



NG CALLS FOR MULTILINGUAL HELPERS IN PARKS

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**HEGARTY'S DEATH AT GP
DUE TO 'MINUTE ERROR'**
Motorcyclist Daniel Hegarty's death in a crash on the Guia Circuit in 2017 occurred due to a "minute error," a British coroner heard

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**GBA SKEPTICISM,
'IS GROUNDLESS'**
Forum Macau's Rodrigo Brum said yesterday that the GBA plan "would be an example" to China and the world

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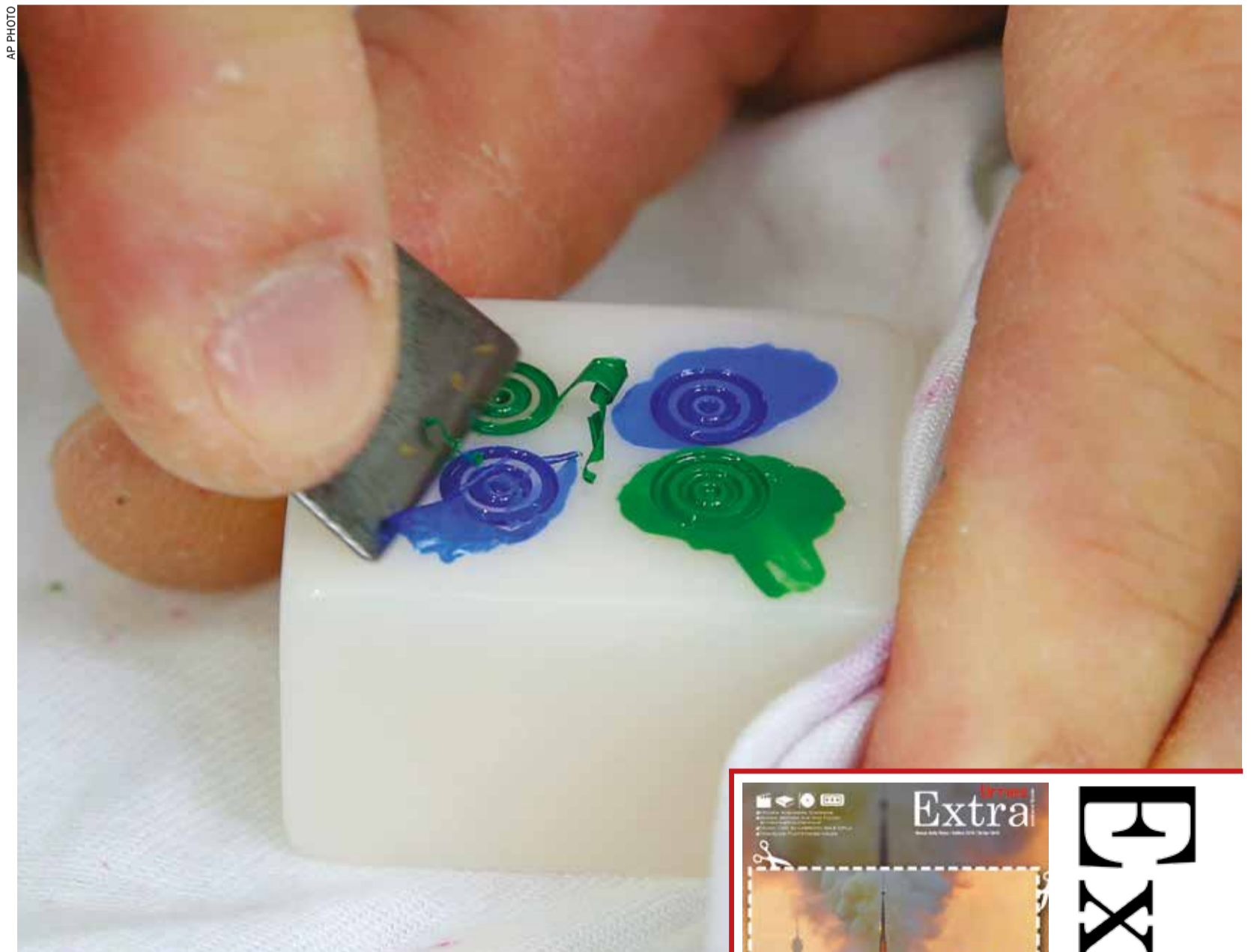

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MOTORBIKES

Public cry foul play over anti-noise crackdown

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Eleven workers were killed and two seriously injured yesterday when an elevator at a construction site in Hebei fell due to snapped cable. The Voice of China radio said the accident, the latest in a series of deadly industrial incidents, occurred around 8 a.m. in the Hebei province city of Hengshui. It didn't say how far the elevator fell.



CHINA-UK The British government has not yet decided whether to allow Huawei to supply parts for the U.K.'s new 5G wireless network, Digital Secretary Jeremy Wright said yesterday, as he condemned leaks from private government discussions on the issue. Wright said government officials and intelligence agencies are still carrying out a review on how best to strike the "difficult balance between security and prosperity."

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Extra

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INSIDE

Defeated CE candidate Stanley Au endorses Ho Iat Seng

Stanley Au Chong-kit, who ran for Chief Executive in the 1999 election, has endorsed Ho Iat Seng, the first and so far only declared runner of the fifth Macau CE election. Au said that Ho is "a very good candidate" for the next CE. In Au's opinion, Ho is an industrialist and has a shallow relationship with the real estate and gaming industries. Because of this, Au believes that Ho can better deal with Macau's governance and corruption issues. He added that the election of Macau's CE has always been an election for just one person.

One dead in car accident

A car accident in Cheoc Van has resulted in the death of one person. The victim, a local male resident (24 years old), was riding his motorbike. He was brought to hospital but was already pulseless upon his arrival. The accident took place on the road in front of the barbecue park in Cheoc Van around 11 p.m. on Wednesday. The Public Security Police Force is calling for witnesses to provide information about the case.

Court maintains decision to recover two land plots

The latest decision by the Court of Second Instance supports the government's decision to recover two land plots. The first land plot is located at the Rua dos Currais, occupying an area of 3,409 square meters. This land was outsourced in 1989 with a concession period of 25 years, which expired in 2014. The second plot is the C8 land plot of the Nam Van Lake plan, which occupies an area of 4,422 square meters. This land was outsourced in 1991 for 25 years, expiring in 2016. The government announced its recovery in 2018.



TRANSPORTATION

PSP tackle motorcycle noise in street inspection

Renato Marques

SINCE mid-March this year, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has been performing an operation to tackle high-capacity motorcycles suspected of producing excessive noise.

However, the operation has proved controversial, with some residents claiming that they are being incorrectly penalized and at least one lawmaker submitting a written inquiry to the government.

During the operation, some motorcycle owners have protes-

ted the PSP's procedures, saying that their vehicles have not been modified, as accused, and that they follow the standard specifications of manufacturers.

The case also motivated a written inquiry to the government, detailing a potential flaw in the PSP system for evaluating the

noise produced by motorcycles.

According to the inquiry, the motorcycles were evaluated by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and found to have different noise levels from those initially reported by the PSP, and that this constituted a violation of the Road Traffic Regulations, the same laws that motorcyclists were fined under.

The PSP replied to the Times, saying "whenever our Force intercepts vehicles where the noise generated by their exhaust pipes is suspected of exceeding the limit, we will inspect the vehicles using vehicle noise detection equipment which is authorized by the Transport Higher Council."

The PSP also noted that "in verified cases where the vehicles are violating the stipulations of Article 26 of the 'Road Traffic Regulations,' we would proceed with charges against their owners in accordance with the Law, and Transport Bureau for follow up."

The PSP also suggested the Times inquire with DSAT regarding the matter. Although over one month has passed since the Times' inquiry, no reply on the matter has been received from the department.

Polylingual peacekeepers wanted for Macau parks

Julie Zhu

LAWMAKER Ng Kuok Cheong has written an inquiry to the government asking it to arrange for helpers to be stationed at public playgrounds in order to solve disputes, especially between groups that speak different languages.

"The SAR government has recently set up and updated facilities in several leisure areas in Areia Preta, [...] it attracted different ethnic groups which improperly used these spaces, which caused noise and trouble," said Ng.

He specifically gave the example of the Iao Han district, where non-local workers get together to play badminton. Several verbal fights between different language groups have occurred there and the grievances were worsened because of the language barriers.



"Does the SAR government agree that guidance and inspections of reasonable use of the leisure spaces, and an immediate complaint handling mechanism should be provided?" the lawmaker wrote.

"Can the Municipal Affairs Bureau be responsible for the inspection and complaint handling mechanism? Or should it be

handled by the police department or other departments? Will the SAR government proactively give instructions to people who use these spaces inappropriately?"

"Regarding foreign groups, can the government arrange for people with appropriate language skills to provide an effective means of communication?" Ng asked.

Hegarty's death at Grand Prix due to 'minute error'

MOTORCYCLIST Daniel Hegarty's death in a crash at the Macau Grand Prix in November 2017 occurred due to a "minute error," a British coroner heard.

The BBC reports that a police forensic collision report indicated that Hegarty applied the brakes "too late" compared to his previous laps, Nottingham's Council House heard.

In their report, Nottinghamshire Police said moments before the crash, Hegarty reduced his speed later than on previous laps, suggesting that if he had managed to slow down earlier, he would have "successfully negotiated the bend."

Assistant coroner James Hargan said that "the bike in all aspects was in perfect working order" and that the crash was the result "of the most minute error" on a notoriously dangerous circuit, concluding that Hegarty's death was accidental. Hegarty, who was 31 years old, had previously demonstrated his talent at Road Racing events like North West 200 and Ulster Grand Prix. **RM**

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Julie Zhu

THE security authority intends to expand the powers of both the security force and the security discipline inspection commission, according to Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, who announced the information on the sidelines of yesterday's Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Fire Services Station opening ceremony.

According to Wong, the security authority plans to provide assistance to the amendment of the Chief Executive dispatch, in order to authorize the expansion of the disciplinary body's power.

Currently, the security force is studying whether there are any prohibitions to achieving this goal by establishing laws.

Expanding the disciplinary body's power will allegedly improve management of discipline and allow it to be more focused when the government carries out supervision in the future.

Wong expressed that the plan will likely not be finished before Chief Executive Chui Sai On leaves his post, since the legislation involves some degree of complexity.

"It will probably be difficult to complete within this government. What we are doing currently is amending the Chief Executive dispatch so it can grant the disciplinary body more rights without amending the law," said Wong.

Yesterday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported that one of its investigators was caught drink-driving while on duty. The PJ has already initiated disciplinary procedures against the offender.

Commenting on the case, the Secretary noted that a total of 53 security force employees were reported to have been involved in disciplinary violations. There were 16 cases in 2017, 10 in 2018 and two cases so far in 2019.

Wong said that there has been a decrease in the number of violations. He also reiterated that the security authority is very

Security force plans to expand power of disciplinary body



Secretary Wong Sio Chak

strict and clear about disciplinary violations and will not tolerate them.

Aside from security matters, the Secretary also commented on what will happen to his position after the change of government later this year.

"As for myself, no matter where I go, I will spend all my efforts in any position," declared Wong. "Since I took office in the security sector, all of my directors and my colleagues have been spending all their efforts to do a good job. The effect is obvious and has been endorsed by society. I have gained satisfaction and a sense of success.

I also feel confident in future work. Regarding my position, it depends on the Chief Executive's nomination and the appointment of the Central Government."

Moreover, Wong spoke about the Qingmao Port, saying the authority has been continuously increasing manpower and will organize training in preparation for the opening of the port.

The port will be located right next to the Border Gate, in an effort to connect Zhuhai train station to Macau's LRT Peninsula line, which is currently under construction.

Fire services station opened for HKZMB

THE Fire Services Bureau's (CB) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau-Bridge fire services station was officially opened yesterday, to be staffed by a total of 75 stationed firefighters.

The station is tasked with handling fire incidents that occur along the bridge and is equipped with 12 fire service vehicles, including pump trucks, ambulances and rescue vehicles.

Hardware aside, the three regions' governments have already reached an agreement regarding rescue arrangements.

According to Leong Iok Sam, director of the CB, the three governments agreed to handle the accidents based on the principle of administration authority.

Regular inspection mechanisms and cross-regional fire services exercises will also be conducted, Leong told the media.

Gov't to attract global science and technology researchers to Macau

Staff reporter

THE Internet+ Smart City Summit 2019 officially opened yesterday morning. The two-day summit includes series of talks by academics and industry leaders, such as executives from Xiaomi and Tencent, as well as technicians from Huawei

and Alibaba.

Dr. Ma Chi Ngai, president of the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) which was the co-organizer of the summit, disclosed that the fund and the University of Macau (UM) were to commence a subsidization program aiming to attract researchers to Macau.

"The two-year program aims to attract post-doctorate candidates from the world's top 200 institutions to Macau to research in related fields. They will be offered a subsidy of MOP40,000 per month within their service period," Ma said.

The response was positive too, with applications

far outnumbering the first phase quota of 50 seats. However, whether those researchers would, or could, stay in Macau after their services end would be at the discretion of their respective employing entities.

Rector Yonghua Song of UM was also officiating at the opening ceremony.

When asked about the university's efforts in nurturing science and technology professionals, Song said, "UM is to offer a master's program in chemistry with a specialization in big data, which will involve faculties from the computer, business, social science, and health science programs."

He also disclosed that UM is offering a bachelor's degree in big data. The university also has a program at the Faculty of Business Administration on commercial intelligence

and data analysis.

Ma further disclosed that a uniform database is being built that will eventually include all data collected from all government departments. A third-party entity, led by UM, has been commissioned to evaluate the efficiency of the implementation of the smart city concept in Macau.

The FDCT has also begun its work with the Talent Development Commission to evaluate Macau's human resources in the information technology industry.

New Jersey could be top US sports bet market by 2020

Wayne Parry, N.J.

NEW Jersey's quick growth in sports gambling means it could surpass Nevada next year as the top sports betting market in the United States, its governor said Wednesday.

In the 10 months that New Jersey has allowed legal sports betting, gamblers have wagered more than USD2.3 billion, a pace that would put it in the same conversation as Nevada, which took in more than \$5 billion in bets last year.

"Nevada is clearly in our sights," Democrat Phil Murphy said, speaking at the Betting on Sports America conference. "We can overtake it as early as next year."

New Jersey won a U.S. Supreme Court case last year that cleared the way for any states to legalize sports betting if desired. Eight currently take wagers and many more are considering it.

Gambling analyst Chris Grove of Eilers & Krejcik Gaming, says it's possible that New

Jersey could become the top market next year due to a number of advantages.

"New Jersey's population advantage, drive-in traffic from New York, and superior mobile sports betting product are the primary forces driving New Jersey ahead of Nevada," he said. "It's not a guarantee, but it's certainly plausible."

New Jersey has nearly 9 million residents, about three times that of Nevada, where gambling is a tourist-driven industry.

And the ability to place bets from a mobile device is one reason why New Jersey has not had the same challenges meeting projections as other states offering sports betting for the first time, like Rhode Island, West Virginia and Mississippi.

Of course, New Jersey could be passed by other states as markets develop throughout the country. Right now, New Jersey benefits from a lack of legal sports betting in New York, and Pennsylvania's market is still in its infancy. **MDT/AP**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECTION

Distance from casino

Daniel Beittler

MACAU'S only declared candidate for Chief Executive might be viewed favorably by Beijing because of a lack of direct links with the city's dominant casino industry, reports GGRAsia.

The 61-year-old Ho Iat Seng, current chairman of the Legislative Assembly, last week confirmed his intent to run for the top post. He is not related to Edmund Ho, Macau's first chief executive, nor Stanley Ho, the gambling monopolist of the pre-liberalization era.

Though Ho currently stands unopposed, there is a great deal of speculation that this year, for the first time since the 1999 election, there will be more than a single name put forward for Chief Executive.

Among the possible contenders is Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam and Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak – even as the latter has stated he does not intend to run. A member of Macau's in-

fluential Ma clan might also be put forward as a candidate.

Whoever takes up the mantle, it will be during their term that the details of the gaming concessions will be resolved. Following extensions granted to SJM Holdings and MGM China earlier this year, all six concessionaires will see their licenses expire in 2022.

Whoever takes up the mantle will oversee the attribution of new gaming licenses starting 2022

"One of the most challenging tasks that the new Chief Executive has to face is to lead the re-bid process regarding Macau's gaming concessions, and to decide if the city should accommodate any new concessions,"

political commentator Larry So told GGRAsia.

"An advantage that Ho [Iat Seng] has is that he has a background as a businessman, but he has no direct [business] relation with the gaming industry," he said. "So in Beijing's eyes, Ho is in an objective position to lead on the city's gaming affairs."

Analyst Ben Lee, managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting, said that Beijing may want a fresh face leading the second phase of Macau's gaming industry. Lee told the Times that the Central Government is disappointed with the way the gaming industry is structured in Macau – "50% controlled by U.S. interests and almost a monopoly on Macau's economy and labor force" – and that it might back a candidate more responsive to the "constant calls for diversification [that] have achieved very little."

It is an opinion echoed by former Chief Executive candidate Stanley Au, who this week said that Ho's distant relationship with the gaming industry made him suitable for the role.

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RENATO MARQUES



Ho Iat Seng

But for other analysts, Ho's lack of experience in gaming might be a disadvantage.

Sérgio de Almeida Correia, a Macau lawyer with a specialist knowledge of gaming-related topics, told GGRAsia in an interview that "in terms of casino gaming issues, [Ho] also has no

experience whatsoever."

Moreover, it is "incomprehensible that, at a really important moment for the future of Macau, [Ho] dismissed the Legislative Assembly's most experienced legal advisor on gaming issues," added Correia, referring to Paulo Taipa, who

was dismissed along with veteran legal advisor Paulo Cardinal last year.

Taipa was "the only one who participated since the very first moment in drafting all the casino gaming legislation and followed the previous international tender."

GAMING | LAS VEGAS

The Lucky Dragon finally finds a new master

It was meant to be a formidable competitor on the Las Vegas skyline, attracting the Asian market that was grossly under-represented, according to its developers. However, in January 2018, less than a year after opening, the Lucky Dragon Casino & Hotel shut down its gambling operations and permanently closed eight months later.

Since then, it has been looking for someone willing to take a big gamble on the unlucky property, only to not find a single suitor — until now.

Six months after it closed for not paying its bills, the Lucky Dragon has a new owner, and, in terms of Las Vegas prices, the property was purchased for pennies.

Don Ahren, the chairman and CEO of a construction equipment rental company in Vegas, purchased the property for just USD36 million. It cost \$160 million to build the establishment two years ago.

Ahren expects to relaunch the property has a non-gaming hotel, capitalizing on the 203 keys originally offered by the venue. The casino space, which measures 27,500 square feet, will be converted

into conference and meeting areas.

That falls in line with the current campaign underway in Las Vegas to attract visitors for activities other than gaming. Ahren adds that the Lucky Dragon name will definitely be stripped away, but he has yet to decide on a replacement. History shows that he should stay away from names that contain "lucky" or "13."

The Lucky Dragon was unlucky for a great number of individuals.

Investments were collected from a number of Chinese nationals who were offered residency in the U.S. in exchange for their money. However, because the Lucky Dragon never really got off the ground, those investors have lost their money, as well as the shot at residency in the United States.

There's still a little hope for them, though, as they have been reportedly working with lawyers to try and figure out a solution to their issues. They had previously hoped to be able to recuperate something from the sale of the property, but, at a sales price of just \$36,000, there isn't anything to offer. **MDT/Calvin Ayre**

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HONG KONG

Biggest luxury property sale of the year

A paper tycoon and his wife are reported to have made Hong Kong's most expensive luxury property purchase this year, paying HKD1.45 billion (USD180 million) for a nine-apartment complex in Repulse Bay. Raymond Lee, the chairman and co-founder of Lee & Man Paper Manufacturing Ltd., and his wife, Wong Man Yi, are directors of a private company that bought 8 Headland Road this month, the South China Morning Post reported, citing land registry and company records. The seller of the three-story property was American International Assurance Co., the newspaper said. The deal comes as Hong Kong's property market makes a comeback: prices have climbed for 10 straight weeks, rebounding from a slide that began last August.

SHENZHEN

White paper on intellectual property released

The city of Shenzhen has released a white paper on intellectual property. Domestic patent applications in the city reached 228,608 in 2018, up 29.08 percent year on year, according to the white paper. A total of 18,081 applications under the patent cooperation treaty of the World Intellectual Property Organization, including 5,405 from Chinese technology giant Huawei, were filed in the city last year, accounting for 34.8 percent of the country's total. The city investigated 1,224 intellectual property right infringement cases in 2018, including 1,082 closed.

HONG KONG

The 'most courteous immigration control officer'

Senior Immigration Assistant Ng Kwok-cheung of Immigration Department of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has been elected Hong Kong's 'Most Courteous Immigration Control Officer', with a prize presentation ceremony held on Wednesday. The Most Courteous Immigration Control Officers Election has been held annually over the past years to encourage front-line officers to conduct effective immigration control and provide quality services to the public with devotion and courtesy.

BLOOMBERG



The Standard Chartered Bank building (center), HSBC Holdings Plc headquarters building (center right) and other buildings standing illuminated and shrouded in clouds are seen from Victoria Peak at night in Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Minsheng Bank said to be subject of regulator warning

Benjamin Robertson, Carol Zhong & Annie Lee

CHINA Minsheng Banking Corp. is the unidentified lender that was the subject of a Hong Kong regulatory warning about risky lending practices, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Hong Kong's securities regulator and central bank said late Wednesday that they had inspected the local unit of a Chinese bank and found that it had entered into transactions that "make it difficult to conduct rigorous risk assessment." They were referring to Minsheng Bank, the people said, asking not to be identified because the details aren't public.

Shares in Minsheng Bank unit CMBC Capital Holdings Ltd. fell as much as 7.1 percent in Hong Kong yesterday after shareholder activist David Webb on his blog linked the firm to the regulators' announcement. In October, Webb named Minsheng Bank and CMBC among 26 stocks "not to own" due to a complex web of dealings. Hong Kong Economic Journal late Wednesday also named Minsheng Bank and its local unit in relation to the matter, citing unnamed sources.

Minsheng Bank said in a statement it has a "complete" internal control system, and strictly complies with regulators' requirements. The bank didn't directly address whether it was

the subject of the Wednesday regulatory notice, and added that it will step up self-inspection and compliance management to ensure its businesses are "legitimate and compliant."

Spokespersons for the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Securities and Futures Commission declined to comment.

Hong Kong regulators have repeatedly sounded warnings about lenders getting into complex financing transactions, as they step up scrutiny of financial institutions. One key objective for officials has been to ensure that such deals don't end up jeopardizing financial stability. Wednesday's statement noted that other Chinese banks have engaged in similar activities.

"Banks should ensure that credit facilities granted to their subsidiaries and affiliated companies or those of their holding company are granted on an arm's length basis," the regulators said in Wednesday's statement.

In the example given by the HKMA and SFC on Wednesday, a subsidiary of the unnamed Chinese bank obtained a credit facility from its parent, and then made a large investment in a private fund. That fund's only purpose was to provide a loan to a special purpose vehicle owned by a substantial shareholder of a public company. Firms that have similar arrangements should "review them urgently," the regulators said. **Bloomberg**

GUANGZHOU

Chinese customs seize fake Intel chips

CUSTOMS authorities in south China said it has seized a batch of chips, watches and women's bags that infringed upon intellectual property rights (IPR).

The Huangpu Customs made the seizure when they were inspecting a batch of parcels to be shipped across the border.

"When we used an X-ray to check the parcels, we discovered

that the X-ray images were not consistent with what was on the paper," said Huang Hongjie, an e-commerce inspector of the customs at the Dongguan post office.

The boxes are printed with logos of Intel Core i7 CPU but the products inside had gathered rust, and did not look like authentic Intel CPUs, he said. The 836 CPUs were found to be refurbished ones, and

therefore infringed upon Intel's IPR, he said.

Inspectors also found 25 watches and 31 women's bags which were knockoffs of Gucci and Cartier brands.

Huang said the fake goods fit a pattern in which domestic sellers mail used or knock-off products overseas to personal shoppers, who sell them back to Chinese buyers.

"IPR protection has

become one of the important functions of customs. We continue to fight the entry and exit of commodities that infringe upon IPRs through more strict inspections and targeted crackdowns," Huang said.

Huangpu Customs oversees an important maritime foreign trade corridor in south China. In 2018, the total value of imports and exports under its

jurisdiction was 1.53 trillion yuan (USD228 billion).

Since 2018, the Huangpu Customs seized 6 million yuan worth of goods that were suspected to have violated IPR.

Bao Liming, deputy director of the customs, promised strict IPR protection to protect scientific innovation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. **Xinhua**

GBA skepticism is groundless, says Forum Macau official

Renato Marques

DURING a talk on the Greater Bay Area (GBA) organized by the Rui Cunha Foundation, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation Between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries (Forum Macau) Rodrigo Brum noted that the GBA plan "would be an example" to the world and to China in terms of cooperation and growth.

Brum expressed the idea that people, namely in Macau, had looked at previous projects with skepticism, such as the Platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries and others, seeing them as meaningless jargon which did not represent much in practical terms.

"This is not the case for the GBA. This is an all new plan, very different from others in the past and, above all, it is the first time that we have had such an initiative coming directly from [the Central Government in] Beijing," Brum said, highlighting and recognizing the central government's "capacity of planning and executing [projects]."

Brum admitted that the purpose of his speech was



Rodrigo Brum (left)

to try to "clear the skepticism" and make people understand the importance of such an initiative for Macau.

He had tried to "shock" the audience with figures and statistics about the GBA in the context of China and the world, in terms of the economy, finance, technology and trade.

The official noted Macau's role in the plan contains a considerable number of references to the Portuguese-speaking countries, noting that Macau's role is now about "linking the GBA to the Portuguese-speaking countries" as a financial center and manager of investments in those countries.

Brum noted "these de-

velopments from the GBA go beyond the role of the Forum Macau," and would continue to develop on a role of information disclosure.

He elected the "finance platform" as the most relevant upcoming GBA project for producing effective results.

"The future of Macau and of China itself are, at least in part, connected with the success of the GBA," Brum concluded. "This project [Finance Platform] of the GBA is, for the Portuguese-speaking countries and for the businessmen of these countries, one of the most important challenges they have to face in terms of their business relationship with China."



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Candidates are expected to engage in research and industry collaborations as well as teach and develop the subject areas above. For a full list of subjects in the current curriculum and details of the academic unit, please visit www.ift.edu.mo.

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- Identity card or passport copy
- Full resume
- Cover letter
- List of academic journals or articles published (if available) with ISBN

Applications will not be considered if the required qualifications and teaching experiences are not supported by certificates, testimonials and/or verifiable evidence or no identity card or passport copies are provided.

Application closes on 15 May 2019

- The selected candidates are expected to assume duty in fourth-quarter of 2019 or earlier.
- Final result name list will be announced on IFT website around third-quarter of 2019 or earlier.
- Please note that ALL application materials must be received by the closing date (Macao time). Application received by IFT after the closing date will only be included in the next round of recruitment, if applicable.
- Personal data provided by applicants will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purpose only.

For application details, please visit <http://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies>.

For enquiries, please send to Job Vacancies On-line enquiry

<http://www.ift.edu.mo/visitors/job-vacancies/job-vacancies-on-line-enquiry>.

FORUM

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Huawei to provide telecom equipment to Mozambique

MOZAMBICAN telecoms company Tmcel will spend USD23 million on telecommunications equipment under a contract signed this week in Beijing with Chinese group Huawei, Mozambican state news agency AIM reported.

The amount to be invested by Tmcel will come from the company's own resources. AIM reported that this amount will be the result of the sale of assets "which are not the main focus of Tmcel's business,"

and added that under the terms of the contract, this project will start as soon as possible.

Mozambique's Minister of Transport and Communications, Carlos Mesquita, said that an investment project, also in the telecommunications sector, with an estimated value of \$130 million, is due to be launched this year.

Mesquita said that this project, whose contribution from China he did not disclose, is focused on ins-

talling a fibre optic network in Mozambique, linking the north and south of the country, as well as the hubs that connect to neighboring countries.

"The project is well underway, it has already been approved by the Chinese government, and the practical aspects of the disbursements are now going ahead," said Mesquita, who is a member of the presidential delegation to the 2nd International "Belt and Road" Forum.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Want to know how much your property is worth?

Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property. JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

www.JMLProperty.com
info@JMLProperty.com



SAM LEE

There are many situations where you might need to know how much your property is worth, including financing, sales listing, investment analysis, property insurance and taxation. Or you might have owned the property for a while, and just want to know what it might be worth now!

Fundamentally speaking, there are many things that affect the value of a property such as demand, utility and scarcity. Macroeconomic, political, and demographic factors are taken into consideration as well.

However, each property is unique, and real estate valuations are inevitably a mixture between science and art. It's wise to remember that ultimately, 'value' is in the eye of the beholder.

There are various appraisal methods, and which one you use largely depends on what kind of property you are appraising.

The first and perhaps the most familiar and common approach

is the 'Sales Comparison Approach'. In this approach, you simply take your property and compare it against other sold properties that are as similar to yours as possible. For example, if you own an 'F Unit' apartment in Manhattan, you would look for examples of other F Units in similar conditions that have sold within the last year.

Some properties, such as the white houses along Hac Sa beach, might not have recent transactions to benchmark against. This can make the sales comparison method a bit tricky at times.

In Macau, if you are looking to take out a mortgage to purchase a property or want to refinance an existing property, the banks will give you a bank valuation. While this valuation can be useful as a point of reference, it must be noted that this is different from the market value of the property. The bank valuation is simply the value at which the bank

is ready to loan you money on and will most likely be quite conservative. This valuation depends on the individual risk tolerance and preferences of the bank, so if you take the same property to 5 banks, you'll get 5 different numbers. To get a market valuation, it's better to consult a property agent who is active in that market. However, some agents will give you a slightly inflated number in order to create a 'cushion' for negotiations with the buyer. The final sales price will most likely be somewhere between the bank valuation and what the agent initially says your property is worth. The second, and less common approach to appraisals is the 'Income Capitalization Approach'. This approach is more commonly used for commercial properties or large income-producing residential properties and deduces the fair market value of the property from how much net income it produces.

Tesla says China output may hit 2,000 a week this year

ELON Musk said Tesla Inc.'s production in China, the world's largest electric-car market, could reach a rate of 2,000 vehicles a week by the end of the year.

"It looks like we will reach volume production at the end of this year with at least more than 1,000 cars a week, maybe 2,000," Musk said on an earnings conference call on Wednesday. "If it's not then, it will be shortly thereafter."

Musk was responding to an analyst's question about whether he was still confident in reaching a 3,000-cars-a-week target. In January, Tesla's chief executive officer said he was initially aiming for output of 3,000 Model 3 cars a week in Shanghai, though he didn't specify when that target would be reached. Tesla's first Chinese factory, which is under construction, will help the company to avoid

the current 15 percent tariff on imported cars from the U.S., making its pricing more competitive against local brands.

The need for Tesla to expand beyond its home market of the U.S. was highlighted by the earnings it reported Wednesday, with first-quarter results missing analysts' projections. The halving of a federal tax incentive for Tesla purchases starting in January dragged on U.S. demand in the quarter, and Tesla struggled to offset that drop by starting deliveries of the Model 3 in Europe and China.

Shares of Tesla ended the U.S. post-market trading session little changed. The stock has lost 22 percent this year.

China has been supporting the construction of Tesla's Shanghai factory, with the company securing up to \$521 million in China bank loans to finance the plant. A Shanghai

government official said in March that he expected the factory's assembly shop to complete construction in May.

"We have 99 percent of things in good shape," Musk said. "But if 1 percent is missing you still can't make a car."

Musk also said Tesla is working to have multiple battery-cell suppliers for the Shanghai factory. Tesla, which has thus far relied on Panasonic Corp. batteries, is in talks with top Chinese battery producer Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd. about supplying cells for the Model 3 cars it will assemble in Shanghai, people familiar with the matter have said.

Earlier this week, a video of a Tesla sedan catching fire in a Shanghai garage went viral in China. A Shanghai fire department said Wednesday it is yet to determine the cause for the fire, with an investigation continuing. **Bloomberg**



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Farming veteran warns China's pig crisis only getting worse

Alfred Cang & Anna Kitanaka

IN almost 40 years of analyzing commodity markets, Arlan Suderman says he has never witnessed an industry-jolting event as dramatic as the contagion spreading across China's hog farms.

The chief commodities economist at INTL FCStone Inc., the New York-based brokerage, has been warning clients about the impact of African swine fever, which he says is not only under-reported but will spur a restructure of China's entire farm industry and trigger an escalation in meat prices globally. Most react in disbelief, Suderman said, but the situation is likely to worsen before it gets better.

"I have never encountered anything of the scope of African swine fever before," Suderman said in a phone interview from his office in Kansas City, where he's been fielding reports from a 10-strong team on the ground in China. "This is going to be a big, world story."

The viral disease, first reported in China in August, has infected swine across the nation, as well as Mongolia, Vietnam and Cambodia. In China, which raises half the world's hogs, it's led to the death and destruction of millions of pigs, pushing up pork prices and causing reverberations across global grain, meat and financial markets, as well as the Chinese economy. Latest forecasts point to a loss of swine this year equivalent to the European Union's annual supply.

Before joining FCStone, which specializes in commodities and dates its origins back almost 100 years to a door-to-door egg wholesaler, Suderman's career included 12 years focusing on crop production efficiency and marketing risk management at Kansas

BLOOMBERG



State University Extension Service and another 12 years working for Farm Progress Cos.

Suderman has his doubts about official data in China that shows a slowdown in the number of pigs affected since late 2018, with the government saying the disease is "under effective control." He offers some of the most pessimistic estimates among industry insiders, informed by his colleagues in China. Just last week, they reported to him that African swine fever is "spreading just as badly as it has been, and is continuing to get worse," he said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture echoes Suderman's views, saying last month that hog farms are "vastly" under reporting outbreaks. "Unofficial reports from China suggest far greater losses" than official data that shows culls are a fraction of China's total hog supply, the USDA said in a separate report earlier this month.

Three farmers in Hebei and Sichuan provinces declined to

speak publicly about the hesitation to report infected pigs, citing the political sensitivity of the matter, but conceded that under reporting was rife in their areas. Although hog farms are required to report outbreaks to their local governments, the infections may not be recorded by officials because of the subsequent cost of compensating farmers for the livestock losses, and fear of a political backlash for disclosing the widespread nature of the disease.

No one answered calls to the agricultural departments of Hebei and Sichuan provinces. A fax inquiry sent to China's agriculture ministry wasn't replied to.

UNOFFICIAL LOSSES

The Chinese government says more than a million hogs have been culled since last August, compared to an inventory of about 400 million pigs. Live pig stocks have fallen by about 19 percent in March from a year ago, while the number of productive sow herds have fallen by 21

percent, the country's agriculture ministry said on Tuesday. Spot pork prices in China are up about 14 percent since Aug. 1, when the disease was first reported.

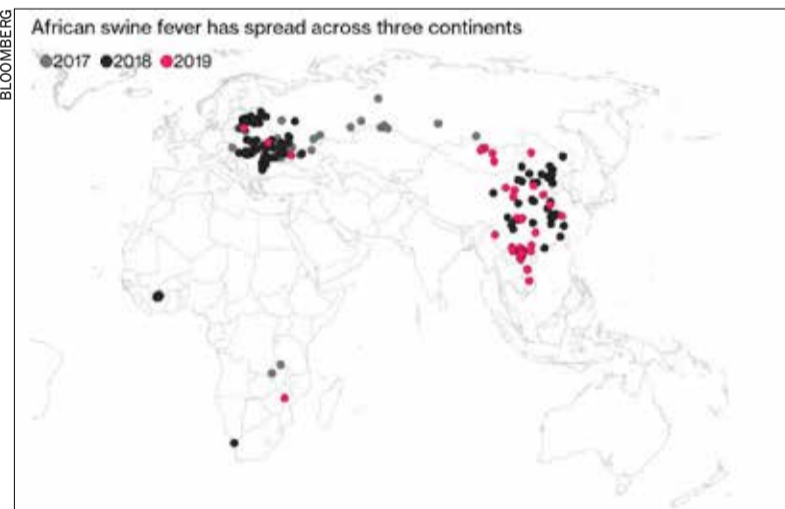
Suderman estimates that China's nationwide pig feeding has dropped by more than 40 percent, or about 300 million hogs in terms of annual production. That includes swine that have been killed by the virus as well

as panicked farmers that have liquidated their herds and are avoiding restocking for fear of the disease, he said. A survey by Bloomberg of 11 analysts and traders estimated an average decline of 30 percent.

In Shandong, one of China's top breeding regions, official data show hog feeding was down 33 percent in March compared to a year ago. Based on reports from FCStone's sources in China, including local feed suppliers, Suderman estimates it's down more than 50 percent in the region and is continuing to deteriorate. The brokerage, which serves more than 20,000 customers in 130 countries, is receiving information from clients across China's pork supply chain, Suderman said.

There is no vaccine to prevent pigs from being infected and developing one could take years. It may be five to seven years before the disease stops spreading and farms replenish lost stocks, he said. That could result in an annualized pork deficit of 16.2 million tons, said Suderman - an amount 1.3 times larger than what the U.S. produced last year.

"That capacity isn't available anywhere in the world unless China is willing to pay a high enough price to bid that meat out of the hands of consumers in the U.S. as well as the rest of the world," he said. "I don't think there's enough refrigerated ocean freighters to fill that gap even if China is able to buy it." **Bloomberg**



corporate bits

MGM, FUHONG SOCIETY LAUNCH SPECIAL NEEDS PROJECT AT VOCATIONAL TRAINING ROOM



In order to develop and help students with special needs, MGM and Fuhong Society of Macau recently launched a joint project to help polish up their employment skills in the

hotel industry.

The MGM Vocational Training Room, located at Pou Lei Center of Fuhong Society of Macau, is a model of a hotel guest room fea-

ring MGM design elements. Through this long-term vocational program facilitated by MGM Housekeeping trainers, Fuhong members can receive housekeeping training in highly realistic surroundings, mastering knowledge and skills in guest room cleaning while enhancing their communication skills with MGM's housekeeping team members.

Wendy Yu, senior vice president of human resources at MGM, said "We believe every person is important and can play an active role in society. With the vocational training center, MGM is delighted to be part of their journey of building a self-sufficient life and making great moments for themselves and their family."

SANDS CHINA, MGTO HOLD THIRD CELEBRITY MENTOR WORKSHOP



Sands China Ltd. and the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) held the third instalment of the Celebrity Mentor Workshop Series at The Venetian Macao, led by former Hong Kong news anchor and television host Cheung Wai Tsz.

A professional communications trainer, Cheung delivered her well-attended Power Communication Skills workshop to a group of approximately 250 retail professionals.

The Celebrity Mentor Workshop Series was laun-

ched in October. The training program invites celebrity mentors to conduct customer service workshops for retailers in Macau, including employees of retail outlets at Sands Shoppes, Sands China's four interconnected malls comprising of more than 850 retailers.

The workshops allow retail employees to learn from experts in their respective fields, better equipping them to provide the best experience for shoppers.

During the session, Cheung covered topics like communication psychology and building rapport with a diverse range of people. With an interactive training style, the workshop provided theory with practical skills and case studies for the attendees.

Yoyo Chow & Alice Fung,
Hong Kong

TRADITION

Hand-carved mahjong tiles are a dying craft

JUST opposite the entrance to a neon-lit night market, one of Hong Kong's few remaining carvers of mahjong tiles engraves the two Chinese characters for the number 8,000 on a piece of acrylic.

With a knife in his right hand, Cheung Shun-king turns the tile with the other to cut into it. From time to time, he gently blows away the shavings.

His is a dying craft in an era of mass-produced tiles for the table-top game, popular in southern China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The 65-year-old artisan believes there are only three or four carvers left in Hong Kong. Cheung is trying to revive interest in the tradition by holding workshops to demonstrate how the tiles are made.

"For hand-carved mahjong tiles, when you look closely, you can see each of them is different," he said inside his shop, a 100-square-foot (9-square-meter) space on the ground-floor of an old-style shop-house. "It is because I carve them one after another, complete them one by one instead of using a mold. Sometimes, the strength I apply may be different if I just have had a meal or chat while carving."

Played at Lunar New Year and other gatherings, mahjong has become a symbol of friendship and family bonds. Chinese restaurants provide tables and mahjong sets to customers

AP PHOTO



Cheung Shun-king, 65, one of the last carvers of the popular table-top game mahjong tiles

who host wedding or birthday banquets. Hong Kong once was dotted with mahjong parlors, where people could play against strangers for money, but few are left.

Each mahjong set has 144 tiles with designs that include Chinese characters, dots, flowers and bamboo sticks. The four players sit around a square

table and shuffle the tiles face-down. Each arranges a set of tiles, like a hand of cards, before the game starts. They then take turns drawing and discarding the tiles until one player forms a winning combination.

It takes Cheung nearly a week to make one set, because he usually carves only at night, when he isn't serving custo-

mers and running errands. After carving the tiles, he cleans and paints them in three colors: green, blue and red. The final step is to rub and wipe away the excess dried paint.

A set of his tiles sells for at least USD400, nearly tenfold the price of factory-made tiles.

He started a recent workshop by demonstrating how he en-

graves the tiles, so the participants can learn basic skills such as the proper posture to sit and hold a carving knife. Then, he went around the room teaching them one-on-one.

"Once you tried, you know, hacking your way with one of these, then you can see the intense skill it takes just to make a few strokes and to get something so beautiful out of it," said one student, Adrian O'Sullivan, a 28-year-old elementary school teacher.

■ His is a dying craft in an era of mass-produced tiles for the table-top game

Cheung doesn't expect them to become master carvers. At the end of the class, he retouches the tiles made by the students so they have a good-looking one to take home.

"There used to be more than 10 mahjong stores along this street," he said. "Before when it was a flourishing business, it wasn't a problem even if there were many of us. Now there are only one to two stores in this area and business is poor. It's because the younger generations don't play mahjong that often anymore. Even if they play it, they play on their phones alone." AP

China faces debt fears ahead of construction forum

CHINA'S finance minister tried yesterday to dispel complaints its Belt and Road infrastructure-building initiative leaves developing countries with too much debt, promising "sustainable financing" as leaders gathered to celebrate the project.

Liu Kun's comments came as Chinese authorities blanketed the capital with security for the forum celebrating President Xi Jinping's signature foreign initiative.

Developing nations have welcomed the initiative to increase trade by building ports and other facilities in a region the Asian Development Bank says needs USD26 trillion of investment by 2030 to keep economies growing. But countries including Malaysia and Thailand have canceled or scaled back projects due to high costs, while some others are struggling to repay

AP PHOTO



Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta (left) arrives the venue of meeting with President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Chinese loans.

Beijing will pursue "stable and sustainable financing," said the finance minister, Liu Kun, at an event held ahead of today's start of the second Belt and Road Forum.

Chinese regulators will work with banks and multinational institutions to "build a high-quality,

high-standard, sustainable financing system," said Liu.

This week's conference brings together leaders or envoys from three dozen countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, Serbia, Myanmar and Kenya.

Police and paramilitary troops patrolled Beijing streets and subway sta-

tions. Major traffic arteries in the city of 22 million people are due to be closed for official motorcades.

Asian and African leaders are expected to press Beijing to reduce financing costs for Belt and Road projects. That might inject a note of tension into one of China's

highest-profile political events this year.

Most Belt and Road projects are built by Chinese state-owned companies and are paid for with loans from government banks at commercial interest rates.

Chinese lenders have provided \$440 billion in financing, according to the country's central bank governor, Yi Gang, who spoke at the event with Liu. He gave no details of how much has been repaid or how much is deemed to be at risk of possible default.

In addition, some 500 billion yuan (\$75 billion) has been raised in Chinese bond markets, according to Yi, who spoke at the event with Liu.

On Wednesday, Ethiopia announced Beijing had forgiven interest owed through the end of 2018 on Belt and Road loans to the northeast African country.

Development experts

have expressed concern Chinese-led projects might cause environmental harm or allow corruption.

But Xi's initiative is gradually winning wider support despite worries in the United States, Russia, Japan and India that China is trying to expand its strategic influence at their expense.

In March, Italy became the first member of the Group of Seven major economies, which includes the United States, to sign an agreement to support Belt and Road.

Chinese officials say they are examining borrowers more carefully to ensure they can repay loans.

Possibly due to that, the number of new Belt and Road projects has plunged.

The total value of new contracts fell 42 percent in the first half of 2018 compared with a year earlier, according to Moody's. AP

China and Russia to hold joint navy drills next week

CHINA said that it will hold joint naval drills with Russia next week, in another sign that the countries' militaries are growing closer in the face of shared opposition to U.S. military dominance.

The "Joint Sea 2019" drills will be held off the northern port city of Qingdao, Defense Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang said at a monthly briefing. Taking place from Monday to Saturday, they will feature ships and submarines along with fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and marine units.

Ren described the drills as "joint maritime defensive operations" aimed at "strengthening the two navies' capability to commonly address maritime security threats."

"The exercise does not target any third parties," Ren said.



Russian sailors stand on the deck of the Russian frigate Admiral Gorshkov as it docks at a port in Qingdao

Bonded by a common rivalry with the U.S., Moscow and Beijing have forged what they describe as a "strategic partnership," expressing their shared opposition to the "unipolar" world — a term they use to describe perceived U.S. global dominance.

Last September, about 3,200 Chinese troops joined Russia's largest-ever war games in Siberia, in which nearly 300,000 Russian troops conducted drills.

drills.

China's People's Liberation Army Navy marked its 70th anniversary this week with a fleet review attended by President Xi Jinping, who is also head of the armed forces and has expanded the country's military might. Last year, Xi said the mission of transforming China's navy into a "first-rate world navy" has "never been more urgent."

China has taken an ag-

gressive approach to its territorial claims in the South China Sea, where it has built military installations on man-made islands in the waters claimed by several other nations.

To achieve those goals, it is also building ships at a faster rate than any other country, with many, such as its latest 10,000-ton displacement type 055 guided missile destroyer, boasting cutting-edge combat capabilities. **AP**

Beijing says French ship entered its waters illegally

CHINA yesterday said it has complained to France after a French warship entered Chinese territorial waters while passing through the Taiwan Strait this month.

In a related development, Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua blamed British activity in the South China Sea for a downturn in relations in comments at the start of a meeting with British treasury chief Philip Hammond.

The complaint and Hu's comments appear to illustrate how China is now willing to permit assertions of its territorial claims to affect ties with nations from outside the region.

The April 7 incident in the Taiwan Strait marks a rare case of military friction between the two countries, which have held joint search and rescue

exercises before.

Ren said the navy dispatched ships to identify, warn and escort the French ship and would remain "highly alert to firmly safeguard China's sovereignty and security."

It was not immediately clear whether France had responded to the Chinese complaint.

The 160-kilometer-wide Taiwan Strait divides mainland China from Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory. It is considered an international waterway heavily trafficked by ships from all nations, many of them bound for Chinese ports.

However, China is highly sensitive to operations by foreign warships near areas it claims, such as the South China Sea, where it has built military installations atop seven man-made islands. **AP**



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AP PHOTO



Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako in 2013

JAPAN

New emperor Naruhito: A cosmopolitan team player

Mari Yamaguchi
& Kaori Hitomi, Tokyo

JAPAN'S soon-to-be-anointed new emperor is a musician and historian, both mild-mannered and quietly tenacious, a team player and a loyal husband and friend who will bring an unusually global perspective to an ancient institution when he ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1.

Because Naruhito, 59, will be more distanced from the World War II shadows that his 85-year-old father, Akihito, labored under, he may also enjoy greater liberty in shaping the contours of his reign.

Japan's constitution gives the emperor only symbolic status, and Naruhito is likely to emulate his father, who has embraced his role as national symbol. Akihito will end his three-decade reign by abdicating on April 30.

Naruhito, the first Japanese emperor to have studied abroad, is considered a new breed of royal, his outlook forged by the tradition-defying choices of his mother, Empress Michiko, and Akihito, who broke with ancient imperial traditions by opening up the cloistered palace to the people.

Akihito and Michiko, who was born a commoner, chose to largely raise their own children instead of relying on palace staff for parenting.

And they supported Naruhito when he chose to attend Oxford, where he researched the history of the Thames River transportation systems during his time there from 1983 to 1985.

"He will be a fantastic emperor," said Keith George, 57, a friend of Naruhito's since their days at Oxford. "He is a caring person. He is a humble person. But he has never forgotten his duties as the crown prince, and he will never forget them as the emperor."

The two young men hit it off from the start, and George remembers Naruhito both for his sense of humor and their shared love of music: George played bluegrass and country music on the banjo, and Naruhito played the viola.

The crown prince's attentiveness and ability to play down his royal status made a strong impression. "He doesn't look at everything in terms of what it means for him. He looks at it in terms of what it means for the people around him," George, now a lawyer, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press at his office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Naruhito's memoir about his experience in Britain includes humorous accounts of his life away from home, including a mishap with an overflowing laundry machine.

Naruhito will be the 126th emperor, but his role will be strikingly different from that of his grandfather Hirohito. Only with Japan's 1945 surrender in World War II did the Showa Emperor, which is what Hirohito is now called, cease being treated as a living god. Under Japan's U.S.-inspired pacifist constitution, the emperor has no political power.

In an annual news conference marking his Feb. 23 birthday, Naruhito said he was open to taking up a new role that "suits the times." But he said his father's work will be his guidepost.

"I hope to see him develop his own way of doing things in coming years," Toshio Shiraishi, a longtime friend of Naruhito, told the AP. "The crown prince has closely watched the work of the Showa Emperor and the current emperor and learned from them, while trying to figure out what his role could be."

Shiraishi, a gray-haired banker who plays the cello, says the crown prince's choice of instrument — viola — shows a lot about the kind of man he is.

In an essay he contributed for a concert brochure, Naruhito once wrote: "I'm starting to understand the role of viola, which doesn't stand out, but (is needed because the) harmony becomes lonesome without it. [...] It's a joy to have chosen the viola as

a friend through which I could meet people and play music together."

Naruhito is likewise both a good listener and conversationalist, Shiraishi said.

"He encourages people to talk and helps enrich a conversation," he said. "He doesn't want to be a star; instead he wants to be with people and work together."

■ Naruhito, the first Japanese emperor to have studied abroad, is considered a new breed of royal

Palace watchers say that as emperor, Naruhito might focus on global issues, including disaster prevention and water conservation. He has researched such topics since his 1987 visit to Nepal, where he saw women and young children traveling long distances to fetch water.

Naruhito's wife, the future Empress Masako, is a Harvard-educated former diplomat who may prove an adept partner in

his overseas travels and activities. But much will depend on her health, since she has been recovering from what the palace describes as stress-induced depression for about 15 years.

Naruhito has shown himself to be determined. It took him eight years and two rejections before he managed to persuade Masako, who he met at a party in 1986, to marry him.

Masako has largely limited her public appearances since late 2003, after giving birth to their only daughter, Princess Aiko, and facing pressure to produce a son. Naruhito has defended her and said he hopes Masako might slowly expand her role.

The imperial household faces other uncertainties. Only Naruhito's younger brother, Prince Akishino, 53, and Akishino's 12-year-old son, Prince Hisahito, can currently succeed him as emperor since the Imperial House Law confines that role to male heirs. Naruhito's daughter, Aiko, now 17, is not in the running.

Whatever happens, Naruhito will need "a strong will" similar to his father's if he's to pursue his own path as emperor, said Takeshi Hara, a Meiji Gakuin University professor and expert on Japan's monarchy.

George, the friend from Oxford, says he is confident Naruhito can handle his future duties. While at Oxford, where they often went out for drinks and dinners, the crown prince admitted how much he enjoyed the freedom of being a student. Still, he never lamented his destiny, George said.

"Never once did I ever see or feel that he had felt that as a burden," he said. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Morrison plays down terror threat at Gallipoli event

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister played down yesterday any potential link between the arrest of a suspected Islamic State group member in Turkey and a World War I battle commemoration in Gallipoli attended by hundreds of Australians and New Zealanders.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison was responding to media reports that detained Syrian national Abdulkerim Hilef had been planning an attack on the annual dawn service at ANZAC Cove to mark the April 25, 1915, landing of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps troops in an ill-fated campaign to take the Dardanelles Straits.

Morrison said the arrest took place three hours away from the Gallipoli service and no changes to security were made as a result.

"The reports that we are receiving are inconclusive about any link between that arrest and

AP PHOTO



any possible planned event at Gallipoli itself," Morrison told reporters. "In fact, to make that assumption would be, I think, making a very big assumption."

A Turkish official agreed that the 26-year-old suspect's arrest was unconnected to the Gallipoli

ceremonies. He was detained in the northwestern province of Tekirdag because he had been in contact with a group of Islamic State group suspects near the Syrian border in the southern Turkish province of Osmaniye, the official said.

The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations that bar civil servants from speaking publicly without prior authorization.

Morrison said Australian Defense Force Chief Gen. Angus Campbell represented Australia at the service and praised Turkish police and military security.

"I was not concerned for the safety or security of this event," Campbell told reporters at Gallipoli.

The Australian government estimated more than 1,400 attended the service under tight security involving x-ray screening and armed Turkish military guards.

Concerns over security at Gallipoli escalated last month after an Australian was arrested following the killings of 50 worshippers at two mosques in New Zealand on March 15.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that

Australians and New Zealanders visiting Turkey with anti-Muslim views would return home in coffins, like their ancestors who fought at Gallipoli.

Morrison slammed the comments as "highly offensive."

Yesterday, Erdogan issued a welcoming message of peace, saying it was everyone's duty to "protect the message of friendship that was etched in Gallipoli on rocks, earth and the sea, through blood, life, determination and courage."

"A great responsibility befalls us all to ensure that no new war takes place and the generations to come can live in peace," Erdogan said.

"I commemorate our Gallipoli heroes and salute our guests attending the ceremonies [...] with sincere feelings," he added.


Erdogan's statement did not mention the Syrian's arrest.


ANZAC Day services were held throughout Australia and New Zealand on Thursday, with Britain's Prince William laying a wreath in the New Zealand city of Auckland.

On Friday, the Duke of Cambridge is to visit the mosques in Christchurch where 50 Muslims were killed and another 50 wounded.

Attendance at the Gallipoli dawn service has been falling since the centenary in 2015. **AP**


AD


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AP PHOTO

“If we give Donald Trump eight years in the White House, he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation — who we are.”

JOE BIDEN



USA

Ex-Vice President Joe Biden launches 2020 White House bid

Steve Peoples
& Thomas Beaumont, Washington

FORMER Vice President Joe Biden formally joined the crowded Democratic presidential contest yesterday, declaring the “soul of this nation” at stake if President Donald Trump wins re-election.

In a video posted on Twitter, Biden focused on the 2017 deadly clash between white supremacists and counter protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia. Biden noted Trump’s comments that there were some “very fine people” on both sides of the violent encounter, which left one woman dead.

“We are in the battle for the soul of this nation,” Biden said. “If we give Donald Trump eight years in the White House, he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation — who we are. And I cannot stand by and watch that happen.”

The 76-year-old Biden becomes an instant front-runner alongside Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is leading many polls and has proved to be a successful fundraiser. Among Democrats, Biden has unmatched international and legislative experience, and he is among the best-known faces in U.S. politics. He quickly racked up endorsements yesterday morning, becoming the first Democrat running for president with the

backing of more than one U.S. senator.

Still, Biden must compete in a field that now spans at least 20 Democrats and has been celebrated for its racial and gender diversity. As an older white man with occasionally centrist views, Biden has to prove he’s not out of step with his party.

He’s yet to outline his positions on the issues defining the 2020 Democratic primary, most notably “Medicare for All,” the universal health care plan authored by Sanders that has been adopted by virtually the entire Democratic field.

The native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is betting that his working-class appeal and ties to Barack Obama’s presidency will help him convince skeptics.

Just minutes after the announcement, the GOP lashed out against Biden’s record in the Obama administration, a line of attack in sharp contrast with recent criticism against other 2020 Democrats that has largely focused on them being too liberal, or even socialists.

“Biden’s fingerprints are all over foreign policy blunders and the weakest economic recovery since World War II,” Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Ahrens said. “We don’t need eight more years of Biden. Just ask President Obama, who isn’t even endorsing his right-hand man.”

While it’s true that Obama hasn’t explicitly endorsed Biden’s bid, the former president took the unusual step of weighing in on the announcement through a spokeswoman.

“President Obama has long said that selecting Joe Biden as his running mate in 2008 was one of the best decisions he ever made,” Obama spokeswoman Katie Hill said. “He relied on the vice president’s knowledge, insight, and judgment throughout both campaigns and the entire presidency. The two forged a special bond over the last 10 years and remain close today.”

Privately, Trump allies have warned that Biden might be the biggest re-election threat given the former vice president’s potential appeal among the white working class in the Midwest, the region that gave Trump a path to the presidency.

Biden is paying special attention to his native Pennsylvania, a state that swung to Trump in 2016 after voting for Democratic presidential candidates for decades. While Biden represented Delaware in the Senate for 36 years, he was often referred to as Pennsylvania’s third senator.

The former vice president will be in the state three times within the opening weeks of his campaign. He’ll be in Philadelphia today [Macau time] headlining a fundraiser at the home of David L. Cohen, executive senior vice

president of Comcast. Biden is aiming to raise USD500,000 at the event.

He will hold his first public event as a 2020 presidential candidate in Pittsburgh on Monday. Then it’s off to Iowa, home of the leadoff nominating caucuses on Tuesday and Wednesday, followed by two days in South Carolina. He’ll visit the other two early-voting states, Nevada and New Hampshire, in early May, before holding a major rally in Philadelphia.

Biden’s first media appearance is set for Friday morning on ABC’s “The View,” a move that may help him make an appeal to women whose support will be crucial to winning the primary.

As he neared his campaign launch, Biden’s challenges have come into greater focus.

He struggled last month to respond to claims that he touched 2014 Nevada lieutenant governor nominee Lucy Flores’ shoulders and kissed the back of her head before a fall campaign event. A handful of other women have made similar claims, though none has alleged sexual misconduct.

Biden, a former U.S. senator from Delaware, pledged in an online video to be “much more mindful” of respecting personal space but joked two days later that he “had permission” to hug a male union leader before addressing the group’s national conference.

Biden also has been repeatedly forced to explain his 1991 decision, as Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, to allow Anita Hill to face difficult questions from an all-male panel about allegations of sexual harassment against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, who later was confirmed to the high court.

He has since apologized for his role in the hearing. But in the #MeToo era, particularly after the contentious confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the episode remains a significant political liability.

Likewise, Biden once played a key role in anti-crime legislation that had a disproportionately negative impact on African Americans. And while several 2020 Democratic contenders have embraced the possibility of reparations to African Americans for slavery in recent weeks, Biden last month struggled to explain comments he made as a freshman senator in 1975 about the school busing debate.

His first White House bid in 1988 ended after a plagiarism scandal. He dropped out of the 2008 race after earning less than 1% of the vote in the Iowa caucuses. Later that year, Obama named Biden as his running mate.

Boyd Brown, a prominent South Carolina Democrat backing Beto O’Rourke, said Biden’s opening salvo stands out.

“This is very strong out of the chute. Well done. Biden just sucked the wind out of the sails for much of the field,” he said.

But he noted that announcement bumps fade and said Biden still has “to campaign the same aggressive way for the next nine months.” **AP**

VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT

Putin says North Korea ready to denuclearize - if it gets guarantees

Vladimir Isachenkov
& Eric Talmadge, Vladivostok

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un confirmed during their first summit yesterday he is willing to give up his nuclear weapons — but only if he gets an ironclad guarantee of security beforehand.

The Russian president stressed that Moscow and Washington both want North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons. But he said the security guarantees should be underwritten by multiple countries, hinting at an arrangement like the six-nation talks Russia participated in until their collapse in 2009.

Putin added that Kim encouraged him to explain the nuances of Pyongyang's position to President Donald Trump. He said he's willing to share details of the summit with the American president.

"I will talk about it tomorrow



with the leadership of China," Putin said before heading to Beijing on a two-day visit after meeting Kim. "And we will just as openly discuss this issue with the U.S. leadership. There are no secrets. Russia's position always has been transparent. There are no plots of any kind."

Putin's remarks after the one-day summit just off the Pacific port city of Vladivostok reflect Kim's growing frustration with Washington's efforts to maintain "maximum pressure" until the

North commits to denuclearization.

But his characterization of Kim's comments also suggests there have been no major changes in North Korea's basic position.

North Korea has all along contended that it needs its nuclear arsenal to defend itself against what it sees as U.S. hostility and wants concrete reassurances of its safety — including the removal of the American nuclear threat as an integral part of the

denuclearization of the entire Korean Peninsula.

It wasn't immediately clear what other agreements the leaders might have struck.

Along with a statement of political support, Kim was believed to be looking for some kind of economic support and possibly even a workaround to sanctions that will force more than 10,000 North Korean laborers in Russia to leave by the end of the year. The laborers are a major source of income for Pyongyang.

On the economic front, both sides share an interest in enhanced cooperation if sanctions are eased.

Russia would like to gain broader access to North Korea's mineral resources, including rare metals. Pyongyang, for its part, covets Russia's electricity supplies and investment to modernize its dilapidated Soviet-built industrial plants, railways and other infrastructure.

For Putin, the summit was also seen an opportunity for Russia to

emerge as an essential player in the North Korean nuclear standoff.

Moscow has kept a relatively low profile as Kim embarked on what has been an audacious diplomatic journey over the past year.

The Putin summit follows four summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping, three with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and two with Trump.

Since his latest talks with Trump, in Hanoi, ended without any sign of progress, North Korea has expressed its open anger with what it calls an excessively hard-line position by Trump's top advisers in the deadlocked negotiations.

Though Kim appeared confident and respectful as he and Putin met for the first time, he comported himself formally — creating a scene reminiscent of old Soviet-style meetings and a sharp contrast with his more cordial summits with Moon and, at times, even Trump. **AP**

AD



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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Harry Potter - Uma História de Magia
16:05	Livra-te do Medo - Zeca Afonso
17:10	Shout! Gospeling
18:50	TDM Talk Show (Repetição)
19:25	Livros com João Guedes (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Semana Internacional
21:50	Sinais de Vida
22:35	Portugal Culto e Oculto
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga Europa 2018/2019
00:10	A Solista
01:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:20	RTPi Directo

Offbeat

STING CITY: LAS VEGAS RESIDENCY, NEW ALBUM AND JUICE WRLD

AP PHOTO



Sin City? More like Sting City. Grammy-winning superstar Sting is heading to Las Vegas to launch a residency next year. Sixteen performances of “Sting: My Songs” will take place at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, beginning May 22, 2020. Shows are also planned for June, August and September. “Visually, sound-wise, dancing — it’s going to be a Vegas show. I’m really committed to that,” Sting said in an interview with The Associated Press. “I am a little frightened and a little excited at the same time.” Tickets for the general public, starting at \$59, go on sale May 3. Sting said he’s been offered a residency in Vegas in the past, but he felt it wasn’t the right time: “I always thought, ‘I’m not quite ready for that. I’m still a touring animal.’ (Now) I’m ready.” Residencies in Vegas once were meant for acts heading into retirement or in the final stretch of their careers, but that’s changed with contemporary artists going to the city to perform, from Jennifer Lopez to Lady Gaga. Sting said he likes the idea of performing at a single venue every night, compared to traveling city-to-city on a normal tour. “Being in one place is actually a different, spiritual vibe,” the English performer said. “Welcoming people into your house — that’s basically what it’s going to be. I’ll be telling the story of my life through songs. I’ve had a long, interesting life and I can’t wait.” Before he heads to Vegas, Sting has a string of projects in the works: He’ll tour the United Kingdom with Shaggy (they won the best reggae album Grammy this year for their collaborative album “44/876”); he has a number of solo shows in the United States and around the world; and he will release a new album, “My Songs,” on May 24. The album finds Sting re-shaping and re-imagining some of his biggest hits, from “Every Breath You Take” to “If You Love Somebody Set Them Free.” “We weren’t treating the original recordings as holy relics or museum pieces ... we were just having fun with the songs,” said the 67-year-old, adding that his voice is now “different to what it was 30, 40 years ago. It has more texture, a richness to it.” His song, “Shape of My Heart,” will also appear on the new album.

cinema



CINETEATRO

24 Apr - 01 May



AVENGERS: ENDGAME
ROOM 1
2:30, 5:45, 9:00pm
ROOM 2
4:15pm
Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo
Starring: Brie Larson, Scarlett Johansson, Karen Gillan
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 181min

P STORM
ROOM 2
2:15, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: David Lam
Starring: Chrissie Chau, Louis Koo, Kevin Cheng
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 96min



WONDER PARK
ROOM 3
2:15, 5:45pm
Director: Dylan Brown
Starring: Sofia Mali, Jennifer Garner, Ken Hudson
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 85min



THE QUEEN'S CORGI
ROOM 3
4:00, 7:30pm
Director: Vincent Kesteloot, Ben Stassen
Starring: Jack Whitehall, Julie Walters, Tom Courtenay
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 85min



HOTEL MUMBAI
ROOM 3
9:30pm
Director: Anthony Maras
Starring: Dev Patel, Armie Hammer, Nazanin Boniadi
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 123min

this day in history



1975 LABOUR VOTES TO LEAVE THE EEC

A one-day conference held by the Labour Party to debate Britain's membership of Europe has voted by almost 2-1 to leave the European Economic Community. The result underlines the deep splits within the party over the issue, which goes to a national referendum on 5 June. There were just over 3.7m votes for rejecting EEC membership. Most of the votes came from the two biggest unions, the Transport Workers and the Engineering Workers. The pro-membership campaign fell just short of their target of two million votes, but still carried their highest-ever vote. Seven of the 46 unions present supported the campaign. Both sides said they were delighted. “We have had a conference and the decision is clear,” said the Industry Secretary, Tony Benn, a leading figure in the anti-Common Market group. “It is very clear that there now must be a move for the Labour Party to campaign.” Shirley Williams, who spoke for the pro-EEC lobby, said, “It’s much better than we had feared, but not quite as good as we had hoped.” The debate was staged as a set-piece event ahead of the referendum campaign. Opening the conference, the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, said his position was not one of principle, but one of pragmatism. “My judgement is that it is now best for the future of Britain, best for the Commonwealth, best for the developing world, best for the wider world, that we remain in the Community,” he said. The Employment Secretary, Michael Foot, disagreed. He blamed this week’s high unemployment figures on what he said was the damage to Britain’s domestic market from European imports. “I read these figures with horror and with shame,” he said. “I want to see every instrument available at our command for dealing with unemployment here and now.” The Labour Party’s splits over Europe have led to a series of embarrassments for the government recently. Labour MPs, including ministers, have forced defeats on the way votes are counted in the referendum, and on the renegotiation of Britain’s membership of the EEC.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Labour party was hopelessly split for the 1975 referendum on the Common Market, and Harold Wilson allowed cabinet members to campaign according to their consciences. Labour left-wingers played a leading role in the “No” campaign. In the end, the pro-EEC lobby carried the day, and the referendum returned a vote for continued membership. The anti-Europeans, however, came to dominate the party. After losing the 1983 election, Labour’s new leader, Neil Kinnock, set about reforming and unifying the party’s attitudes. By 1994, under the leadership of Tony Blair - an anti-EEC campaigner in the 1970s - the party was broadly united under a policy of membership of the European Union, and support in principle for European monetary union. The Euro was launched in 2002 but Britain remained outside the eurozone. Labour insisted it remained committed to the idea of a single currency but would join only when the right economic conditions prevailed.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Sometimes less really is more. If you want to help others, do as little as possible. If they can't figure out what's causing their frustration, then you certainly can't. They'll have to work on their own problems.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

If you're frustrated with your career, don't share the news with coworkers. Keep it to yourself. Daydreaming about change is one thing, but talking about it will only get in the way of making it happen.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

When others get emotional, your first reaction is to say, right back at you. But flying off the handle is the last thing you should do. Keep your composure, even if you have to get creative to do it.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Your boss is learning to appreciate the smaller things in life, and your flexibility is one of them. Your routine may be disrupted, but that won't stop you from accomplishing your tasks. Ask for more than a pat on the back.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Life is teaching you a lesson, in an indirect way. Listen to others talking about their pasts. You'll hear something you can apply to your own life, if you think of it as a metaphor.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Everyone lives partly in reality, and partly in a mystical realm, no small thanks to advertising. Be clear about which is which. Some good marketing could blur the lines and encourage you to overspend.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

It's a good time to try something new -- exposing your private life to coworkers. If you share work goals, maybe you have other things in common, too. That's not as way-out an idea as you might imagine.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You have plenty of energy, but don't spend it on the particulars. Daydreaming about the big picture is exactly how you should be spending the day, because details will just slip out of your grasp.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

The details get more and more confusing, through no fault of your own. You'll have to put up with someone else's disorganization. And the best way to do that is to accept that not a lot will get done.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Why is it that some don't like work but for you it's an eight-hour-a-day romance? The answer is a mystery. Use your hidden talents to illuminate for coworkers just what's so wonderful about the office.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If someone is impressed with your proposal, then they should show it with their checkbook. Ask for an advance before starting a project to ensure an excellent result.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Dreams of glory may make you want to tackle all responsibilities on your own, but that's unrealistic. Join others or let them join you if you want to maximize effectiveness.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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		4				1		
	8	2		6				9
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8			3	5				

Easy+

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Hard

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CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Sir's counterpart; 5- Ribbons; 10- Low-quality diamond; 14- Gumbo pod; 15- Pianist Claudio; 16- If all ___ fails...; 17- Clods; 18- Protuberant; 20- PC storage medium; 22- Lens settings; 23- Lined up; 25- Swarm; 26- Sound system; 27- Sun. speech; 28- Palindromic pop group; 32- Nick and Nora's pet; 33- Carryalls; 35- Revivalists; 36- Bumped into; 37- ___ voyage; 38- Like Brahms's Symphony No. 3; 39- Spanish stew; ___ podrida; 41- Vice follower; 43- ___ account (never); 44- Some; 45- Spud bud; 46- Blending of two companies; 48- Makes mistakes; 50- Not disposed to cheat; 51- Zigzag; 54- Floating bombs; 55- Presentiment; 57- Not us; 61- Career golfers; 62- Dweebs; 63- I could ___ horse; 64- Bears' lairs; 65- Freshwater fish; 66- Midding;

DOWN: 1- Cattle call; 2- Rap sheet letters; 3- Husky cry; 4- Eyelash cosmetic; 5- A carrot is essentially this; 6- Shaft shot from a bow; 7- Senior moment?; 8- Go on a fast break?; 9- Wave riders; 10- Wedding VIP; 11- Mishmash; 12- Invitation letters; 13- Summer shirts; 19- Application; 21- Dr. of rap; 23- In and of ___; 24- Stinging plant; 25- Mall frequenters; 26- Pago Pago locale; 27- Grocery, e.g.; 29- Entities; 30- Hat; 31- With respect to; 34- Follows orders; 40- Unimpressed; 41- State of the NE United States; 42- Surrounded by; 43- Brother of Electra; 47- Benz trailer?; 49- Steal from; 50- Caste member; 51- Dirty Harry's org.; 52- Traditional passed-down knowledge; 53- Elvis ___ Presley; 54- Surrealist Joan; 56- ___ Spiegel; 58- Ten of these equal one dong in Vietnam; 59- Aliens, for short; 60- Long March leader;

Yesterday's solution

S	C	A	R		Q	A	H	U		A	P	I	N	G
H	U	L	A		T	B	A	R		R	E	D	Y	E
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T	A	P	E	R	S		U	R	T	I	C	A	T	E
A	T	A	R	I		O	C	O	N		T	R	I	S
L	B	S		E	L	E	C	T	O	R		I	L	K
E	A	S	E		A	V	E	C		E	P	O	D	E
S	T	E	E	L	T	O	E		G	R	A	T	E	R
T	R	A	I	N	E		D	E	L	A	I			
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A	N	I	S	E		K	I	E	V		N	E	L	L
P	O	T	T	S		G	A	S	E		T	E	E	N

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IACM 28 387 333

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Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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[Taipa] Choi Long Meng Chui 3 3 3
3,398 ft² \$17,800,000 (ref: 18045555)

[Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 3 3
1,663 ft² \$8,800,000 (ref: 19025577)

[Taipa] Pacifica 3 2 2
1,226 ft² \$9,888,000 (ref: 19015575)

FOR SALE

[Taipa] Nova Park 2 1 1
1,149 ft² \$10,980,000 (ref: 18015541)

[Macau] 2 Shops
1404 ft² \$24,999,600 (ref: 19015573)

[Taipa] Kinglight Car park space
\$1,500,000 (ref: 19035001)

[Taipa] The Manhattan Car park space
\$1,900,000 (ref: 17035514)

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FOOTBALL

Spain mulls Super Cup in Saudi Arabia; human rights concerns

Tales Azzoni, Berlin

THE Spanish soccer federation is looking into playing its Super Cup in Saudi Arabia, prompting human rights concerns about the showpiece being staged in the Middle East nation.

Federation president Luis Rubiales said Wednesday playing in Saudi Arabia is one of the options being considered for the competition from next year, as well as a "final four" format with the top finishers in the Spanish league and the Copa del Rey.

The competition has been played in a one-game final between the champions at the beginning of the season. The idea is to play the new Super Cup in January and it will be presented during the federation's general assembly next week.

When the Italian Super Cup was played in Saudi Arabia in January, Italian politicians and human rights activists protested, citing the assassination of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

The Spanish federation revealed its plans to play in Saudi Arabia a day after the mass execution of 37 men in the country, including three who were sentenced as minors.

U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet condemned the beheadings as "abhorrent" and urged Saudi Arabia to review its counterterrorism legislation, expressly prohibit the death penalty for minors and halt pending executions.

Mary Harvey, chief executive of Center for Sport and Human Rights, said Saudi Arabia's

AP PHOTO



Spanish football president Luis Rubiales

record should be a "significant factor" for the Spanish federation when deciding whether to play in the country.

"Is it being considered? There are significant concerns about Saudi Arabia from a human rights perspective," Harvey said.

Rubiales did not take questions from reporters after the event in Madrid where the Super Cup plans were floated.

He did not confirm reports the deal will be worth 30 million euros (USD33 million) a year for six seasons, saying "it will be difficult" to reach that value.

The federation president, one of the main critics of the Spanish league's idea to play a regular-season match in the United States, said the decision would take into consideration the players' health,

noting that playing in Saudi Arabia would not affect them as much as if the game was played in the United States or Asia, where travel time and time differences were greater.

Last year's final, won by Barcelona against Sevilla, was played in Tangier, Morocco.

The Spanish players' association, which also complained about the Spanish league's attempt to play in the U.S., did not oppose the idea of playing in Saudi Arabia.

"We weren't against playing in the United States, what we wanted at the time was to be consulted about the idea and to give our opinion," association president David Aganzo said Wednesday at an event organized by Europa Press. "If the proposal for the Super Cup is good for the players, we won't have a problem with it."

The Spanish league had to scrap the game in Florida after Barcelona, which would have faced Girona, backed down because of the lack of consensus among the parties involved. The league said it will try playing abroad again next season.

There is also a plan by the federation to reduce the number of games in the Copa del Rey to help clear up the calendar and keep teams from playing too many matches. The competition would include single elimination matches in some rounds, instead of a two-leg series. The proposal is also expected to be presented in next week's general assembly.

"The clubs and the players want less official matches in the calendar," Rubiales said.

During its own general assembly later on Wednesday, the Spanish league voted not to support the changes proposed by the federation for the Super Cup and the Copa del Rey, saying the changes in the calendar must also be discussed with the league.

The league has also been in a dispute with Saudi Arabia over the pirating of broadcasts of its games.

Along with other top European leagues and soccer governing bodies, La Liga in January denounced Saudi Arabia-backed pirate network beoutQ for the "persistent and illegal screening" of games where Qatar's beIN Sports owns the Middle East rights.

The theft of sports rights is a proxy fight in the 19-month political and logistical boycott of Qatar by regional rivals including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Pogba selected in Premier League team of the season

MANCHESTER United midfielder Paul Pogba is the only player not from Manchester City or Liverpool to be selected in the Premier League's Team of the Year for the 2018-19 season.

City had six representatives — Ederson, Aymeric Laporte, Fernandinho, Bernardo Silva, Raheem Sterling and Sergio Aguero — while Liverpool had four, although Mohamed Salah wasn't among them despite being tied for the top scorer

in the league.

Pogba was picked for the team, which is voted for by Premier League players, despite having an up-and-down season. He was dropped for the final matches of Jose Mourinho's tenure and has had a dip in form under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in recent weeks.

Chelsea forward Eden Hazard wasn't included, despite being on the six-man shortlist for the Professional Footballers' Association's Player of the Year award.

AP PHOTO



Manchester United's Paul Pogba

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Ederson (Manchester City), Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool), Virgil Van Dijk (Liverpool), Aymeric Laporte (Manchester City), Andy Robertson (Liverpool), Paul Pogba (Manchester United), Bernardo Silva (Manchester City), Fernandinho (Manchester City), Sergio Aguero (Manchester City), Raheem Sterling (Manchester City), Sadio Mane (Liverpool).

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautédé



THE SPIRE HIDING THE TEMPLE

While presiding over a regular meeting of the Cultural Heritage Council last week, Alexis Tam, the secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, grabbed the opportunity of the genuine emotion he had felt at seeing part of the Notre-Dame Cathedral engulfed by flames to reflect on the measures needed to ensure that such a dramatic incident would be prevented in Macao. His emphasis, as reported by the press, was three-fold: strengthen communication with the people or organizations managing heritage buildings, continue to educate the public on the safeguarding of cultural heritage, and keep carrying out inspections under the supervision of the Cultural Affairs Bureau while enrolling the public at large on the matter by allowing citizens to easily notify the Bureau on the actual state of preservation of these buildings.

As a Parisian, I had always assumed that the Notre-Dame Cathedral was indestructible. After all, it had been erected in the mid-12th century and survived several invasions and civil wars. Beside the shocking images and the realization that what once was would be no more or at least will be different, it came as a relief that for the world over, Notre-Dame de Paris somehow represented part of this universal heritage going beyond the category of the most visited places in the French capital city.

A loss for the Parisians became a loss for humanity, far beyond France's borders. The erection of such an edifice had a political dimension though: medieval historian Patrick Boucheron reminded us that the Cathedral was "a field of force, a metaphor for reason" which power was derived from its "proximity with the King of France". Reconstruction was thus bound to be political as well: French President Emmanuel Macron immediately pledged to restore the Cathedral within five years and solemnly declared that it would be a collective effort. Without the scars? Or are scars and failures not part of history too? As Boucheron remarked, "if we were in medieval France, we would consider the latest techniques, the most modern ones so as to build the Cathedral again, only better".

Although Mr Tam is thus to be praised for making the connection between what had just happened in France and what could occur in Macao — and try to put in place prevention measures rather than costly and traumatic cures — one can also suspect a pretty blunt political usage behind his take: if it can happen in a city like Paris and for a building like Notre-Dame, then everything is possible.

The irony is that it is under Mr Tam's watch that the Buddhist pavilion of the A-Ma Temple caught fire in February 2016 — a previous fire had gutted the same pavilion back in 1988. At the time, a short circuit in the electrical installations was blamed, but the damage caused was considered not "irreversible" even though what was supposed to take just a few weeks to restore ultimately became more than a year. Also, it was revealed that a member of the association managing the temple had first tried to take care of the issue by himself instead of immediately calling the fire services, that eventually intervened promptly and successfully.

Moreover, it is in this very Cultural Heritage Council that the opacity of the measures designed by the government to protect historical buildings has been denounced time and time again. More recently regarding the Lai Chi Yuen shipyards, and before that precisely regarding the overall policies supposed to be in place to protect Macao's unique heritage. In 2017, a decision by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee read like this: "[the committee] regrets the lack of progress with the completion of the Management Plan [a plan to safeguard and manage the Historic Center of Macao], which was due for submission by 1 February 2015". A new deadline was fixed for December 1, 2018 and thus in early 2018 a two-month public consultation was organized, results were compiled (but not disclosed), transmitted to the central authorities by September and supposedly sent to the UNESCO.

What has become of the Plan Mr Tam? Let's not forget that the Ruins of Saint Paul's became Macao's main landmark precisely because of fire... and negligence!

THE BUZZ NORA ROBERTS SUES BRAZILIAN AUTHOR, CITES 'MULTI-PLAGIARISM'

Best-selling novelist Nora Roberts is suing a Brazilian writer for copyright infringement, alleging that Cristiane Serruya has committed "multi-plagiarism" on a "rare and scandalous" level.

In papers filed yesterday [Macao time] in Rio de Janeiro, where Serruya lives, Roberts called Serruya's romance books "a literary patchwork, piecing together phrases whose form portrays emotions practically identical to those expressed in the plaintiff's books." Citing Brazilian law,

Roberts is asking for damages at 3,000 times the value of the highest sale price for any Serruya work mentioned in the lawsuit.

"If you plagiarize, I will come for you," Roberts told The Associated Press during a recent telephone interview. "If you take my work, you will pay for it and I will do my best to see you don't write again."

Roberts added that she would donate any damages from the lawsuit to a literacy program in Brazil.

Harry and Meghan: Newest royal baby could be an American



Gregory Katz, London

WHAT would the founding fathers think? Almost 250 years after the United States launched a revolution to rid itself of the British royal family, the next royal baby could be an American.

The idea that a scion of the former colonies would be seventh in line to succeed Queen Elizabeth II to the throne could change the royal family from within — and help extend a surge in popularity for the monarchy.

The child of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex — Meghan Markle became a duchess when she wed Prince Harry a year ago — is due very soon.

Baby Sussex, as the child is known ahead of its birth, will be a product of two cultures: its father a prince who is a symbol of Britain; its mother quintessentially American — a self-made TV star with a white father and an African American mother.

The child is unlikely to ever become king or queen, but the presence of a half-American child who may choose to hold dual nationality could shake up the royal family, just as the arrival of Meghan has had a modernizing effect on the stately but sometimes stodgy House of Windsor.

"It's quite possible the child will have a lot of

American influence," royal commentator Hugo Vickers said. "The royal family is not totally unused to that kind of thing. Children have been born with Greek mothers or German mothers in the past, obviously, but Meghan is the first American mother so close in the royal family."

Certainly, Meghan isn't following any of the royal scripts when it comes to childbirth preparations.

Unlike Harry's brother Prince William and his wife Kate, Harry and Meghan have chosen to keep the details about their baby planning private, despite — or perhaps because of — intense media interest in the baby's arrival, expected in the next few weeks.

The couple haven't revealed where Meghan intends to give birth, so there isn't likely to be a 24/7 media stakeout outside the hospital as was the case for the births of William and Kate's three children, Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis.

Don't expect a photo of the happy family walking out of the hospital looking picture perfect hours after the birth either — Harry and Meghan have said they want to celebrate privately with their extended family before telling the world a baby has been born.

Palace officials accustomed to having a role in

choreographing the coverage of major royal events are concerned that Harry and Meghan may announce the birth on their brand new Instagram account — and give the public its first glimpse of the baby via Instagram as well.

Harry faces less pressure to conform to royal protocol than William because of William's role as a likely future king — he will follow his 70-year-old father Prince Charles to the throne.

That also makes the baby's American parentage less of a pressing issue, since it would take a series of tragedies to hit William's children for Baby Sussex to become monarch.

That hasn't kept the British media from speculating that Meghan will choose an American as a nanny — Mary Poppins be damned! — and possibly even put a man, or manny, in that crucial role. Some believe Meghan will insist on dual citizenship for the child, a status that is allowed by both countries.

Joe Little, the managing editor of Majesty magazine, says many people have no issues with evolving traditions in the monarchy.

"Our royal family, like all the other European royal families, are no longer marrying within royal families, so this is inevitable, and many would say a good thing," he said. **AP**

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

SOURCE: D5M6

WORLD BRIEFS

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing yesterday said it has complained to France after a French warship entered Chinese territorial waters while passing through the Taiwan Strait this month. Meanwhile, Vice Premier Hu Chunhua blamed British activity in the South China Sea for a downturn in relations. [More on p11](#)



SRI LANKA's prime minister said that suspects linked to the coordinated Easter Sunday bomb attacks remain at large and could have access to explosives. Some of the suspects "may go out for a suicide attack," Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in an interview with The Associated Press.

[More on macaudailytimes.com](#)



USA Joe Biden has hired Symone Sanders, a prominent African American political strategist, as a senior adviser to his newly launched presidential campaign. The move adds a younger, diverse voice to Biden's cadre of top advisers, which has been dominated by older white men. [More on p14](#)



GIRAFFES The Trump administration took a first step today toward extending protections for giraffes under the Endangered Species Act, following legal pressure from environmental groups. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that its initial review has determined there is "substantial information that listing may be warranted" for giraffes.