'S CORGI

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Vincent Kesteloot, Ben Stassen

Starring: Jack Whitehall, Julie Walters, Tom Courtenay

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 85min

THE UPSIDE

ROOM 1

9:30pm

Director: Neil Burger

Starring: Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston, Nicole Kidman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 126min

HOTEL MUMBAI

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Anthony Maras

Starring: Dev Patel, Armie Hammer, Nazanin Boniadi

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 123min

OKKO'S INN

ROOM 2

4:45pm

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Kitarō Kōsaka

Starring: Seiran Kobayashi, Nana Mizuki, Satsumi Matsuda

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 95min

WONDER PARK

ROOM 3

2:15, 4:00, 5:45pm

Director: Dylan Brown

Starring: Sofia Mali, Jennifer Garner, Ken Hudson

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 85min

P STORM

ROOM 3

9:30pm

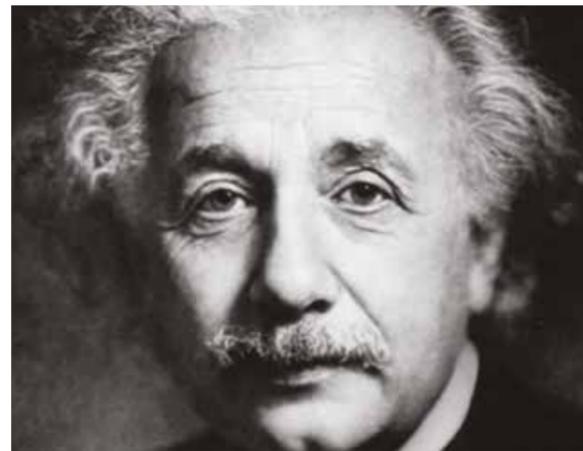
Director: David Lam

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Louis Koo, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 96min

this day in history



1955 ALBERT EINSTEIN DIES

Albert Einstein has died in hospital in Princeton, New Jersey, aged 76.

The eminent scientist and originator of the theory of relativity was admitted to hospital three days ago with an internal complaint.

In recent years Dr Einstein had lived a secluded life although he was still a member of staff at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.

In a statement issued following the scientist's death, US President Dwight Eisenhower said: "No other man contributed so much to the vast expansion of the 20th century knowledge.

"Yet no other man was more modest in the possession of the power that is knowledge, more sure that power without wisdom is deadly.

"To all who live in the nuclear age, Albert Einstein exemplified the mighty creative ability of the individual in a free society."

Albert Einstein was born on 14 March 1879 to Jewish parents at Ulm, Wurttemberg in Germany.

Soon afterwards the family moved to Munich where the young Einstein began his education at the Luitpold Gymnasium.

His early academic career was notable only for the fact he was asked to leave his school for "disruptive" behaviour.

But he had always excelled at mathematics - a subject which would later make him the most renowned scientist in the world.

In 1896 Einstein entered the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School in Zurich to train as a physics and maths teacher.

But he struggled to get a job, largely due to the fact he was German, so, in 1902, he accepted a job as a technical assistant in the Swiss Patent Office.

It was during his seven years at the Patent Office that, in his spare time, he worked on his mathematical theories which would eventually take the world by storm.

The Special Theory of Relativity, which describes the motion of particles moving close to the speed of light, was published in 1905.

In the years that followed, Einstein took up senior academic posts in Berne and Zurich. In 1911 he became Professor of Theoretical Physics in Prague but returned to Zurich a year later.

However, well-known German physicists, Walter Nernst and Professor Planck, were eager for Einstein to return to Berlin.

In 1913 they persuaded him to take up the position of director of the projected research institute for physics in the University of Berlin and become a member of the Royal Prussian Academy of Science.

Einstein's General Theory of Relativity was published in 1916. In 1921 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics.

He kept the positions in Berlin until 1933, when he accepted a part-time post at Princeton University in America.

His plan was to divide his time between Germany and America but in the same year the Nazis came to power and Einstein, being a Jew, never returned to his birthland.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Albert Einstein's work laid the groundwork for many modern technologies including nuclear weapons and cosmic science.

After his death, Einstein's brain was removed and preserved for scientific research by Canadian scientists.

It was found that the part of Einstein's brain responsible for mathematical thought and the ability to think in terms of space and movement was 15% wider than average.

It also lacked a groove which normally runs through this region suggesting that the neurons were able to communicate.

In 1999 Albert Einstein was named "person of the century" by Time magazine.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have the power to succeed today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your earthy nature asserts itself in a big way today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You rely on others to help get your own business done...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You feel a new sense of balance today...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're making great progress toward some personal goal...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your romantic world is spinning a little faster...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Be wary of new situations - something isn't quite right...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your potent energy is the driving force behind today's big mission...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are firmly committed to doing it all yourself today...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to deal with all this energy in a positive way...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're more tired than you feel you ought to be...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your assistance is needed in a big way - so ask around...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Headed for overtime; 5- Comin' ___ the Rye; 9- Deadly black snake; 14- Kachina doll carver; 15- Nothing, in Nantes; 16- Arm of the sea; 17- Yalies; 18- Fencing blade; 19- Hood-shaped anatomical part; 20- Achievement; 23- Bronx attraction; 24- Beehive State native; 25- Line on a weather map; 29- Effortless; 31- U.S. soldiers; 34- Long-tailed parrot; 35- Alternative to a shower; 36- Newman's Own competitor; 37- Like afterschool activities; 40- Water testers; 41- Calculus calculation; 42- Steal, ransack; 43- Tiny tunnel; 44- Cornerstone abbr.; 45- Flirting man; 46- U-turn from WSW; 47- Gives birth to; 48- County in central England; 56- Defense covering; 57- Bow-toting god; 58- Close; 60- Either of two Chinese dynasties; 61- Facilitate; 62- Irene of "Fame"; 63- Harass; 64- Flat sound; 65- "Rule, Britannia" composer; DOWN: 1- Everyday article; 2- Kansas city; 3- Grand in scale; 4- Part of CD; 5- Shudder; 6- African wader; 7- Rod's partner; 8- That's ___ haven't heard; 9- Huge; 10- Make ___ for oneself; 11- Fr. miss; 12- I've ___ had; 13- Rat-___; 21- Longtime Boston Symphony conductor; 22- Japanese dish; 25- ___ man with seven wives; 26- Word after Anglo; 27- Group of eight; 28- Obstructs; 29- Having auricular protuberances; 30- Big name in razors; 31- Australian cockatoo; 32- ___ at the office; 33- Less doubtful; 35- Songwriter Bacharach; 36- Regrets; 38- Lawsuits; 39- Collide; 44- Vigor; 45- Hoi polloi; 46- Low-budget prefix; 47- ___ Perot; 48- Refrain syllables; 49- ___ go brag; 50- ___ old cowhand...; 51- Golf pegs, northern English river; 52- Chapters of history; 53- Ancient Peruvian; 54- Posterior; 55- Work for; 59- ___ Dawn Chong;



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Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Rugby Academy

Rain doesn't stop play for Macau Bats

Donald Shaw
Special to MDT

LAST Saturday, the Macau Bats hosted their 15th annual Rugby Festival at The International School's (TIS) playing field in Taipa. Despite the inclement weather, 50 teams arrived in Macau to play rugby, with ages ranging from 6 to 12 years old. The tournament saw teams from China, Hong Kong as well as Macau compete.

The heavy rain on Friday and intermittent showers on Saturday made the field heavy and conditions were very slippery underfoot. However, this did not deter the 600 or so players from giving their all, with the support of a further 1,000 parents and spectators. The festival started at 10 a.m. with the U6, U7 and U8 all playing for their respective cups. At most age groups eight teams competed, firstly in two groups of four teams with each group winner playing the other in the grand final. The U6s competition saw the Discovery Bay Pirates and Macau Bats finish on the same points having won three games each and then drawing their fourth match. The young Bats won the cup having scored more tries.

The U7s winners were Hong Kong Football Club (HKFC) who defeated Sandy Bay in a very close final. Macau Bats came fourth in this age group despite beating finalist Sandy Bay 1-0 in the group games. They then drew 2-2 with Barbarians and lost 3-4 to Aberdeen Dolphins.

In the U8s the Bats drew their first two games, 3-3 against HKFC and 1-1 with the Barbarians, however a 4-5 reverse against a combined South Lantau Buffalos and Tung Chung team meant the Bats missed out on the final. Sai Kung Stingrays defeated HKFC 5-1 to secure the U8 cup.

The Bats won 4-3 against HKFC in the U9s competition and followed that with an impressive 5-2 win over Valley Fort. A 4-4 draw with Discovery Bay Pirates saw the U9 Bats win their group and qualify for the cup final. The final saw the Bats go down to a very good Sai Kung Stingrays team.

The Macau Bats U10s opened with an impressive 9-2 win against the Buffalos and a 6-0 win over Barbarians, however a 3-5 loss to Sai Kung Stingrays consigned the Bats to a 3rd/4th play-off. The match against the Dongguan Bulldogs was won 4-2. The U10 cup winners were the Sai Kung Stingrays.

In the U11s the Bats won 2-1 against the Pirates B select before losing 0-3 against DB Pirates A, Sandy Bay 1-3 and Sai Kung Stingrays 0-1. The Bats finished fourth behind the age group winners Sandy Bay.

Sandy Bay were also the U12 winners, defeating Sai Kung Stingrays 6-1 in the final. Macau Bats finished fourth out of eight, having beaten Stingrays A 2-0 and Tung Chung 5-2 before a tight 1-2 loss to Stingrays B.

Will Matthews, coach of Macau Bats U12 commented, "the conditions for spectators and organizers were a challenge, however for the players this was an almost unique opportunity to play in wet weather and they all responded well and thoroughly enjoyed the mud, sweat and tears".

According to one visiting coach "The Macau festival is our favorite competition of the year. It is well organized, has a great atmosphere and promotes both the spirit and friendship of rugby. The fact that it is played on grass is another major attraction plus of course it gives us an excellent reason to visit and enjoy the hospitality of Macau."

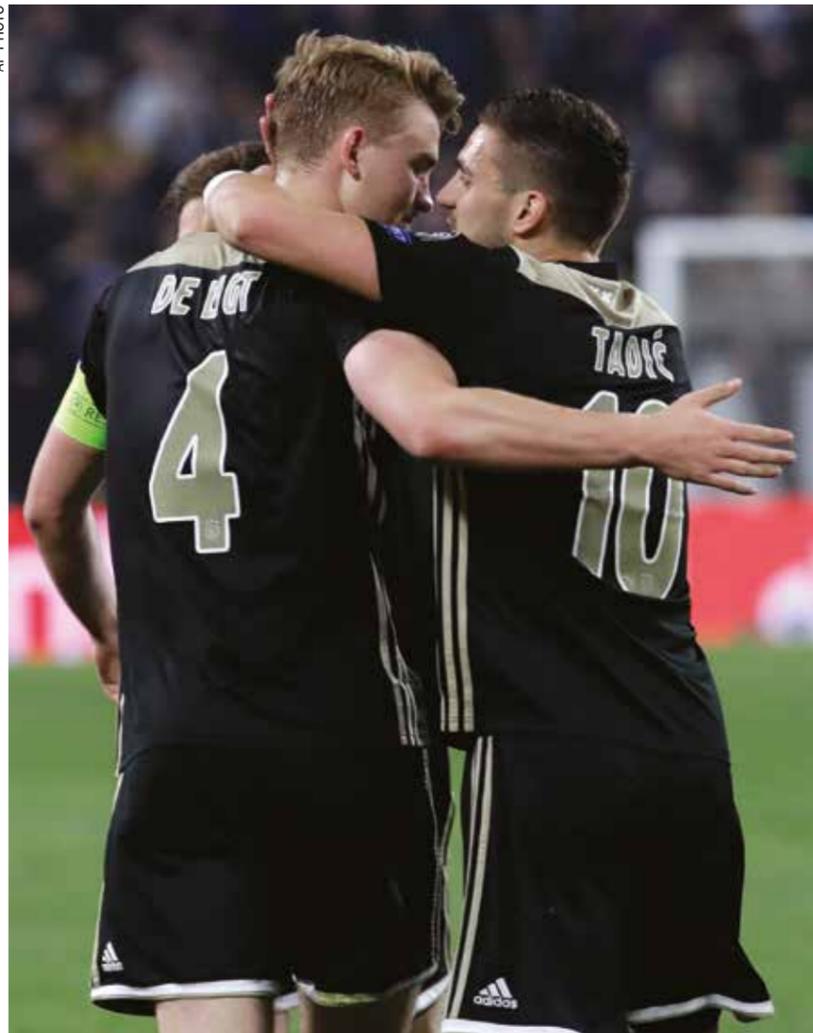
Macau Bats final group of games is on April 27 when the Flying Kukris visit

Macau to play at U14, U16 and adult levels. The games will be held at TIS, kick-off 10am.



FOOTBALL

Ajax wins at Juventus to reach Champions League semi



Daniella Matar, Turin

JUVENTUS 1, AJAX 2

CRISTIANO Ronaldo shook his head as he walked off the field, while the Ajax players and staff celebrated with their fans long after the final whistle.

The youth-filled Ajax team knocked off another one of Europe's giants yesterday, beating Juventus 2-1 in Turin to reach the Champions League semifinals for the first time since 1997. It is the first time since 2010 that Ronaldo has failed to reach the last four, having won the competition the last three years in a row with Madrid.

"He's disappointed as we all are, but we can't be dragged down by this disappointment," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said.

Juventus signed Ronaldo in the offseason in the hope of ending a 23-year wait for the Champions League but one goal from the Portugal star wasn't enough against the Dutch team, which erased a first-half deficit and largely domi-

nated the final 45 minutes.

"Cristiano increased our chances of winning the Champions League but football isn't math," Allegri added. "It's not one plus one equals two, but one plus one can equal three, four, zero."

Having already seen off Real Madrid in the previous round, Ajax showed no fear against Ronaldo and the Italian giant either, advancing 3-2 on aggregate.

"It's an unforgettable night for Ajax, we eliminated one of the favorites for the competition," Ajax coach Erik ten Hag said. "We played with confidence and patience. With our footballing philosophy we can go beyond expectation, we have once again surpassed our limits. It's very difficult to play against us and our philosophy."

Even going behind to a goal from Ronaldo in the first half didn't faze Ajax's young players as Donny van de Beek leveled shortly after and 19-year-old captain Matthijs de Ligt scored the winner in the second half.

Ajax will play either Manchester City or Tottenham in

the semifinals.

Ronaldo's old rival Lionel Messi is very much in contention, though, after scoring two goals to help Barcelona beat Manchester United 3-0 and progress 4-0 on aggregate in Tuesday's other quarterfinal.

Ronaldo scored a hat trick in the previous round against Atletico Madrid to almost single-handedly overturn a two-goal deficit, and had also found the back of the net in Amsterdam. The 34-year-old Portugal forward added his fifth goal in three Champions League matches in the 28th minute on Tuesday, heading in a Miralem Pjanic corner.

But Ajax leveled six minutes later when Hakim Ziyech's mishit shot turned into an assist for Donny van de Beek, who beat the offside trap to redirect it past Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Ajax grew in confidence in the second half and had a number of chances to take the lead, with Szczesny making a couple of stellar saves to keep the game level. But Juventus continued to look vulnerable without captain and key defender Giorgio Chiellini, and Ajax finally found its breakthrough in the 67th as De Ligt outjumped both Daniel Rugani and Alex Sandro to head in a corner.

It could have been worse for Juventus as Ziyech had a goal disallowed by VAR for offside. **AP**

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Messi ends United's hopes of another Camp Nou comeback

BARCELONA 3, MAN UNITED 0

LIONEL Messi made sure there was no memorable Champions League comeback for Manchester United at Camp Nou this time.

Messi scored two early goals to help Barcelona beat United 3-0 on and reach the Champions League semifinals for the first time in four seasons with a 4-0 aggregate score.

United had arrived at Camp Nou hoping to take inspiration from its Champions League final victory twenty years ago, when current manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer capped a comeback against Bayern Munich by scoring the winner in injury time.

But Messi showed that past glories mean very little when he is playing at his best.

His first goal was had



plenty of the familiar Messi magic, as he ghosted past a defender and bent the ball just inside the upright.

The second was largely thanks to a blunder by David de Gea. Messi only managed a tame shot on goal but the Spain goalkeeper let it slip underneath him

and into the net.

"The image [we gave] was spectacular. This is who we are," Messi said. "I was fortunate the first went in, I struck it hard and just inside the post. I needed a little more luck on the second. The important thing is that we achieved our goal. We

have taken one more step [to the title]."

After not managing a single shot on target at Old Trafford in the first leg, United looked a lot more dangerous going forward at the start. But after Marcus Rashford hit the crossbar, Messi took over with

his tournament-leading ninth and 10th goals of the season.

"Messi and Cristiano [Ronaldo] have been the best players in the world for the past decade," Solskjaer said.

The Barcelona crowd, which for so long viewed Ronaldo as its main nemesis when he was with Real Madrid, celebrated the Ajax goals when they were announced on the video monitor.

After Rashford threatened by grazing the bar, Messi outmuscled Ashley Young to win the ball near the right touchline. He then brought the home crowd to its feet as he poked the ball through the legs of Fred, sped along the edge of the box, and drove a left-footed strike around a diving De Gea.

Messi got his double soon with more than a little help from De Gea.

"We started well in the first 15 minutes and I thought, 'We've got something here,'" Solskjaer said. "But then they scored twice in four minutes. [...] You could see the difference of the teams tonight. The quality

of their finishing was absolutely outstanding."

Messi went close to setting up another goal just before halftime. He made Phil Jones dizzy by changing the direction of his dribble three times. He then played Jordi Alba wide, for the left back to cross the ball to Sergi Roberto arriving at the far post. De Gea made a superb save to block his point-blank effort on the line.

Philippe Coutinho added a third goal with a superb curling strike from long range in the 61st to cap arguably the best performance by the former Liverpool player since joining Barcelona just over a year ago.

Messi cued the attack that ended in Coutinho's goal by playing a long ball down the left to Alba, who knocked it back to the Brazil midfielder to beat De Gea from distance.

The goals ended Messi's bizarre scoring drought in Champions League quarterfinals that had reached 12 matches dating back to 2013.

In total he has 45 goals in 42 games through all competitions this campaign. **AP**

opinion

Made In Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE FENGSHUI OF PUTTING UP PICTURES

One day, a non-Chinese friend asked me for advice on where he should hang a painting. I am no interior designer, but on a large empty wall in the middle of some shelves looks like a good place – it seemed to be the only empty wall after all. To my surprise, he wanted to know whether it is bad luck to hang a painting on a wall with the bathroom behind. I realized my friend needed my advice not because of my aesthetic senses, but because I am Chinese and thus I should be familiar with fengshui (literally translated as wind water). This may have been true for the older generation to whom basic fengshui is like general knowledge. So, it is not surprising that some foreigners may think all Chinese know about fengshui.

Anyone who has been in Macao or Hong Kong for some time would know what fengshui is, though not many people nowadays have much knowledge about it, and we tend to have a different attitude towards fengshui. To some people, fengshui is just superstition without any scientific evidence like astrology or palm reading. Others firmly believe that fengshui at home or at work greatly affects their luck and well-being. I guess most people in the younger generation do not really believe in fengshui, but take a “better safe than sorry” approach about where to place their furniture or other things that bring about good luck, or more importantly, what to avoid for bad luck. I have never really paid attention to the topic until my friend asked. I did some googling and found some interesting fengshui rules regarding pictures.

Firstly, pictures with fierce wild animals have to be handled with care. The head of the animals must face outside of the room. If the head of a tiger, eagle or dragon in a painting faces inside the room, it may bring sickness or accidents to the occupants of the apartment or office. So, be very careful which side of the wall you plan to hang the picture before buying one with fierce animals in it. I don't know if a Lion King poster counts. And I am not sure how to hang a picture of an animal looking up; maybe sideward, with its head towards the windows?

Secondly, do not hang pictures that are yin (with negative/dark energy), as in yin and yang. But what kind of pictures are considered “yin”? First, I thought of paintings of darkness, tragedy or violence. Then after further googling, I found that it means erotic paintings or pictures of naked people. It is believed that hanging “yin” pictures in the room will affect one's luck in career development or cause bad relationships between couples. Of course, imagine what would happen to your career if you hang an erotic painting in your office, or to a couple's relationship if daddy puts up a poster of a porn star in the living room.

The winner amongst picture fengshui rules is that married couples should not put photos of other men or women in the bedroom. Apparently, if photos have to be hung in the bedroom, they should only be photos of the couple. Otherwise, it brings bad luck to the marriage, and leads to possible love affairs outside of marriage. So, don't put photos of your ex-lovers in the bedroom, as it could ruin your marriage.

I've learned that putting up pictures of fierce animals facing the wrong way, erotic pictures in the living room or office, and photos of other men in my bedroom are bad for fengshui. I don't understand the logic behind the animal painting, but the other two causing bad luck in marriage seems to make a lot of sense. Perhaps some fengshui rules are general knowledge after all.

THE US ALLOWING SUITS AGAINST FOREIGN FIRMS IN CUBA

The Trump administration is opening the door for lawsuits against foreign firms operating on properties Cuba seized from Americans after the 1959 revolution.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday he won't renew a bar on litigation in place for two decades. The decision is a blow to Havana's efforts to draw foreign investment to the island.

President Donald Trump is stepping up pres-

sure to isolate embattled Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who is holding power with help from other countries, including Cuba, China and Russia.

Pompeo's decision gives Americans the right to sue companies that operate out of hotels, tobacco factories, distilleries and other properties Cuba nationalized after Fidel Castro took power. It allows lawsuits by Cubans who became U.S. citizens years after their properties were taken.

Fashion capital New York considers banning sale of fur



David Klepper & David R. Martin, New York

A burgeoning movement to outlaw fur is seeking to make its biggest statement yet in the fashion mecca of New York City.

Lawmakers are pushing a measure that would ban the sale of all new fur products in the city where such garments were once common and style-setters including Marilyn Monroe, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Joe Namath and Sean “Diddy” Combs have all rocked furs over the years.

A similar measure in the state Capitol in Albany would impose a statewide ban on the sale of any items made with farmed fur and ban the manufacture of products made from trapped fur.

Whether this is good or bad depends on which side of the pelt you're on. Members of the fur industry say such bans could put 1,100 people out of a job in the city alone. Supporters dismiss that and emphasize that the wearing of fur is barbaric and inhumane.

“Cruelty should not be confused with economic development,” said state Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, a Democrat from Manhattan, who is sponsoring the state legislation. “Fur relies on violence to innocent animals. That should be no one's business.”

The fate of the proposals could be decided in the coming months, though supporters acknowledge New

York City's measure has a better chance of passage than the state legislation.

The fur trade is considered so important to New York's development that two beavers adorn the city's official seal, a reference to early Dutch and English settlers who traded in beaver pelts.

At the height of the fur business in the last century, New York City manufactured 80% of the fur coats made in the U.S, according to FUR NYC, a group representing 130 retailers and manufacturers in the city. The group says New York City remains the largest market for fur products in the country, with real fur still frequently used as trim on coats, jackets and other items.

Whether this is good or bad depends on which side of the pelt you're on

If passed, New York would become the third major American city with such a ban, following San Francisco, where a ban takes effect this year, and Los Angeles, where a ban passed this year will take effect in 2021.

Elsewhere, Sao Paulo, Brazil, began its ban on the import and sale of fur in 2015.

Fur farming was banned in the United Kingdom nearly 20 years ago, and last year London fashion week became the first major fashion event to go entirely fur-free.

Fur industry leaders warn that if the ban passes in New York, emboldened animal rights activists will want more.

“Everyone is watching this,” said Nancy Daigneault, vice president at the International Fur Federation, an industry group based in London. “If it starts here with fur, it's going to go to wool, to leather, to meat.”

When asked what a fur ban would mean for him, Nick Pologeorgis was blunt: “I'm out of business.”

Pologeorgis' father, who emigrated from Greece, started the fur design and sales business in the city's “Fur District” nearly 60 years ago.

“My employees are nervous,” he said. “If you're 55 or 50 and all you've trained to do is be a fur worker, what are you going to do?”

Supporters of the ban contend those employees could find jobs that don't involve animal fur, noting that an increasing number of fashion designers and retailers now refuse to sell animal fur and that synthetic substitutes are every bit as convincing as the real thing.

They also argue that fur retailers and manufacturers represent just a small fraction of an estimated 180,000 people who work in the city's fashion industry and that their skills can readily be transferred. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	60-80 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN Around a third of all conflict-related detainees in Afghanistan say they have suffered from torture or ill-treatment, the U.N. said yesterday. U.N. officials interviewed a total of 618 detainees held in 77 government facilities across the country between January 2017 and December 2018. The alleged torture included beatings, suffocation and electric shocks.



PERU Former President Alan Garcia shot himself in the head before being detained by police amid allegations he received illegal payment from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, his lawyer said yesterday. When police arrived to Garcia's residence to arrest him, the ex-president shut himself in his room and attempted to take his life. He died in the hospital.



FRANCE A Paris fire official says the towers of Notre Dame would have fallen if firefighters hadn't deployed massive equipment and acted swiftly. Philippe Demay denied there was any delay and said firefighters acted as fast as they could. The operation was extremely difficult and the towers could have collapsed “if we hadn't put heavy equipment in place.”



PORTUGAL Gas stations across Portugal are running dry amid a truckers' strike over pay and working conditions. The walkout by some 800 truckers who transport hazardous materials prompted a rush to fill tanks, leaving hundreds of gas stations closed yesterday.