



JASON CHAO CAUTIONS ON DUAL NATIONALITY 'MYTH'

The "overseas observer" warns that little good can come from scrutinizing Ho Iat Seng's Portuguese nationality, which he says is not such a big deal

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PORTUGAL'S PRESIDENT SAYS CHINA RELATIONS MAKING LISBON INT'L HEAVYWEIGHT

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TYPHOON DRILL SUSPENDED DUE TO BAD WEATHER

Civil Protection drill "Crystal Fish" was suspended Saturday after a thunderstorm threatened to endanger civilian volunteers

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

TAIWAN President Tsai Ing-wen reaffirmed her opposition to nuclear power before marching with anti-nuclear protesters, reviving an issue that has proven politically divisive in the past. *More on p11*

CAMBODIA A court yesterday charged three Chinese nationals with money laundering after the men were allegedly caught carrying more than USD3.5 million without proper provenance for the money. The three men were arrested at Phnom Penh airport after they arrived from Hong Kong. They were allegedly carrying \$3.52 million in \$100 bank notes in their bags. If convicted, the men could face 10 to 20 years in prison.

AP PHOTO



US A New Hampshire man who smuggled rare lizards from the Philippines to the U.S. by hiding them in socks and placing them inside electronic equipment has pleaded guilty to trafficking in protected wildlife in violation of international treaties.

AP PHOTO



SRI LANKA Suicide bombings at a militants' safe house have shaken the simple homes of Kalmunai town as well as the rest of this idyllic coast, as the investigation into the Islamic State-claimed Easter bombings has spread here. Police and military checkpoints dot the coastal roads.

More on backpage

CHINA-HK-MACAU-TAIWAN EXTRADITION BILL

Fugitive bookseller runs again

▲ P6-7 HONG KONG



HO IAT SENG

Portuguese nationality won't stand in way

Renato Marques

AS reported last week by newspaper Hoje Macau, the chairman of the Legislative Assembly (AL) and candidate for next Chief Executive (CE), Ho Iat Seng, is currently processing his renunciation of Portuguese nationality. The nationality was acquired by birth, but in order to become CE, he must comply with rules that state the holder of the position should not possess a right to residence in any foreign country.

The report generated interest in society, provoking the input of those such as longtime local political activist and "overseas observer," Jason Chao, who argued that Ho's renunciation of his Portuguese nationality is not such a big issue and that there is technically "no hurry" to do so.

In comments accessed by the Times, Chao admitted that the report had generated some discussion on the issue of nationality, but he also said that that particular issue had been clarified for a long time.

"First, the Chinese government implied in the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration that it had no problem with Macau residents enjoying the benefits of de facto dual nationality while traveling abroad," Chao remarked. "Second, in Ho's case, there is no need for him to renounce his Por-

BLOOMBERG



tuguese nationality so early. Procedurally speaking, he may renounce it after he is surely 'elected.'

In the view of the overseas observer, who has connections to Macau democratic movements, the issue should not have even been brought up in the first place as, "the lax nationality rules in Macau should stay as they are, as it is in the best interest of Macau residents."

EARLY RENUNCIATION A SIGN OF CONFIDENCE

According to Chao, in accordance with the Basic Law, Ho had to be a Chinese national to serve as the President of the AL. Regarding the position of Chief Executive, "there is an additional rule concerning nationality for CE elections when in Article 35 (2) of the Chief Executive Election Law, it is required that CE candi-

dates must not have the right of residence in a foreign country." Although it is clear that Ho, in order to be a candidate, must renounce any possibility of acquiring "foreigner residency," Chao notes that technically the residency is on the line here and not the nationality. "Portuguese nationals, of course, have the right to reside in Portugal as well as the right not to be removed from Portugal. Under the Eu-

ropean Union (EU) law, Portuguese nationals [also] enjoy the right to freedom of movement in EU member states. Ho's renunciation of Portuguese nationality is not to satisfy the nationality requirement but the 'no right to residence in a foreign country' requirement under the CE election law."

"The aforementioned article allows Ho to be a CE candidate by making a pledge that he will re-

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

TOTAL DOG HEALTH

COMplete dog health is a combination of key elements including nutrition, supplementation, and preventatives. Not only do these key elements integral to your dog's overall health, but they also promote vitality, mental stability, and overall well-being. Secondary aspects of dog health include remedies and treatments. Remedies such as aromatherapy and herbalism can aid in easing symptoms of hundreds of conditions and treatments such as massage, acupuncture, and hydrotherapy can help dogs stay healthy physically and mentally.

Dog nutrition

Good dog nutrition is one of the best ways to avoid a number of common conditions such as constipation, diarrhoea, allergies, chronic skin conditions, frequent stomach upsets, bad breath, ear infections, hyperactivity, anxiousness, aggressiveness, and anxiety, to name a few. To avoid common dog conditions the best thing you can do for your dog is to avoid low-quality,

low-nutrition, commercial dog food and buy high-quality products with a 40/50/10 ratio. This means, 40% meat, 50% veggies, and 10% carbohydrate. It is also important to avoid dog foods that use by-products as well as preservatives such as BHT, BHA, and Ethoxyquin. Choose premium brand foods as they do not contain fillers, by-products or harmful chemical preservatives. They contain 100% natural and nutritious human-grade ingredients. Add bulking agents to the diet, such as bran, pumpkin, or methylcellulose, can help prevent constipation as well. In addition to feeding your dog a balanced, high-quality diet, you should:

- always provide fresh water
- keep them away from trash and bones
- avoid feeding them table scraps

Dog supplementation

Dog supplements can be a great benefit to your pet in the long-run. No matter how healthy a type of dog food may be, not all dog food con-

tains all of the vitamins and minerals your dog needs. Antioxidants, in particular, are important for optimal dog health for several reasons. Antioxidants have healing properties, they assist the body's natural defense mechanism and in turn boost the immune system, and they decrease the effects of free radicals. The best dog supplements should contain vitamins A, C and E, and vitamins B, B1, B2, B3, B5, B6 and B12.

Dog preventatives

Besides feeding your dog a balanced diet and supplements, exercise is one of the most important ways to help prevent a number of common conditions. Just a few common dog conditions include heart problems and obesity. Exercise can even prevent emotional problems. Exercise also promotes joint health, healthy bones, bone density, and even self confidence. Walking, running, fetching/catching, and swimming are all excellent exercises for dogs. Several 15 minute walks per day might be plenty for some dogs, such as pugs, while playing at the dog park for an hour or so with other dogs may be just what a large dog needs. No matter what size or breed your dog may be, some exercise is always better than no exercise at all.

Oral health

Oral health is one of the most neglected aspects of dog health. Unfortunately, when you neglect your dog's dental health, you open the door to a number of preventable health issues. In addition to the usual suspects such as bad breath gingivitis, and periodontal disease, poor oral hygiene can lead to tonsillitis, pharyngitis (sore throat), kidney infections, and infections involving the heart valves. To ward off diseases related to poor oral health, brush your dog's teeth regularly and see your vet for regular check-ups and cleanings.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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of CE election

nounce the right to residency in a foreign country before he officially takes office. So, in the case of a competitive election – which is very unlikely – Ho can wait to see if he is eventually ‘elected’ before he formally applies for renunciation.”

In Chao’s opinion, the “early pledge” from Ho on the renunciation of the Portuguese nationality is revealing of his “high [degree] of confidence in his election.”

LOYALTY TO CHINA STILL A QUESTION

Is there really no problem with Ho’s non-renunciation?

The questions that arise from the more legal-based explanations about Ho’s Portuguese nationality “are totally understandable,” according to Chao.

“Ho was a member of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of China and in the context of Chinese politics, Ho could be seen as one of the leaders of the Chinese Central Government,” Chao said, adding, “the possibility of Ho’s entitlement to the consular protection of Portugal if he travels abroad on a Portuguese passport may call his allegiance to China into question.”

Developing more on the matter of what he called “the myth of the no dual nationality for Chinese nationals,” Chao no-

ted, “according to the Chinese memorandum in the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration 1987, the Chinese government allows Macau residents who are Chinese nationals to travel to foreign countries on Portuguese ‘travel documents.’ However, these Chinese nationals do not enjoy the consular protection of Portugal on Chinese soil.”

“Under international law, the nationality of a country is a requirement for the eligibility for consular protection of that country. So, China had no problem with Macau residents who are considered Chinese nationals to be treated as a Portuguese national as long as they are not in Chinese territory.”

Such facts imply that the Chinese government does not oppose the de facto dual nationality of Macau residents while they are outside the country.

“However, this exception only applies to the Chinese nationals who have been granted Portuguese travel documents before the handover,” a situation that in his opinion generates a “potential legal limbo for the Chinese nationality of the younger generation who obtained Portuguese nationality through inheritance from their parents [after the handover].”

Chao noted, “so far, I have not heard of any cases of the Macau government denying Macau

SAR passports to ‘Chinese nationals’ who acquired Portuguese nationality after 1999.”

Such an opinion is backed by the legal expert António Katchi, cited in the Hoje Macau report, who noted that the fact that Ho had a Portuguese Civil Identification Number implies he has Portuguese nationality, and not just a passport that can exceptionally be attributed to foreigners. A “citizen’s card is only for national citizens,” Katchi noted, remarking that this type of situation is not uncommon in Macau.

“There are people who, in practical terms, continue to have dual nationality, because they omit that they have a foreign nationality from Chinese [authorities] leading to the retaining [at the same time] of the Chinese nationality,” he noted.

THOSE WHO LIVE IN GLASS HOUSES

Chao also issued a warning to the Macau public about the risks involved with raising the topic at this moment. “I must warn against the risk that the

rules might be tightened in the future at the whim of the Chinese government,” he said. For the political observer, “in the best interest of residents, lax rules on nationality are preferred to strict rules.”

Unlike in Hong Kong where candidates for both the Legislative Council and Chief Executive must renounce the right of abode in foreign countries in order to be eligible to stand for election, in Macau, the renunciation of the right to abode abroad applies only for the top executive post.

“Extending such requirement to AL elections is a matter of adding such provisions to the election law [but] beyond elections, I am concerned about the possibility that this ‘no-foreign-country-residence-right rule’ may one day be introduced in other aspects of the life of the residents,” warned Chao.

“I believe that this rule would be very effective in ‘testing’ Macau residents’ allegiance to China through their willingness to renounce [or not] their Portuguese nationality.”



Ho Iat Seng

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ELECTION

Commentators bemoan single-candidate charade

Julie Zhu

SOcial commentators are criticizing the prospect of Macau facing yet another single-candidate election for the next Chief Executive, adding that they believe the position has already been filled.

Recently, local commentators Wong Tung and Choi Chi U made some remarks about the prospect of a single-candidate election. A guest on a New Macau Association Facebook program, Wong firstly said that Macau’s election culture is coherent with the mainland’s culture.

“We were handed over. We are influen-

[In Macau] it is better to know people than know how to read and write.

WONG TUNG

ced by China, but not Portugal anymore,” said Wong. “If it is going to be just one person, it is really boring. Regardless of who becomes the next CE, I hope that person can take some courage and do something [for] Macau people.”

In particular, Wong and Choi were addressing the news of the first declared candidate for CE, Ho Iat Seng.

In Wong’s opinion, the election of the next

Chief Executive was decided before Ho announced his decision.

“I hope that at least you [the local government] are going to make a good show for the public. The first CE election was the best show. No matter how fake it is, a show must be made to create an atmosphere of competition,” said Wong.

When commenting on Ho, and probably contender Secretary for Finance and Eco-

nomy Lionel Leong, Wong remarked that both have a Chinese Communist Party background.

“They are both politically correct,” said Wong. “Lionel Leong will not bet on [his candidacy if he] is unclear about the situation.”

However, despite the deep conviction in Ho’s appointment as the fifth CE of Macau, the commentators still expressed their concerns about Ho’s administrative capability.

“He lacks administrative experience; he is just a freshman in politics. Everybody knows what the National People’s Congress does. No matter for how long he has been the

Chairman of AL, someone can’t do a good job [as the CE] simply by understanding both regions’ legal systems. I cannot see Ho having the ability to solve local problems,” said Choi.

Both commentators not only consider Leong a better option for the next Chief Executive because of his experience in administration and in finance, but they also believe that Leong’s age can be considered an advantage.

“Ho is not as young as Leong. Even if Leong is defeated in this election, at least he can build some groundwork for the next one. Beijing didn’t say that Macau would have one Chief Executive for 10 years,” said Wong.

In the end, Wong remarked that in Macau’s culture, “it is better to know people than know how to read and write.”

FORUM

China-Portugal relations a boon to Lisbon’s global standing

PORTUGUESE president Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has said that China and Portugal have seen a “qualitative leap” in bilateral relations to the level that the People’s Republic currently enjoys with global economic powers such as the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

“It is a qualitative leap in bilateral terms at the level of world powers or countries of great European affirmation, and this is very significant,” said de Sousa at the start of his six-day visit to China, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

According to de Sousa, relations between Portugal and China are in an “excellent moment” and the relationship between his country and China has been elevated to “a political relationship at the level of countries such as France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, implying annual meetings between the Prime Ministers of the two states.”

He further characterized the nature of the relationship as “two-way cooperation, not only one” and, according to Lusa, challenged the analogy of a “Chinese invasion.”

de Sousa’s statements will resonate with the architects behind the Belt and Road Initiative, a global infrastructure investment drive that seeks to reshape global trade flows with China at the center.

Bilateral relations between the Portuguese Republic and the People’s Republic of China were established just over 40 years ago, on February 8, 1979. However, the two nations can recall a history with roots stemming from the early 16th century.

Marking the 40th anniversary of formal relations, the Portuguese head of state is on an official visit to China that concludes this Tuesday and Wednesday with a two-day stop in the Macau SAR. While in the Chinese capital, de Sousa participated as a speaker in the Belt and Road Forum on Saturday.

Tomorrow, de Sousa will be welcomed by China’s president, Xi Jinping, who will bestow military honors on the Portuguese head of state at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. He will also meet with China’s Prime Minister Li Keqiang.

During his visit to Macau starting on Tuesday, de Sousa will meet with the SAR’s Chief Executive Chui Sai On. **DB**

Civil Protection typhoon drill suspended due to thunderstorm warning

Renato Marques

A drill organized by the Civil Protection structure in order to test the capacity of the constituent services to respond to severe weather conditions such as typhoons was suspended 45 minutes after it began on Saturday afternoon on account of bad weather conditions.

The operation codenamed "Crystal Fish 2019" was suspended only 45 minutes after it had started and for a period of 2 hours and 40 minutes due to the thunderstorm warning issued by the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG).

According to a statement from the Unitary Police Service (SPU), the reason for the postponement was related with "residents' safety" as the drill included the participation of a group of residents that volunteered to join the exercise.

Also citing safety reasons, the Civil Protection body changed some procedures, namely the evacuation of teachers and students from two schools located



in the low-lying areas of the city.

The rest of the drill was completed. The services developed numerous kinds of rescue and evacuation activities in several areas of the city, namely in Ilha Verde, Fai Chi Kei, Praia do Manduco, the Inner Harbor area and Coloane, simulating the passage of a super typhoon

accompanied by a storm surge and astronomical tide. According to the same statement, several contingency plans, for example the issuing of an evacuation alert through the alarm system in low-lying areas, were put into practice followed by a security force-organized evacuation along with civil and voluntary associations.



Six emergency shelters were also put into operation as well as four of the meeting points for people in need, with the dispatch of rescue and transport vehicles from these places to the shelters.

During the exercise, the dissemination of evacuation and incident information was also simulated through several means,

namely by SMS, mobile application alerts, online media, and social network platforms. As informed, the implementation of these drills aims to test and improve the emergency response mechanism, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the population and government in the joint response to disasters.

EDUCATION

UM student builds light aircraft, completes initial test flight

HUBER HU, a fourth-year student at the University of Macau's (UM) Department of Electromechanical Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology, along with several other students, has built a light delta-wing aircraft and completed an initial test flight.

Hu believes light delta-wing aircrafts have huge potential in the mainland market, according to a statement from UM, as China gradually opens up its lower altitude airspace for civilian use.

Hu hopes to develop aircrafts that are safer, more reliable and affordable than models that are currently available in the market. The student adds that this aircraft can be remodeled into an unmanned aircraft for short-distance drone deliveries.

Previously, Hu received multiple national



and international awards for the radio-controlled all-wing aircraft and the pulse-jet engine developed by him. In 2013, he received an Outstanding Design Award at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's international conference for inventors.

Hu, who is a current

student at UM, has already founded his own company and has developed various innovative products, including the most recent light delta-wing aircraft, which can travel at a maximum speed of 140 kilometers per hour. In case of mechanical malfunction, the aircraft can turn into a non-mo-

torized glider, preventing a fall from the sky.

According to UM, the Faculty of Science and Technology encourages students to explore their interests and to convert research results into commercial products. It says that the Faculty aims to enhance the quality of research in Macau. **DB**

ECONOMY

New development fund may become Macau SWF

Staff reporter

REPORTED by the Times last week, the Chief Executive has decided to set up a new Development and Investment Fund, which may constitute a sovereign wealth fund (SWF).

As its name suggests, such funds are usually made and held by respective governments. However, investments may be operated by entities separate from the government.

In Macau, the government will establish the fund in a bid to improve the returns of Macau's financial reserves. The fund will run with market-led and commercial principles and will be managed by an entity outside of the existing government branches.

As of the end of January, there were a total of 732.79 billion patacas of financial reserves.

According to the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute, a global corporation

analyzing public asset owners such as sovereign wealth funds, there are a number of reasons that make the fund an SWF. One of them is due to the fact that profits from the fund are to be used for social improvement and the promotion of education and scientific advancement.

The Institute also claimed that the mainland government is increasing "its surveillance of gambling activities, [and this] may also explain some of the local government's interest in diversifying revenues."

SWFs focus on long-term profits more than exploiting short-term market fluctuations. Initial capital usually comes from a government's foreign currency reserves.

Several large SWF holders in the world include the United Arab Emirates, Norway, Saudi Arabia, the People's Republic of China, Kuwait, Russia, and Singapore.

Local performances grow at HUSH! this year

Staff reporter

HUSH! Full Music (HUSH!) beach concerts are being staged at Hac Sa Beach in Coloane for four consecutive days, after the festival's launch yesterday.

According to organizers, there will be more local performers this year, accounting for 32 of the 39 participating groups.

This year's event has expanded further to provide a wider range of music to spectators. There are three performance stages, namely the main stage "Hot Wave", the more relaxing "Summer Chill", and the "GEG Upbeat Power".

The main stage features more experienced or renowned performers, including Hong Kong pop band Rubberband and local veterans Scamper. Summer Chill, on the other hand, stages 'easy music.'

The GEG Upbeat Power pro-



vides a stage for local upcoming young bands with a history of less than three years.

Many connect HUSH! with noise – perhaps ironically – because when the festival premiered in 2005, it mainly staged rock and funk music.

"We have expanded the range of performances. We have since added jazz, chill, folk music, among others, to the

stages," said Philip Cheang, curator and department head at the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the principal organizer of the event.

Cheang said that there are performers from the U.K., the U.S., and Hungary. Collaborations with the cultural and creative industry will also be given a spot during the four-day festival.

Renowned local percussionist Jun Kung will be performing on April 30 with percussionist Steve Thornton, who used to play percussion for jazz master Mile Davis. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and will feature Latin music.

This year's HUSH! is the largest edition yet, with the greatest number of performing units and nationalities of performers.

GAMING | LAS VEGAS

MGM Resorts announces 254 layoffs, more cuts coming

LAS Vegas-based casino company MGM Resorts International has announced a first phase of layoffs in a cost-cutting operational shift as it aims to boost earnings.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reports the 254 layoffs announced last week will cut labor costs by USD100 million.

In a letter to employees, CEO Jim Murren calls it streamlining and says more positions will be eliminated in coming weeks.

MGM Resorts in January announced its MGM 2020 plan to boost earnings by \$200 million by next year.

It says the current cuts affect managers, not union workers.

The company has about 77,000 employees and is the largest employer in Nevada.

It's under investor pressure to improve earnings after share prices have fallen 12 percent since August. MGM shares closed Thursday at \$27.75, down 14 cents. **AP**

AD

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Hong Kong bookseller Lam Wing-kee

China fugitive escapes again as Hong Kong mulls extradition law

Blake Schmidt & Natalie Lung

LAM Wing-kee was nervously chain-smoking outside a Hong Kong train station, trying to make the decision of his life. Should he board a train to China and betray his clients by handing a laptop with their names to prosecutors, or renege on the deal he made with Chinese police who had detained him in a solitary cell for months.

After burning through his third cigarette, bookseller Lam opted not to take the train. The decision made him a celebrity after he told the media about his deal with the Chinese authorities. It also made him a fugitive who could never go to China again without fear of imprisonment.

That was nearly three years ago. Since then, Lam has been protected by rules dating back to the time of the former British colony's handover to China that prevent extradition of Hong Kong citizens to the mainland. Now, that protection could be lifted by a proposed amendment to the law, and Lam is not the only one who is worried.

"The impact would be huge," Lam said in an interview in Hong Kong, shortly before leaving for Taiwan. "It could affect everyone in Hong Kong."

'TAILOR-MADE' FOR CHINA

The proposal, which would make it easier to transfer fugitives to Taiwan, Macau, mainland China or any other jurisdiction that doesn't have an extradition agreement with Hong Kong, has spooked rights groups, lawyers and business organizations including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Hong Kong-based billionaire Joseph Lau, ex-Chairman of Chinese Estates Holdings Ltd., fears he may be sent back to Macau, where he was sentenced in absentia to more than five years in prison for bribery and money laundering in 2014.

Those backing the proposed law, including Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam,

say it's needed to close a loophole so that fugitives can be brought to justice, and they're pushing to pass it by the end of the current Hong Kong legislative period in July. To support their case, they point to the high-profile murder of a 19-year-old Hong Kong woman while she was vacationing with her boyfriend in Taiwan last year.

The boyfriend, Hong Kong citizen Chan Tong-kai, admitted strangling the woman and folding her body into a suitcase before dumping it on the outskirts of Taipei. But because he made the admission after returning to Hong Kong, he couldn't be extradited to Taiwan to stand trial for murder. Instead, Hong Kong authorities could only prosecute him for the lesser charge of money laundering.

Carrie Lam said the bill is not "tailor-made" for China. It would treat equally all jurisdictions with which Hong Kong has no extradition treaty, she said.

Detractors argue that Carrie Lam is using the case as a decoy to push through broad extradition powers for herself and the Beijing government, and that changes to homicide rules would be enough to deal with the Taiwan case.

The rule change would be the latest in a series of China-backed assaults on Hong Kong freedoms that have accelerated since the handover from Britain in 1997, critics say. A Hong Kong court this month handed down prison sentences for leaders of the Umbrella Movement pro-democracy protests that disrupted central districts of Hong Kong for about three months in 2014.

Concern about the change in the extradition law increased after a former Chinese deputy minister for public security said mainland authorities have a list of 300 "fugitives" hiding in Hong Kong that should be sent back over the border. Hong Kong security chief John Lee told reporters on March 13 that the territory keeps no data on possible fugitives wanted by China. Under the proposed change, a person could only be surrendered for crimes punishable in Hong Kong by more than three years imprisonment.

"Political criminals will not be extradited," Lee said.

Thousands protest, many carrying umbrellas

THOUSANDS of protesters have marched through downtown Hong Kong in opposition to changes to an extradition law that many see as eroding the territory's independent legal system.

Many of those taking part yesterday carried yellow umbrellas, recalling Hong Kong's massive 2014 pro-democracy protests, the leaders of whom have been sentenced to up to 16 months in prison.

Hong Kong police said around 22,800 people took part in the protest at its peak period, while organizers claimed 130,000 participated.

Artists Anthony Wong and Denise Ho were among the protest. Also

marching was Catholic Eminence Cardinal Joseph Zen.

Participants carried placards accusing Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam of "selling out" Hong Kong, and called on her to resign.

Revisions to the law would make it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials.

In response to the protest, the territory's Acting Chief Executive Matthew Cheung expressed his respect for citizens' right to protest, but noted that the number of participants was not the main point. He reiterated the necessity for a law amendment. MDT/AP





WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The proposed bill is “a weapon of mass destruction - all-purpose, any time,” said Hong Kong legislator Claudia Mo, who helped Lam Wing-kee, the bookseller, lead thousands of people in an earlier protest on March 31.

Lam’s story has made him the public face of the protest movement. The bookstore he managed in the Hong Kong shopping district of Causeway Bay once carved out a niche selling literature the Chinese Communist Party didn’t want people to read - from thrillers to romantic novels and tabloid gossip on Party bosses. Many customers were Chinese tourists.

Eventually he began smuggling books across the border, determined that people on the mainland should read them. He was caught in 2012 and let off with a warning. But in 2015, he crossed into the mainland again and was whisked into a van, one of five booksellers linked to the shop who disappeared and later said they had been held in China.

What Lam says followed - months of interrogations while being held in a solitary cell in Ningbo without being informed of charges - is the kind of autarchic justice feared by Hong Kongers defending the extradition ban. They say its removal would allow Chinese President Xi Jinping’s government to forcibly extradite people like Lam to the mainland.

THE GREAT ESCAPE

In a coffee shop in Hong Kong earlier this month, Lam arrived wearing a ragged baseball cap, rimmed glasses, and the kind of medical mask Hong Kongers use to filter smog or avoid germs. It wasn’t Hong Kong’s air he was worried about. When he’s not in front of cameras, he hides his face in case he’s being watched, he said.

“At least I know that I’m wanted,” Lam said during an interview at the coffee shop. “What about those who don’t know? They are in more danger.”

Lam isn’t sure how Chinese authorities were tipped off to his cross-border deliveries. For years he wasn’t detained, until his Causeway Bay Books was bought by a company called Mighty Current Media. Hong Kong lawmaker Albert Ho told reporters in 2016 that the bookstore’s plan to publish a book about a past “girlfriend” of Xi triggered

scrutiny of the shop, although the book was never published.

While Lam was being detained in China, the store was bought and closed. But pop-up stands around Hong Kong continue to sell political books and thrillers with Xi on the cover. There’s even one near Lam’s shuttered shop where a few supporters have scribbled notes on the closed sign asking for an encore.

After about three months in detention, Lam said he was offered his freedom in exchange for becoming an informant and reporting back to China on who was buying which books from his shop. He agreed, and eventually was allowed to return to Hong Kong, where he collected his laptop with the names of clients and authors, as instructed. But then he received news that four other booksellers had also vanished, triggering street protests, and Lam made his decision at the train station not to return to China.

He still wants to sell books. In the coffee shop, he pulled a tome from his backpack called “China’s Modern Religious Ethics and Merchant Spirit,” by Chinese American historian Yu Ying-shih. This type of academic, educational book would be the focus of his next shop, Lam said.

“We want to focus on letting more Hong Kongers or Taiwanese understand how the dictatorship on the mainland was formed,” he said. “You will only know how to deal with it when you know the cause. It is a more inquisitive form of resistance. Some people join protests, but we do it with books.”

One thing was clear. He had no intention of sticking around to see if the law is amended. He pointed two arthritic fingers at the floor like little legs and walked them through the air.

“If the ordinance is passed, I won’t be allowed to leave, because I have been charged with a crime and am wanted for it,” he said.

He stubbed out his cigarette, slipped his mask back on and headed into the street, disappearing into a thin gray drizzle.

Two weeks later, he fled the territory.

“Lam’s quit HK for Taiwan yesterday,” Mo, the lawmaker, said in a message. She posted a picture of the bookseller at the airport on her Facebook page with the hashtag #SelfExile.

MDT/Bloomberg

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands Cares Ambassadors Join Macao Govt.’s Green Week and Women’s Sports Carnival

Sands Cares Ambassadors recently supported two Macao government initiatives: the 38th Macao Green Week – Green Walk and Tree Planting Activity and Women’s Sports Carnival 2019.

On March 24, around 40 Sands Cares Ambassadors hiked along the Grand Taipa Hiking Trail and replanted trees on Taipa Grande Hill. The annual Green Week event is organised by the Municipal Affairs Bureau and gives participants the opportunity to embrace nature and increase their awareness of environmental protection issues.

And on March 13 and 14, around 20 Sands Cares Ambassadors went to the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion to participate in Women’s Sports Carnival 2019, in support of the government’s initiative to promote health and wellness. Organised by the Sports Bureau and the Women’s Association of Macau, the event aims to promote the advantages of sports and to encourage the cultivation of the good habit of lifelong exercise.



Sands Cares Ambassadors plant trees during the 38th Macao Green Week – Green Walk and Tree Planting Activity March 24 on Taipa Grande Hill.



Sands Cares Ambassadors take part in Women’s Sports Carnival 2019 on March 13 and 14 at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion.

LOTTERY | ANALYSIS

US Justice Department reversal could cost states \$220m

AP PHOTO



Regina Garcia Cano
& Jennifer McDermott, Las Vegas

A recent opinion by the U.S. Justice Department has put a handful of states in danger of losing at least USD220 million in annual lottery profits that they use to fund college scholarships, senior citizen services and a variety of other programs.

The states are anxiously waiting on a clarification from the Justice Department about its opinion that, if strictly interpreted, would outlaw lottery tickets sold online and prohibit all lottery-related activities that use the internet. Legal experts say Powerball and Mega Millions are at risk if the opinion is read to the letter, which would cost the states billions.

The uncertainty was created by an opinion on a 1960s law enacted to crack down on the mob.

Congress enacted the Wire Act in 1961 to target the mob's gambling activities by prohibiting wagering across state lines. Decades later and with the internet ruling everyone's lives, New York and Illinois asked the

Obama administration whether selling lottery tickets online violated the law.

The department in 2011 concluded that online gambling within states that does not involve sporting events would not break the law. But the agency changed its mind in November, explaining in a written opinion that the law applies to any form of gambling that crosses state lines.

A federal judge gave the agency until late April to clarify. The Justice Department said in a court filing Thursday that it's still reviewing whether the Wire Act applies to state lotteries and their vendors, and will not prosecute them for operating their lotteries while the review continues.

The differing opinions left state lottery officials puzzled.

Seven states now sell lottery tickets online and others offer residents internet-based lottery subscription services. They are fearful that those lottery games are now illegal under the opinion. States with online sports betting believe their sportsbooks can continue operating because the betting doesn't cross state lines.

When state lotteries use the internet to transmit data for online ticket sales, the network signal can cross state lines, and games that are played in multiple states, like Powerball and Mega Millions, transmit data to a central database out of state, according to the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries.

"It's like trying to run a business and not knowing the rules about it," said David Gale, the association's executive director. "That clarity is the important thing to us now as far as the DOJ issue goes."

If online games were deemed illegal, it's unlikely that people who lost money playing these games in the past could successfully sue to recoup those funds. Courts have ruled against people suing over illegal gambling losses because they still got what they paid for—a chance to win. For people who've won in the past, states would likely still pay them.

Some believe the shifting sentiment in the two Justice opinions is the result of the influence that GOP megadonor Sheldon Adelson exerts over

the internet gambling debate.

Adelson, chairman and CEO of the Las Vegas Sands Corp., is a staunch opponent of internet gambling. He says it would have a negative impact on the gambling industry and society in general. The Las Vegas Sands Corp. has nine properties worldwide with casinos in them.

Former Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, who was in charge of the Justice Department at the time of the opinion, denied that there was any improper influence from Adelson. Adelson, through a spokesman, declined to comment on whether he intended for lotteries to become a casualty of his push to stop internet gambling.

Data gathered by The Associated Press show states stand to lose over \$220 million in net profits annually if the Justice Department zeroes in on single tickets sold online or more than \$23 billion if the agency takes a broad interpretation that would prohibit all lottery-related activities that use the internet, including popular games like Powerball.

Six of the seven states that sell lottery tickets online, including Michigan and Pennsylvania, expect to provide a combined \$224 million to a variety of programs during the fiscal year that ends June 30. In Michigan, money goes to public education while Pennsylvania dedicates all proceeds to programs that benefit older residents.

The combined figure does not include proceeds from Georgia's online lotto sales. Neither the state's lottery agency nor the governor's office provided responsive information after repeated requests.

The internet is crucial for the lotteries. Not only are some tickets sold online and payment processing companies use it for debit and credit card payments, but backup systems needed in the event of bad weather are located in other states. Communications can cross state lines due to the way the internet is routed.

Several state lotteries have proposed moving some of their games online to modernize, be more convenient and compete in a market that now includes the expansion of legalized sports betting.

Rhode Island launched sports betting in November. Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo recommended in her budget proposal that the Rhode Island Lottery offer the sale of traditional lottery products, such as Keno, through a mobile app, to increase fiscal year 2020 lottery revenues by \$900,000.

In Massachusetts and Connecticut, lawmakers are considering whether to legalize sports betting and lottery directors there want to offer online lottery games.

Delaware's lottery director, Vernon Kirk, said he's worried about how the department's legal opinion is interpreted because of the potential loss of revenue. He said exactly how much revenue is in jeopardy depends on how it's enforced.

"I can't bring myself to believe they'd stop Powerball and Mega Millions," he said. "It's beyond my comprehension they'd allow that to happen but that's what the law is saying, any betting data that crosses state lines is not allowed. And those are some of the larger revenue sources for Delaware, especially when the jackpots are high."

The New Hampshire Lottery, which began selling single-draw tickets online in September, sued the department in February over the opinion. The Justice Department in court filings last week claimed that the opinion "did not address whether the Wire Act applies to State lotteries and their vendors" and that the agency is "now reviewing that question."

A federal judge gave the department 14 days to figure it out. The department responded Thursday by asking for the case to be dismissed, arguing that New Hampshire faces no credible threat of prosecution. AP

SME-Focused Food Festival Underway at Broadway

“Large-Businesses-Leading-Small-Businesses” is a cooperation model adopted by Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) to describe its amicable relationships with local small and medium-sized enterprises and how it has provided them with various forms of support over the years. The ongoing Macau Gourmet Festival @ Broadway is one of GEG’s latest initiatives that exemplify its contributions to the development of SMEs, following its well-received debut last year that had created a positive stir citywide. This year, the Festival welcomed a broader line-up of SMEs. Two participating SME owners shared their thoughts on how they have benefited from the Festival at Broadway Food Street.

Chak In Kei was founded by Ivan Cheong’s grandfather in the 1950s near Camoes Garden. When his grandfather retired, Ivan took over the family business and, in 2013, opened shop at Broadway Food Street. “The Street allows us to revive our family brand.



Ivan Cheong, Chak In Kei owner

It is like a second home to us. Whenever we need help, GEG team members will always be there by our side. They help us out with setting up our stall, help promote our brand by sharing pictures of our new products on their social media accounts and so on. They feel like my family who I can count on,” Cheong said.

After last year’s festival, the popular waffle chain



Dominic Wong, Dom’s Kitchen owner

experienced a huge increase in business. “We have gained more attention from different sides since we had a media

interview at the Local Culture & Food Festival last year. Our brand has also become more popular as we beefed up our promotional campaigns,” said Cheong. “Within the space of one year, we grew from one outlet to five outlets, from a street-side stall to a waffle chain,” he added.

Dominic Wong, owner of Dom’s Kitchen, has vast experience in the F&B

industry. This is his first year participating in the Festival, but he has jumped in with both feet, bringing along peers from 16 different F&B brands. “I realize that last year’s edition received many positive reviews from different sections of society, especially from the F&B industry. That was why I decided to be part of this year’s event, thinking it would be a great platform to promote my brand locally and abroad,” he said.

He added that the Broadway Food Street event offered more than other events he’d participated in: “Unlike other

food events, this festival has given me extensive support on financial and promotional fronts. I rarely see such a scale of support and care.” Wong

Additionally, 23-year-old singer-songwriter Rachel is bringing her angelic voice to the Festival, among many other performers. While she has lots



Former GGT participant Lidwina Leong performs with local singer Rachel

also sees the festival as a boon for Macau. “I think this event will help enhance Macau’s role as a World Center of Tourism and Leisure and Creative City of Gastronomy,” he said.

In addition to gastronomic delights, the Festival featured live musical performances by Galaxy Got Talent (GGT) participants Lidwina Leong from the Hotel Operations Department and Icy Chen working for the JW Marriott Macau. The two singers thanked GEG and their colleagues for supporting their musical ambitions. “We have been rehearsing non-stop to make sure we will offer the diners our best and an unforgettable dining experience. We are delighted that our company has encouraged us to pursue our ambitions in our leisure time.” they said.

of performance experience under her belt, she says this is her first time working with a resort operator in Macau at an open-air event. “For performers like me eager to gain more experience, this event is a good platform as it allows me to engage with audiences up close,” she said. The full-time performer also said she was happy to see a company promote work-life balance by engaging staff in an activity full of fun.

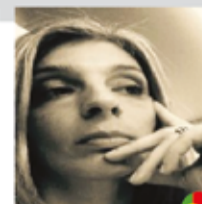
The Macau Gourmet Festival @ Broadway will run every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through May 19, with stalls open between 17:00 and 22:00 amid excitement and joy.



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Property of the Week



HK\$4,480,000

VA FAT, TAIPA ~~HK\$4,680,000~~

580 ft² 1 1

Superb one bedroom apartment in Taipa. Open plan modern kitchen. Great size living, dining area with plenty of natural light. Feature lighting, air cons with heat function, this is a lovely apartment within 15 minute of Cotai and 5 to old Taipa village. Good investment property due to the size and location, could also be a great holiday home or abode.



Property Hotlist



ONE GRANTAI, COTAI
\$23,000/mth
 2,122 ft²

3
 3



WAREHOUSE, KECK SENG
\$32,000/mth
 3,788 ft²



PACIFICA, TAIPA
\$9,888,000
 1,226 ft²

3
 2



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Nova City 4 2 2,503 ft² **\$17,800,000** (ref: 19015574)
- [Taipa] Choi Long Meng Chui 3 3 3,398 ft² **\$17,800,000** (ref: 18045555)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 3 3 1,663 ft² **\$8,990,000** (ref: 18085559)
- [Taipa] Nice Court 3 2 1,600 ft² **\$8,980,000** (ref: 19045002)
- [Macau] 2 Shops 1404 ft² **\$24,999,600** (ref: 19015573)
- [Taipa] Kinglight Car park space **\$1,450,000** (ref: 19035001)

For Rent

- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,366 ft² **\$24,800/mth** (ref: 19030002)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)
- [Taipa] Nova Park 2 2 1,134 ft² **\$16,400/mth** (ref: 17020638)
- [Macau] Office 1,813 ft² **\$21,000/mth** (ref: 19010699)

Recent Movements

- Sold** Nam Long, Taipa
1 bed, 550 ft² (ref: 18095561)
- Sold** Ocean Garden, Taipa
3 bed, 1,610 ft² (ref: 18105563)
- Rented** Manhattan, Taipa
Car park (ref: 1505507RT)



LET'S CONNECT

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Far from glitzy tech hubs, Nanchang bets big on VR

Dake Kang, Nanchang

LIU Zixing craned his neck forward for help with fastening the goggles for his first ever taste of virtual reality. He took a break from the mining ore business to travel to a VR theme park in this Chinese provincial capital not known for high technology.

"It feels like reality," Liu said after shooting down robots in a virtual fighter jet, strapped to a spinning gyroscope lit in purple. "It's just like you're riding in a plane."

Enthusiasm for VR has cooled somewhat after years of hype, but China's leaders are trying to drum up excitement, hoping to take the lead in a technology they expect will eventually gain wide use.

Hoping to coax homegrown entrepreneurs to take the plunge, the government is educating students, subsidizing office spaces, and sponsoring conferences and competitions.

Nanchang's VR Star park offers 42 rides and exhibits, including VR bumper cars and VR shoot-'em-ups. It's the highlight of Nanchang's "VR base," a sprawling complex of mostly still empty, futuristic glass-and-steel offices.

The city of 5.5 million is the capital of Jiangxi province, a relatively impoverished region nestled in the mountains of south-central China, where the regional industries are copper mining and rice.

Officials hope that one day it will be a world-class hub for virtual reality.

"Frankly, VR isn't 100% necessary in the Chinese market at the moment," said Xiong Zongming, CEO of IN-UP Technology, one of dozens of firms being



A visitor rides a virtual roller coaster ride operated by a robotic arm in a VR theme park in Nanchang

incubated by the VR base. "But with the government's push, many other companies, departments and agencies are more willing to try it out."

Xiong was born in Nanchang but studied and worked in Japan for nearly a decade before returning to China, where he settled in Shanghai. Nanchang officials enticed him back home with offers of free rent and 150,000 RMB (USD22,340) in startup funds, part of an effort to lure back local talent from richer coastal cities to help lift the local economy.

Beijing began its VR drive a few years ago, when slick headsets from Samsung, Oculus, HTC and Sony were making a big splash at electronics shows in the U.S.

Chinese leaders were worried they might miss out on a boom.

VR is included in Beijing's

"Made in China 2025", an ambitious plan to develop global competitors in cutting edge technologies including electric cars, solar and wind power, and robotics. Nanchang is one of several VR hubs across the country.

So far, VR is mostly a niche product used in gaming and business training, held back by expensive, clunky headsets, a lack of appealing software and other shortcomings. Analysts say it could be many years, perhaps decades, before the technology goes mainstream.

Last year, just 5.8 million VR headsets were sold globally, according to market research firm Ovum. That compares with sales of more than 1.5 billion smartphones and is far fewer than expected when VR fever was at its peak a few years back.

"My experience wasn't good," said Xu Xiao, a PC gamer who

bought VR goggles over a year ago after graduating from college. "When I wore them, my eyes got dry and uncomfortable, and I got dizzy. I barely use them anymore."

Stopping by the Nanchang VR park, he was still unimpressed.

"The image quality isn't refined, and it's hard to operate," he said after a virtual flume ride.

Even if it's a gamble, analysts say China's state-led push into VR could pay off in the future. Nanchang's VR developers are marching on despite a wave of layoffs across the industry in the past few years. Thousands attended Nanchang's first VR conference last October.

"It's kind of a good move to be there now," says George Jijiashvili, a senior analyst at Ovum. "It's a long game, and I don't think it's going away anytime soon."

Beijing still lags behind: Most VR headsets are designed by companies based outside mainland China like Samsung, HTC, and Oculus and the major VR content platforms are run by giants like Facebook and Google.

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology aims to change that by encouraging banks to finance VR startups and directing local governments to invest in VR products for public projects such as schools and tourist sites.

Nanchang's VR Star park offers 42 rides and exhibits, including VR bumper cars and VR shoot-'em-ups

The government has provided subsidies and purchases of VR software, mostly focused on education, training, and health care software. Nanchang has a 1 billion RMB (\$149 million) VR startup investment fund, and is setting up another fund to attract established VR companies.

Entrepreneurs and experts believe VR will get a boost from next generation, or 5G, technologies where Chinese companies like Huawei Technologies are industry leaders. 5G promises blazing-fast connection speeds that could smooth lags and optimize multiplayer games and livestreaming so VR users might not end up with the headaches some get with today's technology.

"VR e-sports, broadcasting concerts in VR format, remote surgery — all of this is only realistic in the 5G era," said Chenyu Cui, a senior analyst at IHS Markit. "It'll make VR better for a mass audience." **AP**

Taiwan's president reaffirms anti-nuclear stance at march

TAIWANESE President Tsai Ing-wen this weekend reaffirmed her opposition to nuclear power before marching with anti-nuclear protesters, reviving an issue that has proven politically divisive in the past.

Tsai said at a news conference that her administration was taking efforts to promote renewable energy and reduce the need for nuclear power.

"In the past, people of-

ten said we won't have electricity without nuclear power, or that Taiwan does not have the conditions to develop renewable energy, or even that renewable and green energy are too expensive," Tsai said. "But after the efforts we have made since taking office, such talk has dissipated."

She also vowed to reach her targets in reducing emissions from thermal power plants and to reti-

re current nuclear power plants, though without giving any timeline.

"We will carry on with the targets to eliminate nuclear power and reduce carbon," Tsai said. "We will reach the targets and Taiwan will not be short of electricity" for the island's 23 million people.

She then joined hundreds of people who marched through the streets of Taipei, the capital, beginning at the Presidential

Office Building in the city's center, in a show of opposition to nuclear power.

Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party has long opposed the nuclear industry, particularly construction of the high-tech island's fourth nuclear plant on the tip of the island, north of Taipei. Nuclear power now accounts for about 15% of Taiwan's electricity generation, according to the World Nuclear Association.



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen (center) holding hands of children marches during an anti-nuclear demonstration in Taipei this weekend

The main opposition Nationalist Party has promoted nuclear power as one of the best ways to provide reliable energy to the is-

land. The issue has in the past sparked occasionally violent clashes between proponents and supporters. **AP**

BELT & ROAD

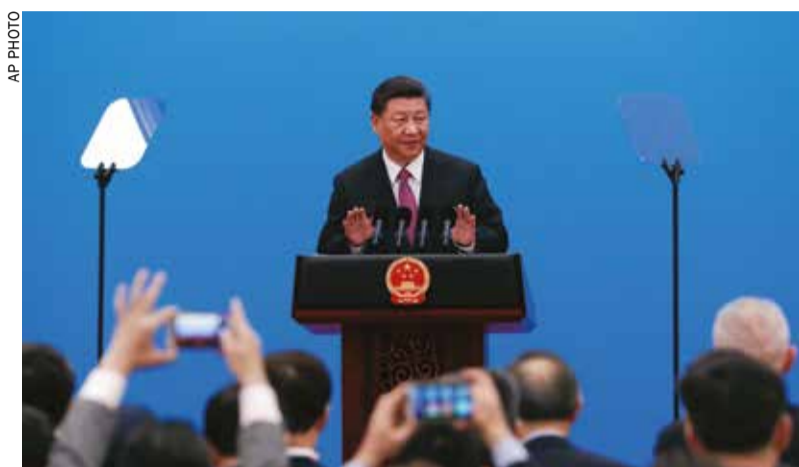
Xi: China wants to expand sprawling infrastructure project

Joe McDonald, Beijing

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping called for more countries to join China's sprawling infrastructure-building initiative as other leaders expressed support this weekend for a project Washington worries is increasing Beijing's strategic influence.

Xi spoke at a gathering of leaders to celebrate the multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, his signature foreign project. The upbeat tone of the two-day forum, at which Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders praised the initiative, is a setback for the Trump administration, which is trying to discourage other countries from participating.

Xi promised Friday to promote high financial, environmental and other standards in response to complaints about debt and other problems. That has the potential to heighten tensions with Washington by making the initiative more attractive to additional participants.



"We need to encourage the full participation of more countries and companies," the Chinese president said at the event at a government conference center outside Beijing.

Xi tried to dispel complaints Belt and Road does little for developing countries that have borrowed from Beijing to build ports, railways and other facilities. Xi said his government wants to "deliver benefits to all."

Additional agreements worth a total of USD64 billion were

signed during the forum, Xi said. He gave no details of what those agreements covered or who signed them.

A joint statement issued by leaders at the meeting expressed appreciation for the "important opportunities" created by Belt and Road and said it offers "potential for economic and social development."

Participants included the presidents of the Philippines, Kenya and Egypt, prime ministers of Italy, Greece and Pakis-

tan and other officials from Indonesia, Germany and other countries.

Other governments welcomed the initiative launched in 2013 to increase trade by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. But some are struggling to repay Chinese loans, which has fueled complaints about a possible "debt trap."

Critics also complain too much of the work goes to Chinese state-owned companies and the initiative might lead to corruption and environmental damage.

The United States, Russia, Japan and India worry Beijing is eroding their influence. American officials have warned other governments about potential debt problems and China's possible political motives.

Xi's government is trying to revive momentum for Belt and Road after the number of new projects slumped last year. That followed official announcements that Chinese lenders

would examine borrowers more closely and concerns by some governments about Beijing's rising influence.

On Friday, Xi promised to embrace international financial, environmental and other standards. He pledged to work more closely with multinational entities and to open projects dominated by Chinese state-owned companies wider to private and foreign contractors.

Despite U.S. opposition, the Chinese government says the number of countries that have signed agreements to support the initiative has risen to 115 from 65.

Beijing scored a diplomatic coup in March when Italy, a member of the Group of Seven major economies, signed an agreement to support Belt and Road.

On Friday, Putin said Belt and Road fits with Moscow's initiative to develop a common market with four of its neighbors.

Their joint statement emphasized the importance of "promoting green development" and "addressing the challenges of environmental protection and climate change."

The Chinese leader repeated his promise to adopt "widely accepted rules and standards" and encourage Belt and Road countries to follow global standards for project development, purchasing and operations. **AP**

AD

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AFGHANISTAN

Women fear gains could be bargained away in talks

Kathy Gannon, Herat

FOR four hours, Khadeja begged her in-laws to take her to the hospital. The skin on her face and neck was peeling. The pain was excruciating. Her husband had thrown a pot of scalding water on her face and upper body.

Her head was bowed and sobs convulsed her body as she remembered the moment. "The pain . . . I can't say how much I hurt."

She eventually received treatment, but scar tissue on her neck makes breathing difficult and her hands are misshapen. Her husband — a man she was forced to marry at 16 by her father — was never held accountable. Such impunity for violence against women remains pervasive in Afghanistan.

The suffering of young women like Khadeja is why women rights activists say they are demanding a seat at the table in negotiations between the government and the Taliban over peace and Afghanistan's future.

Women have made gains since the 2001 fall of the Taliban, but the country remains among the worst places in the world to be a woman. Activists fear the advances they have achieved will be bargained away in negotiations, with pressure heavy for a deal as the United States seeks to end its military involvement in the country.

The Taliban were notorious for their repression of women during their rule, including banning education for girls and imposing the all-encompassing burqa on all women. But activists are just as worried about the other side: Afghanistan's leadership since the Taliban's ouster has been dominated by conservatives, warlords and strongmen whose attitudes toward women are often little different.

VOICES SIDELINED

Women are already meeting resistance to having a strong voice in the talks. Activists are pressing for a third of participants in any negotiations to be women — though by all rights, they say, it should be half.

President Ashraf Ghani appointed only five women to a 37-member council created to shepherd negotiations. The other members include ex-mujahedeen, warlords, a vice president accused of a war crime and a former U.S.-declared terrorist.

Attempts were also made to severely limit women's participation in the first round of all-Afghan talks between the go-

AP PHOTO



Khadeja, 16, who was burned by a pot of scalding hot water thrown by her husband, shows her wounds, at a women's shelter office in Herat, Afghanistan

vernment and Taliban, meant to have been held last week in Qatar. Under pressure from the Qataris, Ghani reportedly pared down the women in his list of participants from 54 to fewer than 15. The organization sponsoring the talks, Qatar's Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, further reduced it to 10.

In the end, the gathering was cancelled because the Qatari center, likely acting under pressure from the Taliban, also sought to remove government ministers from Ghani's list of more than 240 participants.

Suraya Pakzad, a rights activist, was among 18 would-be female participants from the Afghan Women's Network. Even before the cancellation, they were told they wouldn't be let in. "Women had travelled from far away rural areas, through many Taliban checkpoints in their burqas and passed very dangerous areas to attend," said Pakzad.

Ahead of negotiations, the Taliban say they will accept that girls go to school and women work and even be judges. But they say a woman cannot become the country's leader or the Supreme Court chief justice.

That's not enough, said Sima Samar, a former women's affairs minister who was removed for challenging warlords in the post-Taliban leadership and now chairs the independent Human Rights Commission.

"It is undermining equality," she said. "In the Quran it says that everyone is born equal,

with dignity, then why are they making reservations for us?"

STEPS FORWARD, BACK

The advances made since 2011 have been important. Women are now members of parliament, girls have the right to education, women are in the workforce and their rights are enshrined in the constitution. Women are seen on television, playing sports and winning science fairs.

But the gains are fragile, and their implementation has been erratic, largely unseen in rural areas where most Afghans still live, Samar said.

International funding for projects for women is drying up. Political will is also uncertain. Ghani refused to put legislation on the Elimination of Violence Against Women to a vote in parliament, fearing it would be defeated by the overwhelming conservative majority, say activists.

Nearly 18 years after the U.S.-led coalition ousted the Taliban, Afghan women still live under a crushing weight of discrimination. The 2018 Women, Peace and Security Index rated Afghanistan as the second worst place in the world to be a woman, after Syria.

Only 16 percent of the labor force is women, one of the lowest rates in the world.

GENERATIONAL CHANGE

It wasn't like this before four decades of war, activists say. Women once were in the workforce, went to school in mixed-

-gender classes and even served as generals in the military.

The slide into repression began in the 1980s when Washington backed the mujahedeen, or holy warriors, to defeat the former Soviet Union, which invaded Afghanistan in 1979. U.S. President Ronald Reagan praised the Islamist forces as "freedom fighters."

Pakzad, the women's rights activist, said she wishes she had the freedoms her mother did. She said she was one of 15 brothers and sisters and her father made sure they all had equal access to education, even though he "didn't know a single word" about women's rights.

In contrast, she said, her son "is not as open minded as my dad was because my son grew up in war," hearing of women being stoned for alleged infractions of the Quran, killed for dishonoring family and shamed for defying strict rules. Her son threatened to leave home if she got a driver's license, mostly because he feared she would be targeted by radicals but also because his friends would tease him.

Pakzad operates women's shelters in western Afghanistan and provides legal services to the poorest. Her activism has made her a target of religious extremists and men who consider her support for women as interference in their domestic affairs.

Threats became specific. Letters promising to kill her and her family detailed what the

youngest of her six children — her 15-year-old son — was wearing, his route to school, his friends. She sent him to safety in Germany.

FINDING SHELTER

In the western province of Herat, Khadeja's mother died when she was young, and her father married a woman who resented her and wanted her out of the house. They took her out of school after the fifth grade even as she pleaded with her father to let her continue.

At 16, her father said she had to marry. From the beginning, her husband beat her, often tying her a tree as he did it, or cut her with knives, she said. When she fled, her father sent her back, telling her: "I only want you back home wrapped in the white shroud of the dead."

Her husband was briefly jailed for hurling the boiling water on her, but then released without charges. Once home, he threatened to cut off Khadeja's nose. Again, she fled to her father's house.

She made it to one of Pakzad's shelters. There, she takes classes, and is always the first to raise her hand. She said she hopes to be a teacher one day.

She remains in constant pain. "All the time I pray to my God to help me die," she said, sobbing.

At the shelter, dozens of women and girls struggle with their nightmares. Khadeja and other girls spoke on condition they be identified only by first name, fearing reprisals by family.

Alissa, a 16-year-old, has lived in the shelter for five years after escaping her husband.

She was forced to marry him at age six in an arrangement so her brother could marry her new husband's sister. In her village, girls as young as seven and eight were often wed, but even there, six was considered young.

"I didn't even know what a wedding was," she said. "All night I was so scared, and the next day I cried and cried." Alissa looked down as she spoke, nearly whispering, unable or unwilling to talk about life with her husband.

She contemplated suicide and wanted to leave, but her brother threatened to kill her if she came home. Finally, after four years, another brother brought her home. Her mother-in-law demanded her back, saying, "We paid for her." As an alternative, she wanted Alissa's younger sister, then 7. Alissa and her sister both fled to the shelter.

Pakzad listened as Alissa spoke. She wept for Khadeja.

Including women in negotiations is "not a gift, it is our right," she said. "We the women of Afghanistan are suffering, fighting to bring peace in Afghanistan, to change Afghanistan."

"This is 2019. We will not allow anyone to push us, to force us to go back," she said. "We know how to raise our voices." AP

USA

New Hampshire Democrats push 2020 hopefuls on voting rights

NEW Hampshire Democrats are looking for help from their party's presidential candidates in overturning a law they claim will make it harder for some college students to vote.

At campaign events across the state, White House hopefuls are being pressed to speak out against the 2018 law. It subjects college students who come from other states to residency requirements such as getting a New Hampshire driver's license if they study and vote in the state.

The law doesn't take effect until July. But Democratic activists and voters are arguing this is a moment for presidential candidates to take a stand against GOP moves to weaken access to the ballot box in New Hampshire and elsewhere. President Donald Trump has popularized false claims about widespread voter fraud.

The issue needs to be talked about more, including on the 2020 debate stage, said Garrett Muscatel, a Dartmouth College student who won a state House



Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H.

seat in New Hampshire last fall. "People often don't think of New Hampshire as a place where voter suppression is occurring, but it is very real," Muscatel said.

Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen recently sent the declared 2020 presidential candida-

tes a letter urging them to sign "a petition publicly denouncing this voter suppression law." So far, 16 of the 2020 contenders, including all six senators running for president, have signed on.

Republicans have strongly defended the law. GOP state Sen. Regina Birdsell said in a state-

ment that she is "disappointed that Jeanne Shaheen is using her time to push the false narrative that voter suppression is taking place in New Hampshire." She defended the legislation as "an attempt to make our elections cleaner and fairer."

Efforts to tighten voting laws

have become a hyper-partisan issue sweeping through statehouses in recent years and Democrats bidding for the White House seem eager to push back. The 2020 candidates have offered a range of solutions that span from the difficult, and unlikely, path of amending the Constitution to reviving voting rights measures filed and left for dead in Congress.

During a rally in Exeter in March, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts noted her support for a constitutional amendment to "protect the right to vote for every American citizen and make sure their votes get counted."

She pledged to "roll back every damn one of these voter suppression laws."

Even the easiest path for changing the Constitution is strenuous, with any measure needing two-thirds support in both the House and Senate before it can make it to states for another hurdle where it would need to be approved by 38 of the 50 states.

Other Democrats in the presidential race have offered ideas such as same-day voter registration, restoring the voting rights of people who have been incarcerated and making Election Day a holiday. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota proposes universal registration for eligible voters when they turn 18. **AP**

AD

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MOZAMBIQUE

Serious flooding in wake of Cyclone Kenneth

Farai Mutsaka, Pemba

SERIOUS flooding raged on Sunday in parts of northern Mozambique hit by Cyclone Kenneth three days ago, with water waist-high in places, after the government urged people to immediately seek higher ground. Hundreds of thousands of people were at risk with more rain forecast for days ahead.

"Help us, we are losing everything!" residents in the region's main city, Pemba, shouted at passing cars as the rushing waters flooded their homes and heavy rain fell. Women and girls with buckets and pots tried to scoop away the torrent, in vain. The water poured into doorways.

Houses began to collapse and a rescue team was mobilized, United Nations staffers said. "We are unfortunately expecting devastating floods," the U.N. humanitarian agency said in a tweet.

Kenneth arrived just six weeks after Cyclone Idai ripped into central Mozambique and killed



People leave their flooded homes in Natite neighbourhood, in Pemba, on the northeastern coast of Mozambique, yesterday

more than 600 people with flooding. The new storm's remnants could dump twice as much rain as Idai, the U.N. World Program has said. As much as 250 millimeters (9 inches), or about a quarter of the average annual rainfall for the region, had been forecast over the next few days.

"I have never seen such rains in my life," said one Pemba resident,

35-year-old Michael Fernando. This was the first time in recorded history that the southern African nation has been hit by two cyclones in one season, again raising concerns about climate change.

Some Pemba residents tried to pile up tires and sand-filled sacks as barricades. Children took refuge in a bus that appeared to

be stuck as vehicles struggled on the streets. One woman stood, seemingly stunned, as the rain pounded down. Cars began to slip under the waters.

"We will keep moving until we get somewhere safe," one man said, as people fled carrying belongings in plastic bags.

There was no immediate word of deaths yesterday. Authorities

have said at least five people died after Kenneth roared in Thursday evening with the force of a Category 4 hurricane, stunning residents of a region where such a storm had not been recorded in the modern era.

Nearly 700,000 people could be at risk in the largely rural region, many already exposed and hungry. More than 35,000 homes in parts of Mozambique's northernmost Cabo Delgado were partially or fully destroyed by the storm.

Aid groups wanted for news yesterday from districts beyond Pemba that had been hit much harder by the cyclone. Some of the swelling rivers in the region have burst their banks in the past, notably in 2000.

On Saturday, aerial photos showed several coastal communities flattened by the storm. "Not a single house is standing anymore," Saviano Abreu, a spokesman with the U.N. humanitarian agency, told reporters.

Livelihoods have been lost and people are wondering how they will cope in a country struggling with one of the world's highest poverty rates.

With unemployment rife and many in coastal areas surviving with fishing and related activities, not going to sea could mean going hungry for days.

Men, women and children foraged in the waters off the littered shore, looking for seashells to sell. AP

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what's ON



STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD – LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS
TIME: 9am -5:30pm (closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: May 31, 2019
VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications Museum
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

INK PAINTINGS BY YU JIAN
TIME: 11am-7pm
UNTIL: April 30, 2019
VENUE: Macau Military Club
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 28727066

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS
TIME: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm daily
Venue: Seac Pai Van Park
Admission: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)
Enquiries: (853) 2888 0087

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)
VENUE: Macau Science Center
ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)
MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)
MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

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

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY
TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

FINDERS KEEPERS? POLICE SAY NO WAY AFTER \$30K SPILLS ON ROAD

Police in Michigan are appealing to people to surrender their instant riches after a box with USD30,000 fell off the back of a truck.

Authorities in Grand Haven say drivers stopped Thursday to pick up cash for themselves.

Only \$2,500 was immediately recovered and returned to the owner, who had forgotten that a cash box was on the truck's bumper. Traffic was backed up on U.S. 31 after money hit the ground.

But by Saturday, more money was trickling in. The Department of Public Safety says two teenagers turned in \$630, and a woman gave up nearly \$3,900.

The department says on Facebook: "We commend you for your honesty!!"

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:10	T2 para 3 Remodelado
16:35	Maior que o Pensamento - Parte I - Primórdios
17:30	Sonhar era Fácil
18:30	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	Escritores a Norte - Vidas com Obra em Casas D'Escritas
22:30	Filhos da Nação Sr.2
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Uma História de Autonomia
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPI Directo

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

**1978 AFGHAN COUP REBELS CLAIM VICTORY**

The new rulers of Afghanistan have announced that almost the whole of the leadership of the ousted regime is dead.

Two days ago, they declared President Mohammed Daoud, 68, had been killed - along with his brother Mohammed Na'im - for refusing to pledge allegiance to the new left-wing government.

This was followed by a bloodbath in the capital, Kabul, with reports of streets littered with bodies.

Kabul Radio broadcast the announcement saying the vice president, defence minister, interior minister and commander of the air force had all been killed in fighting.

General Abdul Kader, a former vice-commander of the air force, stated over the radio that a "military revolutionary council" had taken control.

Police loyal to the former president have been rounded up and students wearing red scarves have been seen directing traffic in the streets.

Travellers to the area say a massive purge of Daoud supporters is underway with people being rounded up and shot all over the country.

The coup was led by young officers in the army and air force, most of whom were trained in the Soviet Union. Sources in Kabul believe it was engineered and supported by Moscow to preserve its influence in the area.

The late President Daoud had ruled Afghanistan since 1973 when he ousted his brother-in-law King Zahir Shah, with the help of Soviet-trained officers.

But gradually he removed these men from positions of power and declared himself to be aligned to neither East nor West - yet still collected aid from both.

The present uprising was sparked off two weeks ago by the murder of Mir Akbar Parcham, leader of the Parcham Party backed by Moscow.

Daoud ordered the arrest of other leading figures of the Parcham Party in an anti-Communist campaign that led to this week's bloody coup.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Noor Mohammed Taraki emerged as Afghanistan's new president. He brought in Marxist reforms and aligned the country more closely with the USSR.

In September 1979, Taraki was ousted and his hardline deputy Hafizullah Amin took power.

The Soviet Union then sent in troops on the advice of the KGB, Amin was executed, and the Soviet-supported Babrak Karmal became president. After a long and devastating war with guerrilla opposition forces - the mujahideen - the last of the Soviet troops left Afghanistan in 1989.

In 1992 an alliance of guerrilla factions took Kabul with Burhanuddin Rabbani as its interim president.

The Taliban declared themselves rulers of Afghanistan in September 1996 and imposed a puritanical form of Islamic law in the two thirds of the country they controlled.

They were ousted in late 2001 with the help of US and British air strikes after refusing to hand over Osama Bin Laden. In April 2002 the former king Zahir Shah returned but said he would make no claim to the throne.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Someone close to you may try to manipulate you, but that doesn't mean they'll get away with it - or that you'll even let them get close.

Taurus April 20-May 20
Everyone's had the experience of being infatuated, and everyone's known the mixed feelings that involves.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
There's nothing but fire in the air - well, that and a little bit of intrigue, which makes quite the exciting combination for someone as curious as you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Here we go with the 'If you loved me, you would' thing. You hate it, and you've tried to make it clear that you're not going to fall for it ever again.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
This won't be a boring day. In fact, it'll be close to a nine, on a scale of one to ten.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
For the next 24 hours, each and every syllable you utter will be meaningful, accurate and to the point - so whoever asks for your opinion will absolutely hear it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You're an expert when it comes to reading people. You know what they're up to before they do, just by listening to the tone of their voices and watching their eyes.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You pride yourself on being a master judge of character. At the moment, however, your talents in that department aren't quite fully operational.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
One more day of hiding out from the world, and you'll be back in the mood for your usual gig - putting even the most accomplished social butterfly to shame.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
When it comes to the world at large, you've always been able to smile and have them thinking that you're on the same page, whether or not that happens to be true.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You're feeling benevolent, generous and extremely charitable toward your fellows. So no matter what anyone needs, you'll be only too happy to do whatever you can to help.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
If anyone needs a vacation, it's you. You've been working hard nonstop, both physically and emotionally.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8 4 3
4 9 6 1
2 6 5
9 7 5 6
3 4 2
4 7 5
1 3 8 2
8 9 1

Easy+

7 1 5
5 2
7 9 5 3
8 2 7 3
1 2
4 5 9 1
3 9 4 7
6 3
2 7 6

Medium

2 1 5 7 9
5 2
9 7
4 6 9
9 6 1 2 5
8 1 5
3 6
1 4
9 7 4 1 3

Hard

3 1 6
4 2
5 9 8
1 3
4 5
1 6
7 2

WEATHER

Table with columns: CHINA, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, WORLD, Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Campaign tactic; 6- Breathe convulsively; 10- Rare bills; 14- Latin-American dance; 15- Reformer Jacob; 16- Freeway exit; 17- Like afterschool activities; 20- Jockey Turcotte; 21- Distrustful; 22- Free from doubt; 26- To-do lists; 30- Supernatural; 34- Highly seasoned stew; 35- It breaks daily; 36- Best; 38- Fish; 39- Hunky-dory; 40- Dull surface; 42- Chart shape; 43- Sheet music abbr.; 44- Acquire; 45- The "A" in MBA; 49- Hunter in Greek myth; 50- Oscar winner Paquin; 51- Congo, formerly; 54- May honoree; 56- Sending signals everywhere; 64- Lunch time, often; 65- Franklin D.'s mother; 66- Not tied down; 67- Fish-eating eagle; 68- Med school subj.; 69- Cupolas;

DOWN: 1- ___-Foy, Quebec; 2- Nth degree; 3- Tolkien tree creature; 4- Cabinet dept.; 5- Loud, deep utterance, especially used by lions; 6- Filth; 7- Ventilate; 8- Title for Anthony Hopkins; 9- Trident-shaped letter; 10- Most loyal; 11- Fabric ridge; 12- Actor Epps; 13- Agile; 18- Do something together; 19- Scottish social unit; 22- Sandal part; 23- The Muse of astronomy; 24- Tattered; 25- Organic compound; 27- Express support; 28- Mont. neighbor; 29- Susan of "L.A. Law"; 31- Litigate against; 32- Achieve; 33- Emulsion; 37- Contour feather; 39- Type of song, to be sung solo; 40- Finance deg.; 41- ___ girl; 43- Farm worker; 44- Ready ___; 46- Leatherneck; 47- Frosted; 48- Alley denizen; 51- Area; 52- Latin love; 53- A party to; 55- Temperate; 57- Rose ___ rose...; 58- Wasn't colorfast; 59- Significant time; 60- "Hollywood Squares" win; 61- ___ de plume; 62- Enzyme ending; 63- Guitarist Paul;



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3,398 ft² \$17,800,000 (ref: 18045555)
[Taipa] Hellene Gardens 3 3 3
1,663 ft² \$8,990,000 (ref: 18085559)
[Taipa] Nice Court 3 2 2
1,600 ft² \$8,980,000 (ref: 19045002)

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[Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 2
1,366 ft² \$24,800/mth (ref: 19030002)
[Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4 4
3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)
[Taipa] Nova Park 2 2 2
1,134 ft² \$16,400/mth (ref: 17020638)
[Macau] Office
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fim/finishes: 25/05/2019

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FORMULA ONE

Bottas cruises to win in Baku as Mercedes dominates again

James Ellingworth, Baku

VALTTERI Bottas held off Lewis Hamilton before cruising to victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix yesterday to continue Mercedes' dominance of the title race.

That was the fourth straight one-two finish for Mercedes, the best start to a season by a two-car team in Formula One history.

"It obviously means a lot. It's incredible as a team the kind of level we are performing at now," Bottas said. "It's only my fifth win so of course it feels great."

Bottas was challenged by teammate Lewis Hamilton at the start but held on to the lead after they battled through the opening two corners.

Bottas took over the championship lead by a single point from Hamilton, who took second place behind the Finn.

It was Bottas' second vic-



Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland

tory in four races this year after a winless 2018.

It came a year after the Finn was agonizingly close to vic-

tory in Azerbaijan before a puncture forced him to retire from the lead and handed the win to Hamilton.

"He made no mistakes and he truly deserved the win," Hamilton said of his teammate. "It was lost in qualifying."

Sebastian Vettel was third as Ferrari failed to challenge Mercedes on a track that had been widely considered to favor the Italian team.

"It was never really working. I was uncomfortable, inconsistent, I couldn't get a feel for the car," Vettel said of his early stint on soft tires. He added that later in the race, "we had some pace to at least go with them, sometimes put a bit of pressure," but Bottas and Hamilton already had a comfortable lead.

Max Verstappen was fourth for Red Bull, while Charles Leclerc took fifth for Ferrari after a crash in qualifying left him starting eighth before he battled through the field.

Leclerc also claimed the bonus point for fastest lap. The Monaco driver took advantage of a big gap behind him to take an essentially free pit-stop for fresh tires and go on a qualifying-style final run to set the fastest time.

Sergio Perez took sixth for Racing Point, while Carlos Sainz and Lando Norris were seventh and eighth in McLaren's best two-car finish in more than a year. Racing Point's Lance Stroll was ninth, and Kimi Raikkonen claimed 10th for Alfa Romeo after starting from the pit line when he was disqualified from Saturday qualifying. **AP**

ATHLETICS

Kipchoge wins London Marathon for record fourth time

ELIUD Kipchoge of Kenya ran the second-fastest time ever to win the London Marathon for a record fourth time yesterday, and compatriot Brigid Kosgei swept to victory by almost two minutes in the women's race.

The 34-year-old Kipchoge pulled clear of Ethiopian runners Mosinet Geremew and Mule Wasihun in the final 10 minutes to complete the 42.2-kilometer course in 2 hours, 2 minutes, 37 seconds on a blustery day in the British capital.

Only Kipchoge has run a marathon quicker than that, when breaking the world record in Berlin in September in a time of 2:01:39. With more twists and turns, London is typically a slower course than Berlin — making Kipchoge's display even more exceptional.

"I'm happy to win on the streets of London for the fourth time and to make history on a day that the event has raised 1 billion



pounds (USD1.3 billion)," said Kipchoge, who won in London in 2015, '16 and '18.

Geremew finished 18 seconds behind, and Wasihun a further 21 seconds

back. Nobody has run quicker to finish a marathon in second or third place.

Home favorite Mo Farah — a four-time Olympic champion on the track — could not live with

the pace, dropping away at the 14-mile mark and finishing a distant fifth at the end of a week when he was involved in an extraordinary public feud with retired distance-running great Haile Gebrselassie.

Kosgei bettered her second-place finish in last year's race by winning in 2:18:20 for her second victory in the World Marathon Majors, after Chicago last year. She ran the quickest-ever second half of a women's marathon.

Compatriot and defending champion Vivian Cheruiyot finished in a time of 2:20:14 and Roza Dereje of Ethiopia was third, 37 seconds further back.

Dan Romanchuk, a 20-year-old American, won the men's wheelchair race ahead of Switzerland's Marcel Hug. The women's wheelchair race was won comfortably by Switzerland's Manuela Schar, the 2017 champion. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Mertens matches Maradona's 81 Serie A goals in Napoli win



DRIES Mertens matched Diego Maradona with his 81st Serie A goal for Napoli and Carlo Ancelotti's squad bounced back from a run of poor results for a 2-0 win at relegation-threatened Frosinone yesterday.

Mertens scored the opener with a perfectly executed free kick around Frosinone's wall into the near top corner.

Mertens and Maradona are tied for third on the club list of Serie A scorers behind 1930s star Antonio Vojak (102 goals) and recently departed captain Marek Hamsik (100).

Amin Younes doubled the lead after the break, dribbling by two defenders before sending an angled shot into the far corner.

Napoli also hit the woodwork twice in only its second league win of its last five matches. The southern club was also recently eliminated from the Europa League quarterfinals by Arsenal.

Napoli is firmly second, 18 points behind Italian champion Juventus and eight ahead of third-place Inter Milan with four rounds remaining.

Frosinone is in penultimate position. **AP**

opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



HARD TO CALL IT AN ELECTION

Apparently, the slow boat that will take Ho Iat Seng to replace CE Chui Sai On at the end of the year has set sail smoothly and will go on quietly indifferent to the certainties of local politics: a reverse analogy to the moody meteorological summer. The paradox is that the easier Ho's run to the top job is, the harder it will be to call the process an election.

Even the pro-democracy liberal representative sectors came to shy away from universal suffrage as an immediate target to accommodate the more gradualist approach of the Basic Law. Legislator Sulu Sou set a softer strategy to progressively add democratic elements to the electoral system... within the system and its red lines. In the name of dialogue and reciprocity Sou tried to put on the table for public consideration (via the Legislative Assembly) some democratic boundary lines of sorts: it is unacceptable to have uncontested elections for the top job.

The discomfort with the solo runner option is growing and spreading despite the efforts from conservative spinners who have been dressing the confirmation procedure with a mantra: it has historic, not to say scientific, roots. Or worse, as a deflating slogan: it is not unusual for CE candidates to run unopposed!

But discomfort is growing, indeed. Legislator Pereira Coutinho - himself an assumed whistle-blower against the go-alone Chief Executive fait accompli - is claiming that at least at the level of the small-circle college of the 400 representatives there will be what Coutinho wisely calls an "opportunity" to discuss the political program before the actual voting. Coutinho points inclusively to the opportunity as an instance to provide input, albeit increasing the political legitimacy of the small-circle procedure. If not, "the already limited election would not be more than a farce".

The weakening paradox we mention above becomes even more perverse when we consider the overwhelming benefits solo-runners get from small-circle events. Not only is the small-circle seen to avoid disagreement let alone dissent, the candidate is seen to be approved by an overwhelming suffrage of voters that all resemble each other.

Understandably, candidate Ho Iat Seng is yet to elaborate upon a political program or offer a comprehensive platform other than a two-pointer objective to improve the population's livelihood and to promote the integration of Macau into the Greater Bay Area. Again, candidate Ho is wise to restrict himself to general issues while crafting what platform he has in mind, although the absence of an allusion to the core casino business could be mistaken for dislocated modesty.

Albeit any administrative or government inexperience the political heavyweight Ho Iat Seng might have could be reason enough to look for a more experienced alternative, all are set to support him. The Mak Soi Kun quiz runs like this: who is he referring to when he says that the population does not want Macau to have rulers who apologize? Perhaps the time is not right for MSAR to have its own Carrie Lam.

Finally, I highlight the heavy sentencing of the Occupy Movement's front trio and the second drive Belt and Road Initiative is taking to face new realities of debt.

THE CHINA DIPLOMAT: HUAWEI SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO UPGRADE 5G IN UK

China's ambassador to Britain says tech giant Huawei should be allowed to help upgrade the U.K.'s communications network, urging the government to resist "protectionism" and ignore pressure from other countries.

Writing in the Sunday Telegraph, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming argues that British authorities should act independently and "in accordance with their national interests." He says the "last thing China expects from a truly open and fair

'global Britain' is a playing field that is not level."

The United States has lobbied allies to exclude Huawei from so-called 5G networks amid concern the company could provide a back door for Chinese security officials to access critical infrastructure.

Huawei officials have denied any security risk, saying the maker of tech gear has no links to the Chinese government and operates like any other international company.

TERROR

Rabbi's hands are shattered in fatal attack on synagogue



Elliot Spagat & Daisy Nguyen, Poway

THE rabbi who led a service on the last day of Passover suffered a gunshot wound to his hands and two others endured shrapnel wounds as political, civic and religious leaders across the country struggled to make sense of another fatal attack on a house of worship six months after a mass shooting in a Pittsburgh synagogue.

John T. Earnest, 19, surrendered to a police after bursting into Chabad of Poway, north of San Diego yesterday [Macau time] and opening fire with about 100 people inside, killing Lori Kayne, 60, and injuring Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, Noya Dahan, 8, and Almog Peretz, 34, authorities said.

Earnest, who had no previous contact with law enforcement, may be charged with a hate crime in addition to homicide, San Diego County Sheriff William Gore said. Earnest is also being investigated in connection with an arson attack on a mosque in nearby Escondido, California, on March 24.

"Any time somebody goes into a house of worship and shoots the congregants, in my book, that's a hate crime," Poway Mayor Steve Vaus said.

There were indications an

AR-type assault weapon might have malfunctioned after the gunman fired numerous rounds inside, Gore said. An off-duty Border Patrol agent working as a security guard fired at the shooter as he fled, missing him but striking his getaway vehicle, Gore said.

Shortly after fleeing, Earnest called 911 to report the shooting, San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit said. When an officer reached him on a roadway, "the suspect pulled over, jumped out of his car with his hands up and was immediately taken into custody," Nisleit said.

Audrey Jacobs, a friend of the slain woman, said on Facebook that Kane was "taking bullets" for the rabbi to save his life and the rabbi continued to give his sermon after being shot.

Gore said authorities were reviewing copies of Earnest's social media posts, including what he described as a "manifesto."

A person identifying themselves as John Earnest posted an anti-Jewish screed online about an hour before the attack. The poster described himself as a nursing school student and praised the suspects accused of carrying out deadly attacks on mosques in New Zealand last month and at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue Oct. 27.

California State Universi-

ty, San Marcos, confirmed Earnest was a student on the dean's list and said the school was "dismayed and disheartened" that he was suspected in "this despicable act."

There was no known threat after Earnest was arrested, but authorities boosted patrols at places of worship as a precaution, police said.

Minoo Anvari, a member of the synagogue, said her husband was inside during the shooting. She said he called to tell her the shooter was shouting and cursing.

She called the shooting "unbelievable" in a peaceful and tight-knit community. "We are strong; you can't break us," Anvari said.

Rabbi Yonah Fradkin, executive director of Chabad of San Diego County, said that "in the face of senseless hate we commit to live proudly as Jews in this glorious country. We strongly believe that love is exponentially more powerful than hate. We are deeply shaken by the loss of a true woman of valor, Lori Kaye, who lost her life solely for living as a Jew."

Donny Phonea, who lives across the street from the synagogue, turned off his power drill and heard someone shout, "Police!" Then he heard three or four shots. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	60-80 Moderate	Yellow sad face
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	Green happy face
Ambient	60-80 Moderate	Yellow sad face

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



AFGHANISTAN The suffering of young women is why rights activists say they are demanding a seat at the table in negotiations between the government and the Taliban over peace and Afghanistan's future. More on p13



CYPRUS Investigators hunting for victims of a suspected serial killer retrieved a suitcase containing the decomposing remains of a woman from the bottom of a man-made lake yesterday. The body is believed to be that of one of the victims of a Cypriot military officer who has confessed to killing seven foreign women and girls. The suitcase was weighed down by a concrete block.



SPAIN A divided country voted yesterday in its third general election in four years, with all eyes on whether a far-right party will enter Parliament for the first time in decades and potentially help unseat the Socialist government.



MOZAMBIQUE A second disaster unfolded yesterday in northern Mozambique in the wake of Cyclone Kenneth as raging flood waters killed one person and began to cut off the region's main city from the outside world. Some 160,000 people were at risk, with more torrential rain forecast for the days ahead. More on p15