



DESPERATE MEASURES
Lawmaker Ella Lei says the Macau Federation of Trade Unions is following up on the labor dispute case that interrupted the Chief Executive's policy address

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PRESSING AHEAD
The HK government says it won't let the views of 130,000 street protestors halt its plans for a controversial extradition law

P5 HONG KONG



PIRATES OF THE GREATER BAY

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Apr 2019

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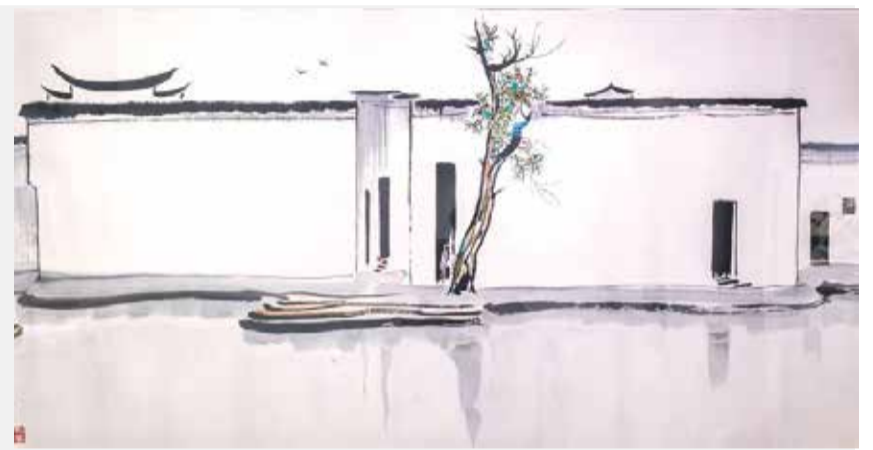
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WORLD BRIEFS

SOUTH CHINA SEA
Two U.S. warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait over the weekend, Taiwan's defense ministry said yesterday, in a move that Beijing said threatened to hinder U.S.-China relations. The ministry said the ships made the passage, sailing from south to north through the waterway that divides the self-governing island from mainland China.
More on p10

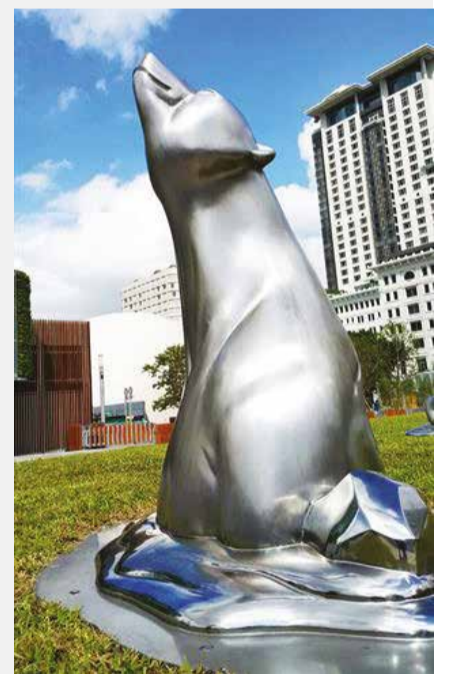


JAPAN's 85-year-old Emperor Akihito ends his three-decade reign today when he abdicates to his son Crown Prince Naruhito (left). He'll be the first emperor to abdicate in 200 years. The imperial family is relatively small and will shrink further in the coming years. Only one of Emperor Akihito's four grandchildren is a male who can ascend to the throne.

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The everywhere, summer-long arts festival

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Angela Leong donates \$3m to MIT

Hong Kong's Next Magazine has reported that lawmaker Angela Leong donated USD3 million in total to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the name of her charity fund between 2016 and 2017. Two of her children, Mario and Alice Ho, studied at MIT, with her son graduating in 2016. He was reported to have finished his four-year program in just three years and was allegedly the youngest master's student in MIT's finance program. Her daughter began studying at MIT in 2017 and is still pursuing her degree. The MIT admission rate was around 7% in 2018.

74 domestic violence cases confirmed in 2018

In 2018, a total of 74 domestic violence cases were confirmed, according to the statistics released by the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS). The figure represents a slight decrease compared to both 2016 and 2017. Nevertheless, despite the small number of confirmed cases, in 2018 the IAS recorded a total of 1,700 complaints concerning domestic violence. By next October, the IAS will have completed a review of the city's domestic violence law.

Century-old school building to be demolished in July

The 100-year-old Salesian School building will be demolished in July this year, according to a report by Cheng Pou. The demolition project is currently under public tender. The first phase of the demolition project is expected to officially launch in July. The scope of the demolition includes the mechanical work room, badminton court, volleyball court, part of the football field and the school canteen, the elementary school's old administrative building, the basketball court, snack bar and grass playground. According to the tender announcement, there will be another demolition phase later.

Trade union federation currently assisting AL protestor

Staff reporter

LAWMAKER Ella Lei has confirmed to the Times that she and the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) are currently working on the case of a woman who interrupted the Chief Executive's policy address at the Legislative Assembly last month saying she was desperate for help with a labor dispute.

During the policy address, a rather peaceful "protest" occurred in the plenary room, whereby the woman rose from her spectator seat, stood next to the main door, holding an envelope that she claimed contained documents proving she had been unfairly dismissed by her employer.

She told the media that she had been fired by her previous employer on unreasonable grounds, leaving her with zero compensation.

Legislators Ella Lei and Leong Sun Iok intervened and promised to hear her case after the AL meeting session.

During her "protest," the wo-



man explained that she had filed complaints with the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL), but she did not receive the help she requested from the bureau.

Yesterday, lawmaker Lei confirmed that the woman had been in touch with several entities, the DSAL being one

of them, and the FAOM another. Lei said that the case was proceeding according to the FAOM's "existing procedures."

According to Lei, the procedures include meeting with stakeholders in the case, such as the DSAL and the employer, as well as inspecting evidence

provided by the client, which, in this case, are communications between the woman, the DSAL and other concerned entities.

The legislator could not provide a number as to the frequency of such cases in Macau, but she noted that laborers have become more aware of their legal rights in recent years, and are more prepared to use legal procedures to protect their rights.

However, the lawmaker commented that the labor law of Macau could not cope with the variety of new situations. "For example, there's no provision in the law regarding compensation leave. Some companies even deliberately arrange regular days off to a statutory holiday [to take advantage]," Lei explained.

The incident at the AL occurred less than a week before the trade union law proposal was voted down by the city's legislature for the 10th time. Ella Lei and Leong Sun Iok were two of 13 lawmakers that voted in favor of the proposal.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

First temporary restaurant license issued

THE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has issued its first temporary restaurant operation license after the new catering and restaurant license issuing administration regulation came into effect recently.

The license offers applicants an easier and faster document reviewing process, and applicants can obtain temporary permits in turn, allowing them to operate their restaurants as early as possible.

The new policies are said to properly balance the public interest while relieving pressure on applicants when starting a business.

The temporary license is valid for four months. The applicant

can submit their application first and wait for approval. In the meantime, applicants will be asked to submit documents related to the restaurant's facilities to receive a temporary license.

Specific documentation should include documents describing space requirements for public safety, public hygiene and for environmental protection.

In order to get a temporary license approved, the applicant must present documents signed by qualified individuals or entities to prove that their operating space meets fire service standards, among others.

The first four-month temporary license was issued on April 10.

EDUCATION

IFT launching new postgraduate programs

THE Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) is planning to launch four Postgraduate Diploma for the new academic year after approval is obtained from relevant authorities.

The four Postgraduate Diploma programs are in "International Hospitality and Tourism Management", "Tourism Management", "Hospitality Management" and "International Food and Beverage Management".

Meanwhile, four MSc programs will also be launched, namely in "International Hospitality Management", "International Tourism Management", "Hospitality and Tourism

Management" and "International Food and Beverage Management".

One PhD program is planned in "Hospitality and Tourism Management".

The IFT will launch the new programs according to enrolment situations from the academic year of 2019/20 onwards.

According to the IFT, these programs will help Macau to develop into the "tourism education and training base of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area", cultivate high-caliber talents, and improve the service and management capacity of Macau as a destination.

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ARTS

Coalition to bring summer-long cultural festival to Macau

ART Macao, a five-month international arts and culture event, will be held this summer, bringing to the city an array of exhibitions and performances organized by a coalition of private and public entities in Macau.

Spanning from June to October, this grand cultural and artistic festival features a series of events, including international art exhibitions, performances, youth festivals and visual arts exhibitions from Macau's higher education institutions. Together, the 31 constituent programs held at more than 30 different venues form a colorful artistic experience to residents and visitors alike.

Art Macao is organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Macau Government Tourism Office, with the support of a coalition of various other government agencies, all six gaming concessionaires, as well as foreign consulates.

THE CLASSIC AESTHETIC

Starting from April, Art Macao will be preceded by a series of exhibitions intended to evoke a highly refined classic aesthetic. The exhibition "Italian Renaissance Drawings from the British Museum" presents 52 drawings by 42 Italian Renaissance masters of the 15th and 16th centuries, showcasing the transformations and innovations that took place during this period.

The exhibition "Beauty in the New Era - Masterpieces from the Collection of the National Art Museum of China" features nearly 90 works by modern and contemporary masters, aiming

LI YI JIAN



Contemporary dance production "Under Siege" by Yang Liping

to fully present the development of Chinese fine art over the last hundred years.

The exhibition "Reminiscences of the Silk Road—Exhibition of Cultural Relics of the Western Xia Dynasty" unveils the mystery behind the history and culture of the Western Xia. Some exhibits will also be presented outside the Ningxia for the first time, making this a rare opportunity for the public to appreciate these world heritage treasures.

THE CHARM OF THE CONTEMPORARY

Art Macao has invited several hotels and integrated resorts to collaborate in the organization

of "Art Macao: International Art Exhibition", the event's highlight feature, which seeks to create a platform to encourage local artistic creation, "enhance the humanistic spirit" of Macau and create a new brand of cultural tourism.

The main exhibition will showcase valuable works selected by several hotels and integrated resorts, including paintings, ceramics, sculptures, interactive installations and multimedia presentations. It has the stated goal of capturing the charm of contemporary visual arts, according to organizers.

In addition to the main exhibition, which will be held at the Macao Museum of Art, several

other exhibitions will also be organized by hotels and integrated resorts and by foreign consulates accredited in Hong Kong and Macau.

Six outdoor art installations which will be displayed at various attractions of the city, bringing together historic and contemporary works alongside one another.

CALL AND THE CITY ANSWERS

During the five-month event, consulates in Macau and Hong Kong, integrated resorts operators and other private sector entities will stage their own exhibitions and performances.

SJM will showcase "ART -

Appreciation - Legacy", a celebration of cultural heritage by SJM in collaboration with fellow artists, who have created seven exceptional and multi-dimensional exhibitions in various locations of the city every month from June to October.

Sands China will host "All That's Gold Does Glitter - An Exhibition of Glamorous Ceramics", curated by internationally acclaimed ceramic artist Caroline Cheng and featuring over 90 masterpieces by 27 ceramic artists. This exhibition will be the largest international ceramic art exhibition in the Greater Bay Area in 2019.

Galaxy Entertainment Group will host the exhibition, "GRACE KELLY: From Hollywood to Monaco - Artists' Tributes", tracing the legendary story of Oscar-winning actress Grace Kelly who became Princess of Monaco.

MGM will stage the exhibition "Hua Yuan", revealing new developments in the art of ink painting through the presentation of works by contemporary artists, including the large-scale multimedia installation "A Metamorphosis: No End To End" by Ma Wen and the digital landscape painting "Journey to the Dark II" by Yang Yongliang.

Melco Resorts & Entertainment's "Unexpected Encounters" exhibition features a number of masterpieces by renowned contemporary artists from the City of Dreams art collection, including "Good Intentions" by KAWS and "Fat Convertible" by Erwin Wurm.

Wynn Macau's exhibition "Wynn - Garden of Earthly Delights" presents a selection of modern and contemporary art pieces by several renowned artists for the first time in Macau.

Meanwhile, the consulates from Japan, Italy, Hungary and Belgium will also organize their own art exhibitions in Macau, adding to the festive and creative atmosphere over the summer months. **DB**

Mobile phone feature film to premiere at Cinematheque Passion

Staff reporter

A feature film shot fully on mobile phone is to be premiered at Cinematheque Passion on May 24. The film is in 4K resolution and was shot partly in Macau.

"Sea of Mirrors" tells the story of an outdated Japanese actress meeting a lecherous middle-aged male fan in Macau to satisfy her yearning for attention since stepping out of the limelight. However, this

causes her daughter to be kidnapped.

Dr. Tan See Kam, professor of film studies at the University of Macau, is the executive producer of the film.

The film is also connected to Macau through 1220 Film Production, a local company, a sales agent and a distributor who has helped promote and sell the film. According to filmmakers, Sea of Mirrors is being submitted to film festivals arou-

nd the world.

Director Thomas Lim is the film's writer and producer. He has always wanted to show the film on the big screen and previously said he would prefer that the premiere of Sea of Mirrors be in Macau.

Lim also wants to question the existence of white supremacy in Macau. He said, "the film's message is simply how foreigners, especially white Americans and Europeans living in Asia, behave like they are

celebrities simply because they are white. Is this attention they are receiving in Asia actually worth anything though?"

The filmmaker raises the question through a Japanese actress and protagonist who travels to Macau in the film's plot, just like "these foreigners who no longer do well in their home country and travel to Macau to feel important again."

Lim wanted his protagonist to make the audience



think about what they actually consider Macau to be.

The production of the

film took approximately three years. Besides Macau, it was also shot in Los Angeles.



CRIME

Local woman suspect in scam involving 9 million patacas

Renato Marques

A local 33-year-old woman has been arrested by the Judiciary Police (PJ) suspected of having scammed at least 13 people out of MOP8.95 million, the PJ spokesperson reported yesterday during the joint press conference of the police forces, held at the Public Security Police Force (PSP) facilities.

According to the report, the victims, 13 in total, include 12 local residents and one mainland resident. All of the victims had made contact with the woman through her previous job at a luxury boutique.

The PJ spokesperson said that the police had been receiving complaints on the case starting February 21, with the last complaint recorded on April 25. During this period, the woman made use of contracts acquired from her previous job to offer the victims two kinds of supposedly-profitable ventures.

In the first, she offered to exchange HKD currency into RMB at a very favorable rate. Ten of her victims agreed and transferred high sums to the suspect through several means.

According to the PJ, the woman never transferred any funds to any of the victims, making use of her friendly relationship and the fact she was known by the victims to delay the payments.

Another three victims claimed she offered them a different scheme, based on a short-term money deposit that would allegedly lead to high-interest returns of up to 10% in 10 days. The woman never repaid any of the investors.

The PJ says that the details in the case unfolded on April 26, the day that the suspect went by her own initiative and will to the PJ.

According to her testimony at the force, she said she had no intention of scamming anyone. Instead, she was using the funds in another investment that would grant her enough money to return what she had promised to the investors.

She claimed that because she put all the money in the investment, she has no way to return it at the moment to the people involved. The police did not believe her and forwarded the case to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on April 27.

SEXAGENARIAN VICTIM TO 'LOVERS' SCAM

In another case of scam, the same police force spokesperson said that a non-resident woman, over 60 years old, had been reportedly involved in a social network scam perpetrated by an unknown man.

The woman that presented a complaint at the PJ only recently said she had met the alleged man on a social network

back in 2014 and that they had been communicating over several channels and online platforms over the past five years in a long-distance relationship.

After almost one year of communication, the woman said that the man informed her he needed to move to Malaysia to work and live but he had difficulties establishing himself there, requesting money from the victim to allegedly settle in the new country and promising he would return it as soon as possible.

From 2015 and until the start of 2019, the woman claims that she transferred a total of USD89,400 (over MOP720,000) in several installments to an account in a Ma-

laysian bank indicated by the man.

On February 28, the same man contacted her again saying that he had sent a parcel with gifts to the woman, which included an iPhone, an iPad, and several valuable jewels. Unfortunately, the parcel had been retained by the customs in Malaysia because of its value and he had to pay a high amount in taxes in order to get it back.

The woman again believed his story and transferred an additional amount of \$27,945 (around MOP226,000) to the same bank account.

In total, and taking into account the different rates, she has calculated losses of over MOP913,000.

PARTNERS PART WAYS OVER MISSING CHIPS

Two women from the mainland said to be friends decided to come to Macau to gamble on April 24.

According to the PJ, one of them that had a high sum in cash and gaming chips and asked her friend's help to look over a portion of them for some time.

After claiming to visit the bathroom, the friend disappeared taking with her about HKD200,000 in cash and chips.

The victim finished gambling in the afternoon of the same day and called her friend to arrange to meet inside a hotel room at the central Macau casino resort in which they were staying.

The suspect agreed but when she arrived at the hotel room she immediately told the victim she had gambled all the money and chips away.

The victim then called the PJ from the room to request their assistance. She claims to have lost a sum of about HKD200,000. Her former friend is now being charged over the crime of 'breach of trust.'

TOURIST CAUGHT WITH BLUE-CARD FORGERY

The PSP spokesperson informed yesterday that an officer on duty caught a tourist from the mainland on April 26 during a routine operation of identification checking.

According to the police, the man was acting suspiciously at Rua de Lei Pou Chon in the northern district. His behavior prompted the officer to ask for his identification.

The suspect presented a valid travel document for Macau and Hong Kong but he was very nervous and, suspecting that something was not right, the officer performed a body search that found one non-resident worker permit (commonly known as a blue-card) that appeared to be a poorly-made forgery, using even the wrong colors for this type of document.

Further investigation revealed that the man had acquired the forgery in the city of Zhuhai for the price of RMB150 with the purpose of trying to find a job in Macau.

Two street protests expected for May 1

Renato Marques

AS of yesterday evening, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) had received just three requests for street demonstrations to be held tomorrow on International Workers' Day, but one request had already been withdrawn by one of the organizers.

Accordingly, just two groups are expected to march across the city tomorrow, with one of them with gathering initially at Triangle Garden and the other at Shop H of the Villa del Mer Building in the Hac Sa Wan area.

The first group will start its street marching

at 2 p.m. on May 1 and the second half an hour later, both in direction to the Nam Van Leisure area where both protests are planned to end. One of the groups will stop halfway, at the headquarters of the Central People's Government Liaison Office in Macau where they will deliver a letter before continuing to the Nam Vam area.

Both groups are expected to deliver letters at the government's headquarters.

The PSP issued a warning to the organizer groups calling on the protestors to strictly follow the rules and conduct the protest "orderly and peacefully," minimizing the disturbance to other users of the public streets.

Hong Kong defends extradition law after largest protest in years

Natalie Lung & Blake Schmidt

HONG Kong's government said it would press ahead with legislation to end a ban on extraditions to mainland China, despite opponents staging one of the largest mass protests since the 2014 Occupy movement.

The government said in a statement late Sunday that the bill was necessary "to plug the loopholes" in laws governing the transfer of criminal suspects between the former British colony and other jurisdictions. Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam is seeking to pass the legislation, which would allow for one-off deals with places including mainland China, Macau and Taiwan, before the current legislative session ends in July.

"The government understands that there are different views in the community on the proposed legislative amendments," the government said. "The government hopes that the Bills Committee can start its work as soon as possible during which we will continue to explain the legislative proposals in detail to the Legislative Council and the public and exchange views."

The comments came after as many as 130,000 marched to the city's Legislative Council building Sunday to protest against the legislation, with many participants calling for Lam's resignation. Although police estimated the crowd at less than 23,000, the demonstra-



tion was among the largest since months-long pro-democracy rallies in 2014 ended without securing any concessions from the Beijing-backed government.

Lam argues the law is needed to bring fugitives to justice, citing difficulties in pursuing murder charges against a Hong Kong man over the death of his girlfriend while the pair were vacationing last year in self-ruled island of Taiwan. But the push has prompted new concern about the legal autonomy guaranteed to Hong Kong before its return to China in 1997,

as well as the risk of Hong Kong citizens and foreign residents being subject to prosecution on the mainland.

Besides local activists' fears of political persecution, foreign business groups have warned that the legislation could reduce Hong Kong's appeal as a global financial hub. While Sunday's march was estimated the largest since as many as 200,000 people joined the Occupy demonstrations, an annual vigil commemorating the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown drew an estimated 135,000 in 2015, accord-

ing to that event's organizers.

The sentencing of leaders of the Occupy protests last week to prison terms of up to 16 months might have contributed to the larger turnout Sunday. An upcoming event commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen incident on June 4 will present another opportunity for pro-democracy forces to show their numbers.

In response to criticism, Lam has already removed nine categories of business-related crimes from the potential offenses eligible for one-time extradition

decisions. The government has so far given no indication that it could scrap the proposal, like it did for a controversial national security bill after a half million protesters took the streets in 2003.

"The Taiwan murder case has clearly shown that serious crimes can happen in any place and at any time. It is just a question who the unfortunate victim may be," the government said Sunday. "Hence, we have to plug the loopholes in the current mechanisms as quickly as possible." **Bloomberg**

ANALYSIS

Bargain GBA islands unlikely to meet investor expectations

Julie Zhu

IN April, the Department of Natural Resources of Guangdong Province issued the trial measures for the sale of non-resident island use rights, according to which the Guangdong government will organize the bidding, auction or listing of islands for sale.

According to mainland China's definition, non-resident islands are islands which do not implement Hukou (residency) registration for people, meaning that mainland residents are not allowed

to use an address on the islands to register their residency. It does not mean that these islands do not have people living there.

However, although the measures indicated that any individual, even foreigners, can own an island in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), the investment returns may not meet investor expectations, especially as several Chinese island investment failures have been reported in recent years.

According to the measures, interested parties must submit a develop-

ment plan for their ideal island before they purchase it, and the plan must comply with the island's planned function, which was set up by the Guangdong government.

For example, an island for forestry purposes cannot be used for developing tourism resorts.

Besides the restrictions in terms of function, once an entity buys an island in the GBA, a plan must be implemented within two years, otherwise the right to use the island will return to the Guangdong government.

In 2011, Zhejiang sold

the first non-resident island since the launch of China's island protection law. The buyer was a Chinese company from Ningbo, which won an auction of a non-resident island with RMB20 million. However, in 2018, after around seven years of development without any concrete results, the island was sold to a second company.

In 2004, Wenzhou, Zhejiang's province, sold, for the first time, a non-resident island to Chen Xiaoxian, a Chinese female businesswoman, who invested a total of three million

yuan to develop the land. However, she withdrew from the island's development in 2009, following five years of investments and a substantial financial loss.

Buying an island in China is not as expensive as in other countries.

According to the regulation of the Ministry of Finance and the State Oceanic Administration, the lowest price of a non-resident island's for private use is calculated based mainly on the area of the island and on the island's service life.

For instance, take a small island of one hectare. If an island located in Zhuhai is being used for tourism and entertainment purposes, and if the degree of renovation of the island is less than 10 percent, then the mi-

nimum price of the use of the whole island for one year is about 15,400 yuan, according to a report by Exmoo.

However, based on this minimum price, the mainland government will then evaluate the value of the resources on the island and will form another transfer price.

It may sound economical to buy an island in China, but the costs that come after buying it may end up being multiple times higher than the island's outright purchase price.

Besides all the aforementioned conditions, the development of an island needs to comply with layers of dense policies, and any development risks being damaged by the passing of a single typhoon in the vicinity.

Mark O'Neill

CHEUNG Po Tsai – literally Cheung Po the Kid, like many an outlaw before and after him – packed a lot into his short life: 15 years as a commoner, 12 years as a pirate, and 12 years as a pirate catcher in the Qing navy. Traces of the 19th-century pirate can still be found today, in the landscape of Hong Kong and the stories told on screens big and small.

AN UNLIKELY BEGINNING

Born in 1783 in the Xinhui district of Jiangmen, Cheung came from humble beginnings, the son of a fisherman.

That all changed when, at the age of 15, he was abducted by a powerful local pirate named Cheng I. Forced to join Cheng's fleet, the young Cheung soon impressed the pirate and began to rise up through the ranks. He became heir to Cheng I after the pirate and his wife adopted him as their stepson.

When Cheng died in Vietnam on 16 November 1807, Cheung was the obvious successor. His widow, Ching Shih, while formidable could not command the Red Flag Fleet herself. But her cleverness ensured that she and Cheung retained the loyalty of Cheng's relatives who led other pirate vessels, effectively stifling any threats to their power.

The two soon became lovers, sharing control of the new fleet: Ching Shih handled business affairs while Cheung was responsible for the military side of the operation, with Cai Qian serving as a loyal lieutenant. His wife, a weapons expert who spoke fluent English, had enabled the pirates to acquire weapons from Western arms dealers.

Based on outlying islands in the South China Sea, the Red Flag Fleet was one of several pirate groups that made their living targeting the Pearl River Delta, then (and now) the most prosperous region of China. They exploited the decline of the Qing dynasty, its navy unable to effectively protect the commercial vessels and ports in the Delta.

Delta residents were forced to pay 'protection' money to the fleet, while merchant vessels wanting to pass through the area paid a tax. Not content with these schemes, Cheung and Ching Shih expanded into blackmail and extortion, developing an extensive spy network in the mainland.

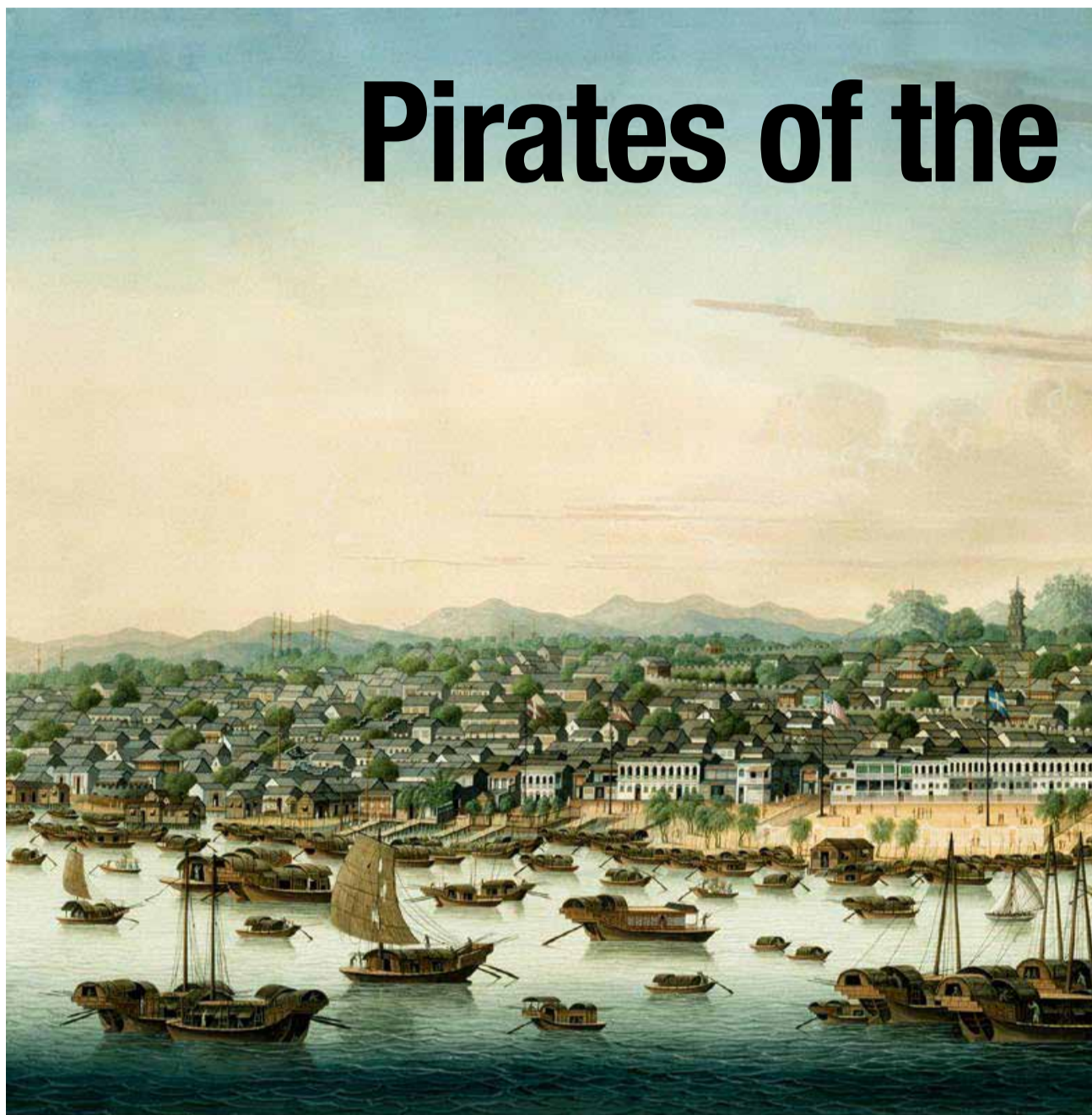
Ching Shih used the profits from their various ventures to create a supply chain, contracting with farmers to supply them with food, and build the fleet to the point that it surpassed many navies. At its peak, they numbered an estimated 1,800 vessels and 80,000 followers, operating along the coast of the South China Sea and as far south as Malaysia.

Like many pirates, Cheung and Ching Shih operated under a complicated code of ethics. While Cheung sometimes gave food and money to the poor, making him something of a Robin Hood figure in their eyes, he also oversaw horrific violence. Raided towns were subjected to rape and murder, and female prisoners were often sold to the crew as 'wives.'

Their massive crew faced similarly harsh justice for most infractions, with death sentences issued for everything from stealing loot to going ashore without permission. The pair ruled with an iron fist, and for years it served them beautifully, adding to their numbers – and their treasure.

Then the fleet suffered a heavy blow in 1809. When the Qing navy discovered that Cai Qian had docked in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, they blockaded him inside the port. The Qing were not about to waste an opportunity to retaliate against the pirates who had harried their waters for so many years. Cai likely died during the attack when canon fire sunk his ship, although the more colourful stories claim he committed suicide – a single shot to the head with a golden bullet.

As much as they frustrated the Qing government, the Red Flag Fleet had left European vessels alone. But the temptation became too great, and in early Sep-



A painting of the city of Canton c. 1800, where Ching Shih lived before she became a pirate. The Chinese artist behind the work is unknown

tember 1809, the pirates seized a Portuguese trading ship travelling from Timor to Macau, then both Portuguese colonies. They killed the entire crew before making off with their loot.

BATTLE OF THE TIGER'S MOUTH

In response to the massacre, the Leal Senado ordered Captain José Pinto Alcoforado e Sousa to lead three armed vessels to attack the Red Flag Fleet. At the governor's request, a British fleet anchored in Macau agreed to join the attack.

The first battle took place on 15 September 1809. The Portu-

guese vessels confronted the far larger contingent of the Red Flag Fleet, numbering 200 ships, in the Humen Strait of the Pearl River. The promised assistance from the British fleet never came, yet with 39 artillery pieces, the Portuguese managed to win the day, forcing the pirate ships to scatter.

While not a total victory, the outsized showing by the Portuguese caught the attention of the Qing government. Emissaries arrived in Macau on 23 November, proposing a joint operation against the Red Flag Fleet comprised of six Portuguese and 60 Chinese vessels.

The governor of Macau agreed, ordering the formation of a larger fleet, and in less than a week the six Portuguese ships set off from Macau to join the Qing fleet. Within hours of leaving, however, the Portuguese flotilla was intercepted by the Red Flag Fleet.

With 120 artillery pieces and 760 men, roughly three times what they had in the September clash, the Portuguese once again came out on top. After some nine hours of fighting, they had sunk 15 pirate ships and badly damaged several others. The Red Flag Fleet fled, regrouped, and attacked again only to incur



The trail to Cheung Po Tsai cave, on Hong Kong's Cheung Chau Island



COURTESY KEITH MACGREGOR

Greater Bay



more losses.

With aid from the much larger Qing fleet not forthcoming, the Portuguese decided not to push their luck and returned to Macau rather than pursue the pirates.

On 11 December, Cheung launched an attack against the Portuguese flotilla, striking closer to Macau than any previous clash. His attempt to bring a decisive end to the battle failed utterly. Not only did he lose a further 15 ships, his failed attempt at negotiating a peace deal with Alcoforado cost him a valuable ally, the Black Flag Fleet. With those pirates now firmly on the

government's side, Cheung's supporters began to lose confidence in their commander and the likelihood of success. Many deserted.

Clashes in early January inflicted further losses on the dwindling Red Flag Fleet before the final and decisive battle on 21 January 1810. Cheung threw every resource available – over 300 ships, 1,500 guns and 20,000 men – against the Portuguese flotilla, anchored near Lantau Island. It backfired horribly: the massive number of pirate vessels struggled to maneuver around each other, offering up a slow, heavily clustered target for the

superior Portuguese artillery.

When Alcoforado spotted an extremely large junk, transformed into a floating pagoda, at the center of the pirate fleet, he ordered artillery to fire on it until the badly damaged vessel sank beneath the waves. Seeing that, the pirates retreated into the shallow Hiang San River where they were trapped by a Portuguese blockade.

Known collectively as the Battle of the Tiger's Mouth – taken from the Portuguese name for the strait, Boca do Tigre – these clashes brought Cheung's short but successful career in piracy to a close.

After holding out for two weeks under blockade, Cheung sent a request to the Portuguese commander for an emissary to negotiate the pirates' surrender. Alcoforado chose instead to go himself, taking a small vessel to meet Cheung aboard his flagship. Impressed and flattered by his bravery, Cheung abandoned his original plan – using negotiations to buy time – and immediately capitulated to the Qing authorities.

On 21 February, the pirates signed a peace treaty under which they agreed to submit to the Qing emperor and Cheung, to become an officer in its navy with the mission of fighting pirates. He and his lover bargained well: less than 400 of their men were punished and only 126 executed, a tiny fraction of those under their command at the time. The rest were allowed to keep their booty, and most were offered jobs in the Qing military.

Two months later, on 20 April 1810, Cheung formally handed over his fleet and weapons: 280 ships, 2,000 guns, and more than 25,000 men. Zhang Bailing, governor of Guangdong province, accepted his surrender and to the surprise of everyone, the Portuguese navy made no claim on the booty – greatly impressing the Qing officers.

Cheung became a colonel in the Qing navy and was assigned to the Penghu Islands, an archipelago in the Taiwan Strait. The Qing gave him command of 30 ships and allowed him to retain 30 of his own as a private fleet. He spent the rest of his life fighting pirates, helping the Qing to cripple piracy in the region by the 1820s.

Cheung and Ching Shih were married, their nuptials witnessed by the same Governor Zhang who had overseen the pirate's surrender earlier in the year. In 1813, she gave birth to their first child, a boy named Cheung Yu Lin, and later, a daughter.

During his naval career, Cheung made several formal visits to the Leal Senado where he met several of the Portuguese officers who took part in the Battle of the Tiger's Mouth. Among them

Gonçalves Carocha, a Macanese pilot whose ship provided critical supplies and nimbly avoided capture while inflicting damage on the pirates.

Cheung earned a promotion following the successful capture of the wanted pirate Qu Shi Er. In 1819, Cheung was appointed deputy general in Fujian, where he served until his death in 1822.

Dead at 39 years old, Cheung had served 12 years with the Qing navy – the same amount of time he spent as a pirate after being kidnapped as a teenager. Now twice widowed, Ching Shih moved to Macau where she opened a gambling house and a brothel. She died peacefully in 1844, a grandmother of 69 years old; her descendants still live in the city today.

LASTING LEGACY

While his blood may be in Macau, it is Hong Kong that still bears the influence of Cheung Po Tsai. He built several temples to the deity Tin Hau, goddess of seafarers, in Stanley, Ma Wan, and Cheung Chau – which is also home to Cheung Po Tsai Cave, a small, natural cave said to be where Cheung stored his loot during one episode in the fateful Battle of the Tiger's Mouth.

Perhaps it is this historical connection that makes the site such a popular attraction for trekkers and treasure hunters today – after all, Cheung utilised many caves throughout the outlying islands of Hong Kong during his time as a pirate. Visitors to the Cheung Chau site enter via a ladder, descending 10 metres to a path that extends another 90 metres before reaching the exit. The space is so narrow visitors can only move one by one, with nothing but their own flashlights to illuminate the darkness.

Cheung Po Tsai left his mark on popular culture as well, his thrilling life story inspiring many Hong Kong films, including the 1973 film *The Pirate*, as well as television dramas like the 2015 series *Captain of Destiny*. He even inspired a character, Sao Feng (played by Hong Kong actor Chow Yun Fat), in the Hollywood blockbuster *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*. **MDT/Macauhub/Macau Magazine**



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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

Ferris Wheel in Singapore club marks Tao's 'most dramatic' foray

Ranjeetha Pakiam, Joyce Koh

TAO Group, the U.S.-based nightlife and restaurant company, this month opened Singapore's biggest night club - with an indoor ferris wheel and three-story slide - as its partner Las Vegas Sands Corp. gears up to invest more than USD3 billion in the city-state.

The 2,300-square meter club located at the iconic Marina Bay Sands resort is Tao's attempt to establish itself in a country that's seen record tourist numbers boosted by the Hollywood blockbuster "Crazy Rich Asians." With its carnival theme and gilded cage bars, the venue can accommodate about 2,000 party-goers.

"This is a booming country in so many ways, we should be here," Jason Strauss,



Jason Strauss

Tao's co-founder said in an interview on Friday at the new Marquee club in Singapore. "It's a big plus too to have a partner like Marina Bay Sands to give us the support to enter a new market."

Marquee is the second of Tao's four planned ventures in Singapore, after opening Italian restaurant Lavo on

the rooftop of the Marina Bay Sands in January last year. Next will be Avenue, a speakeasy-style lounge and Koma, a Japanese eatery and sushi bar.

Earlier this month, Las Vegas Sands and Genting Singapore Ltd. pledged to invest SGD9 billion (\$6.6 billion) in Singapore's tou-

rist attractions. Las Vegas Sands is planning to add a fourth tower to the Marina Bay Sands hotel while Genting will expand Resorts World Sentosa over five years.

Tao, whose U.S. nightclubs and high-end restaurants were said to once be frequented by the fugitive Malaysian financier Jho Low, is now focused on building its brand in Singapore. In the Asia Pacific region, the city state is its only presence outside of Sydney and the one place, according to Strauss, where it's expanding.

"We've had incredible energy in here," he said. "To build our most dramatic, our most beautiful and our most technologically-advanced nightclub in the entire portfolio, that was super exciting for us." **Bloomberg**

Tesla plant key to Musk's future ambitions takes shape in China

THREE months after groundbreaking, Tesla Inc. is rushing to complete its multibillion-dollar factory on the outskirts of Shanghai to capitalize on growing demand in the world's largest electric-car market.

Foundations for the facility have been laid, and construction workers are erecting walls and other structures for the factory, which could eventually rival production from its U.S. assembly plant. Tesla broke ground at the 210-acre "Gigafactory 3" site, its first outside the U.S., in January.

Founder Elon Musk said last week that production in Shanghai could reach a rate of 2,000 vehicles a week by the end of the year. A Shanghai government official said in March that he expected the factory's assembly shop to be completed already in May.

The factory will help Tesla to avoid the current 15 percent tariff on imported cars from the U.S., making its pricing more competitive against local brands.

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

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Trade war is Taiwan's opportunity to bring cash home

Chinmei Sung

LONG Chen Paper Co. has made and sold cardboard packaging in China for more than two decades, and had never made a loss there until presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping began their face-off over trade.

Caught in the tariff cross-fire, Long Chen and other Taiwanese companies like it suddenly found that the proposition for doing business across the Taiwan Strait looked a lot weaker. That adversity has been seized as an opportunity by President Tsai Ing-wen, whose government last year started an "Invest Taiwan" campaign to lure companies away from China.

This year, her government has focused specifically on Taiwanese companies with operations in China, helping them overcome the island's shortages of land, electricity, water, labor and talent. So far, it appears to be a hit. As of April 26, 40 companies, from a maker of network devices to a producer of bathroom fittings, have committed to investing a combined USD6.7 billion and creating 21,200 jobs - on track to exceed all the government's targets.

The biggest single pledge so far this year is from Delta Electronics Inc. The power-component maker has applied to invest \$1.8 billion in production, research and design in Taiwan, according to two people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified as they are not authorized to speak publicly.

The additional homecoming investment in combination with overseas flows could pro-



pel all investment from abroad to a new high this year, surpassing the previous record of \$15.4 billion made in 2007 under President Chen Shui-bian. Overall investment data for the first quarter is due for release on Tuesday along with the gross domestic product reading for the same period.

INSTANT MATCH

"We have been affected by the trade war, and at the same time Taiwan's government launched this project, so it was an instant match," said Danny Chou, chief finance officer at Long Chen Paper, Taiwan's biggest industrial-used paper company. He said China's retaliatory tariffs on U.S. recycled paper imports and business closures affected the company's business on both cost and revenue sides. China accounted for 80 percent of its sales in 2018, according to

data compiled by Bloomberg. Its cardboard boxes are widely used in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces for shipping the likes of refrigerators, TVs and bottled water.

Headquartered in Taipei, Long Chen Paper is one the first Taiwanese companies to take advantage of the government's new program. It plans to invest TWD7 billion (\$226 million) locally over the next three years, its biggest investment since it was founded 41 years ago.

WAKE-UP CALL

The government has tried to lure Taiwanese companies to move back before, but with very little success, Minister of Economic Affairs Shen Jong-chin said. "The trade war is a wake-up call," he said. "A 25 percent tariff eats up the entire benefits of moving production to China."

In addition to Long Chen, Giant Manufacturing Co., Quanta Computer Inc. and Yageo Corp. are among the companies to have taken advantage of the program. Several companies have requested the government not reveal their names for fear of angering China.

Investments by Taiwanese companies in China have fallen each year since Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016, when the president introduced a policy encouraging companies to invest in Southeast Asia rather than the mainland.

Although the government didn't routinely track the numbers of homecoming investments previously, Alex Chen, chief operating officer of "Invest Taiwan", is in no doubt the latest campaign has sparked the biggest wave of repatriations ever.

Taiwan first allowed com-

panies to invest in China in 1991. Helped by similar language and cultural background, China quickly became the favored investment destination. The island has been governed separately from the mainland for most of the past 120 years, and while Beijing claims it as part of Chinese territory, Taiwan has never been controlled by the People's Republic. Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party advocates formalizing Taiwan's independence.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's economy is slowing, its population is rapidly aging and the birth rate is among the lowest in the world. Taiwan's lack of readily available land, labor and qualified talent, as well as tight supplies of electricity and water, have posed impediments to investment by foreign and local companies over the past few decades.

REPATRIATION

With signs that a detente between China and the U.S. is emerging that could lead to the removal of some tariffs, there are grounds to expect that the impetus for companies to move back to Taiwan will fade. Overall, the trade war has hurt Taiwan's export-led economy. Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg forecast growth to slow to 1.4 percent in the first quarter, the weakest pace since 2016.

Yet there are analysts who see the trade war as a trigger for a long pent-up force, rather than a one-time event. Rising labor costs and government regulation mean China is no longer a cheap place for manufacturing.

"The manufacturing environment in China and its friendliness toward Taiwanese business people are not what they were 10 to 20 years ago," said Samson Tu, a fund manager at Uni-President Assets Management Corp. in Taipei. "The repatriation trend will last for the next 10 years." **Bloomberg**

Wanda to spend \$297 million on Chinese soccer after Europe exit

MORE than a year after selling its stake in Club Atletico de Madrid, Chinese conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group Co. is planning to spend millions to promote soccer in its home country.

The group controlled by billionaire Wang Jianlin plans to invest 2 billion yuan (USD297 million) to build 23 soccer fields and training facilities in the northeastern city of Dalian, Wanda said in a statement on its website yesterday. The amenities

will be able to accommodate as many as 600 players and coaches and will start in December, according to the statement.

Wang is betting on a sport that isn't as developed in China as it is in many European or South American nations, but has room to grow in the Asian country. After President Xi Jinping, the game's most powerful fan, announced a plan in 2015 to transform China into a soccer superpower, main-

land companies including Wanda started pouring money into foreign clubs - a trend that has died down since, following a crackdown by Beijing.

Wanda agreed to sell its 17 percent holdings in Spanish club Atletico early last year as part of a wave of asset disposals amid increased scrutiny of what the Chinese government called "irrational investments" that resulted in capital outflows. In their heyday of investments, mainland money

had poured into dozens of overseas soccer clubs, including AC Milan and Birmingham City.

With the latest move, Wanda is turning its focus back on domestic sports. The group will also spend 50 million yuan annually to support 60 youth teams in Dalian. Since 2011, the company has been sending 30 talented players every year to Spain to train with professional clubs, with over 200 trained in total so far, it said. **Bloomberg**



BLOOMBERG



US warships sail by Taiwan as Gou calls for high-tech defense

AMERICAN naval vessels transited through the Taiwan Strait for the seventh time since July, highlighting the U.S.'s strategic rivalry with China as Taiwanese presidential hopeful and Foxconn founder Terry Gou called for the island to adopt high-tech defense mechanisms.

The destroyers USS Stethem and USS William P. Lawrence sailed through the waters Sunday and then yesterday, U.S. Seventh Fleet public affairs officer Clay Doss confirmed to Bloomberg News in an email. It was the seventh such trip reported since the U.S. Navy conducted a similar mission in July 2018, which was then first transit in a year.

"The ships' transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," Doss said. "The U.S. Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows."

At an event last weekend, Gou said Taiwan should focus its military spending on areas including unmanned weapons, the Taipei Times reported. He added he had developed technologies like artificial intelligence applications and wireless networks, it said.

"We should increase 'strategic and technical investments' in the U.S. and other advanced countries, and bolster our own strategic and technical research and development capabilities

with cutting-edge technology," Gou wrote in a Facebook post. Taiwan should develop its thinking on asymmetric warfare, he added, and strengthen its defensive capabilities in order to avoid an arms race and uphold peace.

Gou's comments shed light on the defense policies of the most prominent candidate for the opposition Kuomintang party's presidential nomination, in a race that will determine whether Taiwan moves closer to China. The 2020 election will pit the KMT nominee against President Tsai Ing-wen, whose Democratic Progressive Party advocates a more decisive break from the mainland.

Tsai said yesterday Taiwan's

defense measures are primarily for self-defense and that it's working to boost its manufacturing capabilities. "We are seeking arms procurement only when we cannot meet our demand with domestic production," she said.

Gou "would agree with me that no country should use force to undermine peace," she said. Chinese leader Xi Jinping "has not given up on use of force against Taiwan. Chairman Gou should have aimed his comments at China."

Tsai said many countries were active in the strait, which she called "international waters," and that Taiwan's military had been monitoring those activities.

TRADE VISIT

The latest U.S. passage through the strait comes ahead of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer's arrival in Beijing for trade talks yesterday, continuing a recent pattern under the Trump administration. All four visits by U.S. trade delegations since President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart declared their Dec. 1 tariff truce have been presaged by U.S. naval patrols through territory claimed by Beijing.

Gou's comments shed light on the defense policies of the candidate for the opposition Kuomintang party's presidential nomination

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said yesterday the country had expressed its concern to the U.S. side about the transit. "The Taiwan question is the most important and sensitive one in the China-U.S. relationship," Geng told a regular briefing, urging Washington to "deal with Taiwan-related issues with caution, so that it does not negatively impact China-U.S. relations"

The U.S. has increased its naval transits through the 180-kilometer (110 mile) wide strait separating Taiwan from the Chinese mainland over the last year. Two American vessels mostly recently entered Taiwanese waters off the island's southwest coast in late March.

China last week accused France of illegally entering its waters after a French naval vessel sailed through the strait, the Financial Times reported. **Bloomberg**

US warns against including Huawei in any part of 5G network

THE U.S. is warning countries not to include equipment from Huawei Technologies Co. or other Chinese suppliers in any parts of their telecommunications network because there's no way to fully eradicate cyber security risks, a top cyber

official said yesterday.

The comments come as Britain appears set to toughen the rules under which Huawei operates in the country while stopping short of an outright ban on the Chinese telecom equipment maker. The measures are expected to

involve closer state oversight and may restrict the vendor from some sensitive parts of the U.K.'s telecom networks.

"There's no way we can effectively mitigate the risk to having an untrustworthy vendor in the edge of the network," Rob

Strayer, the State Department's deputy assistant for cyber policy, said on a conference call, adding that potentially compromised equipment and software in any part of a network is "an unacceptable risk."

"It's the United Sta-

tes' position that putting Huawei or other untrustworthy vendors in any part of the 5G telecommunications network is a risk," Strayer said.

Strayer noted the U.K. has not yet announced a final decision on how to organize its 5G network but reiterated that the U.S. would re-evaluate intelligence sharing with countries that allow untrustworthy vendors into their networks.

"As our economies beco-

me more and more interconnected, including our digital economies, more data transmits between the United States and Europe than any other part of the world, which of course includes the United Kingdom," he said. "It's not just about the sharing of intelligence or the cooperating on information sharing. It's about all of the services that we're providing across the Atlantic today that could be disrupted."

Krishan Francis, Colombo

SRI LANKA

Church urges more vigorous crackdown on Islamic militants

The Catholic Church in Sri Lanka urged the government yesterday to crack down on Islamic extremists with more vigor “as if on war footing” in the aftermath of the Easter bombings.

Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, the archbishop of Colombo, said the church may not be able to stop people from taking the law into their own hands unless the government conducts a more thorough investigation and does more to prevent further attacks.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the Easter attacks, which killed more than 250 people, and investigators are looking into the extent of the extremist group’s involvement with the local radicalized Muslims who carried out the suicide bombings.

But the cardinal said he is not satisfied with how the government has conducted its investigations so far. “All the security forces should be involved and function as if on war footing,” Ranjith told reporters.

“I want to state that we may not be able to keep people under control in

the absence of a stronger security program,” he said. “We can’t forever give them false promises and keep them calm.” He urged the government “to implement a proper program in order that the people don’t take the law into their own hands.”

Ranjith, however, said the church assures Muslims that it will not allow any revenge attacks against them.

He also said church services would be held this coming Sunday after necessary precautions are taken. The number of Masses will be reduced at every church, with police and parish committees entrusted with the task of looking out for strangers.

Churches were shut across the nation on Sunday, a week after the bombings, for fear of another attack by Islamic State group-linked militants. Sri Lanka’s Catholics celebra-

ted Mass in their homes as Ranjith presided over a televised service.

The closing of the churches came after local officials and the U.S. Embassy in Colombo warned that more militants remained on the loose with explosives.

Even though all of the island nation’s schools — which have been closed since the attacks — are to reopen May 6, Ranjith said Catholic schools could be kept closed after that date if the church is not satisfied with security.

Meanwhile, the government banned all kinds of face coverings that may conceal people’s identities. The emergency law, which took effect Monday, prevents Muslim women from veiling their faces.

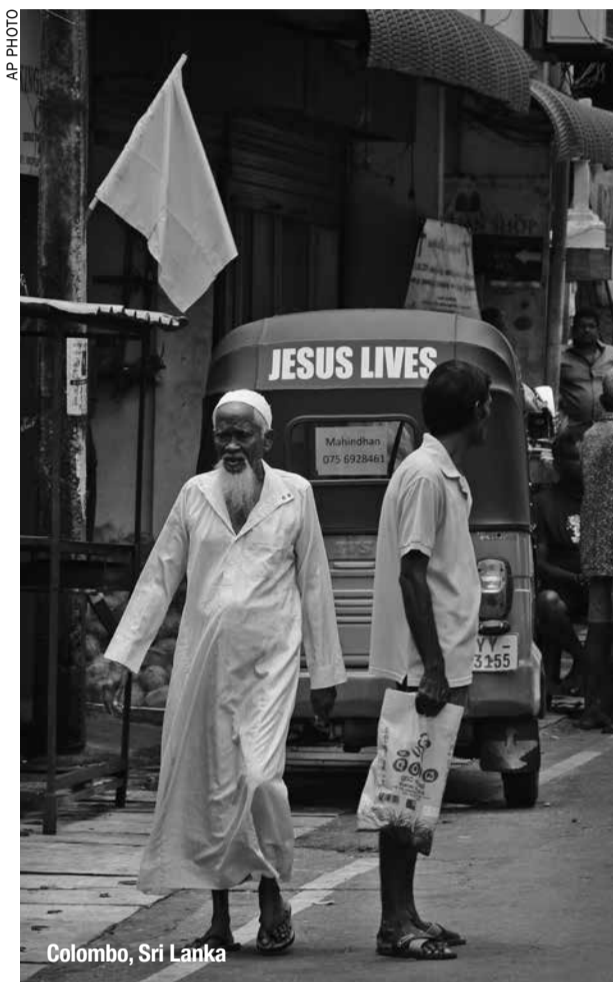
The decision came after the Cabinet had proposed laws on face veils at a recent meeting. It had deferred the matter until talks

with Islamic clerics could be held, on the advice of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The Easter attacks were carried out by seven suicide bombers who blew themselves up targeting three churches and three luxury hotels. Two other suicide bombers died triggering blasts, one to avoid capture by the police and another at an inn where he was staying.

On Monday, President Maithripala Sirisena appointed former army commander Shantha Kottegoda as the top official in the defense ministry after requesting the resignation of his predecessor, Hema Siri Fernando, for intelligence failures that led to the bombings.

The government is accused of not acting on near-specific information from a foreign intelligence agency over several weeks about an imminent attack. **AP**



Colombo, Sri Lanka

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INDONESIA

Abandon Jakarta: government again mulls plan for new capital

INDONESIA'S decades-long discussion about building a new capital has inched forward after President Joko Widodo yesterday approved a long-term plan for the government to abandon overcrowded, sinking and polluted Jakarta.

Widodo decided at a special Cabinet meeting to move the capital outside of Indonesia's most populous island, Java, said Planning Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro. It was one of three options discussed. The other alternatives were moving to a location near Jakarta or staying put and relocating all government buildings to a special zone around the presidential palace.

The site for a possible new capital hasn't been announced, but Palangkaraya on the island of Borneo has often been rumored as the location. Brodjo-



Jakarta central district

negoro, however, said eastern Indonesia is favored.

"This is a big job, impossible to take just one year, it could take up to 10 years," he said.

Prone to flooding and rapidly sinking due to uncontrolled ground water extraction, Jakarta is the archetypical

Asian mega-city creaking under the weight of its dysfunction. Only 4% of Jakarta's waste water is treated, according to the government, causing massive pollution to rivers and contaminating the ground water that supplies the city. Congestion is estimated to cost

the economy USD6.5 billion a year.

Before the Cabinet meeting, Widodo said other countries such as Malaysia, South Korea and Brazil set up new capitals as part of their development as nations.

"The idea to move the capital city appeared long ago," he said. "But it has never been decided or discussed in a planned and mature manner."

Improving inadequate infrastructure in the country of 260 million has been Widodo's signature policy and helped him win a second term in elections earlier this month.

Brodjonegoro said a new capital would require an area of 30,000 to 40,000 hectares and have a population of between 900,000 and 1.5 million.

Jakarta has a population of about 30 million in its greater metropolitan area. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Authorities to bring religious schools under government control

PAKISTAN'S military spokesman says authorities plan to bring over 30,000 religious schools under government control as part of their campaign against extremism.

Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor says millions of students in the seminaries currently only get religious education but once the schools are mainstreamed, they'll also be able to receive a contemporary education.

Ghafoor spoke at a press conference in the garrison city of Rawalpindi yesterday.

He also said once the madrassas — some of which are considered hotbeds of radicalism — are brought under government control, 25 million Pakistani children now out of school could be enrolled in the seminaries.

There was no immediate reaction from the seminaries, which are linked to various Pakistani religious groups and which have resisted any form of government control in the past. **AP**

AD



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SPAIN

Country's political future may be hazy for months, experts say

Barry Hatton & Aritz Parra, Madrid

SPAIN'S political future is no clearer after a third election since 2015, with experts saying yesterday that it won't be anytime soon before the muddle is resolved.

The incumbent prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, celebrated after his Socialist party won the most votes in Sunday's ballot. But Spanish politicians were doing the math on how Sánchez might survive the next four years without a parliamentary majority.

Spain's political right is fractured. The traditional conservative Popular Party suffered a humiliating defeat. On the other hand, though, the election marked the rise of the far-right and a high point for an expanding center-right party.

All in all, the result did little to dispel government uncertainty in the eurozone's No. 4 economy.

It could take weeks or months for Spain's political future to be clarified, according to Andrew Dowling, an expert on contemporary Spanish politics at Cardiff University in Wales.

"If the Socialist party wants to stay in power for the next four years, it needs to find mechanisms of accommodation to ensure a degree of stability," he said.

Sánchez hailed the center-left Socialists' victory as an antidote against a reactionary wave of national populism, pledging to help strengthen the European Union.



Spain's Prime Minister and Socialist Party leader Pedro Sanchez

But the Socialist party won only 29% of the vote, and it still needs to make tough political decisions in order to govern.

With only 123 seats in the 350-seat Congress of Deputies, Spain's parliament, the Socialists will need to negotiate the support of smaller rival parties to pass legislation.

Even an alliance with the far-left, anti-austerity party United We Can — the most obvious potential partner — wouldn't give the Socialists the key number of 176 seats.

There are other options, however.

Incumbent deputy prime minister Carmen Calvo said she believed the election result, which increased the Socialists' parliamentary seats from 85 to

123, was "more than enough" of a public endorsement to allow her Socialist party to rule alone as a minority government.

Spain's socialists have noted the success of the Socialist administration in neighboring Portugal, where the minority government has an understanding with other left-of-center parties which provide support by often voting with it in parliament.

However, the Socialist party came to power in Spain last June in a minority government and lasted less than a year after opposition parties, including Catalonia's separatists, refused to endorse its public spending plan.

Another possibility is a broad centrist alliance with the center-

right Citizens party, which shot from 32 to 57 parliamentary seats in the election.

Citizens' party's leader, Albert Rivera, has in the past ruled out any arrangement with Sánchez and has in many aspects been hostile to the Socialists' political agenda.

The centrist Citizens party says it wants to lead Spain's political opposition, ruling out entering a governing alliance with the Socialists who won Sunday's general election.

Speaking on the day after the ballot, party Spokeswoman Inés Arrimadas again rejected talks to back Sánchez, while presenting Citizens as the leading force in the opposition.

Another unpredictable path that Sánchez could consider is to seek the support of secessionists in Catalonia.

The unflagging demands of separatists for that wealthy region's independence brought in 2017 Spain's worst constitutional crisis in decades, and the price of their support may be too high for Sánchez.

Much of the uncertainty stems from how Spain's political landscape has fragmented in recent years, after decades in which the Socialist party and the conservative Popular Party took turns in power.

Forging cross-party alliances has proved difficult for political negotiators and has unsettled Spanish governments. In 2015, a splintered parliamentary outcome from a general election

led to inconclusive negotiations and a repeat election the following year.

"The country has endured an excessive amount of instability," La Vanguardia newspaper said in an editorial Monday. "That is never good. And it's even worse when the European Union has the same problem, due to Brexit and the rise of populism."

The Popular Party lost more than half of its parliamentary representation as it fell to 66 seats.

Adding to the parliamentary makeover, the far-right Vox party claimed 10% of the vote and 24 seats. It is the first time since the 1980s that a far-right party will sit in the national parliament, albeit the national-populists didn't score the higher results that some polls had forecast.

In all, five parties got more than 20 seats.

Referring to the anti-migrant nationalist party Vox, Sánchez said the election's message to Europe was that "you can win against authoritarianism and regression."

He vowed: "We will form a pro-European government to strengthen Europe, not weaken it."

Amid all the party-political considerations, the new government faces the daunting task of cutting chronic unemployment and keeping the public pension system from collapse. The Spanish jobless rate in February was almost 14% — compared with an average of just under 8% for eurozone countries.

No immediate progress on forming a government is likely. Spain is due to elect regional and local governments, as well as its European Parliament deputies, in four weeks' time in what will be another test of political strength. AP

USA

New group launches to harness political power of women

Julie Pace, Washington

THREE of the nation's most influential activists are launching an organization that aims to harness the political power of women to influence elections and shape local and national policy priorities.

Dubbed Supermajority, the organization is the creation of Cecile Richards, the former head of Planned Parenthood; Alicia Garza, co-founder of Black Lives Matter; and Ai-jen Poo, executive director of the National Domestic Workers Allian-

ce. The group, which describes itself as multiracial and intergenerational, has a goal of training and mobilizing 2 million women over the next year to become organizers and political leaders in their communities.

The effort comes at a moment when women have emerged as perhaps the most powerful force in politics.

Millions of women marched in cities across America to protest President Donald Trump's election. Women also comprise the majority of the electorate in the 2018 midterm elec-

tions, sending a historic number of female candidates to Congress and helping Democrats retake control of the House. A record number of women are also seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, including four senators.

Richards, who has long been a force in Democratic politics, said women "feel newly empowered and frankly motivated to take action, including so many women who never thought themselves as an activist before."

Richards, Garza and Poo spent the past year trav-

eling the country talking to women about how to harness their activism. They found that despite increased energy, many women find getting involved in politics intimidating and are unclear about how to do more than just march or protest.

"Women are mad as hell and we've been in resistance mode for two years," Garza said. "Now it's time to equip people."

Supermajority isn't expected to endorse individual candidates. But the group will help educate women about candidates' positions on issues inclu-



Cecile Richards

ding pay equity and affordable child care and push politicians to adopt an agenda akin to what Richards called a "women's new deal."

The effort will be aided by Libby Chamberlain and Cortney Tunis, co-

founders of the Facebook group Pantsuit Nation, which was started in the closing weeks of the 2016 election for supporters of Hillary Clinton. The online community now has more than 3.5 million female members. AP

UK England, Wales to urge crime victims to hand over phones

Gregory Katz, London

POLICE in England and Wales are distributing consent forms urging victims of sexual assault and other crimes to turn over access to mobile phones and other electronic devices or risk having their cases dropped.

The National Police Chiefs' Council said yesterday that police will only seek access to mobile phone data when it is necessary for investigative purposes, but the new policy has already sparked a backlash.

It means that victims of rape and other crimes who agree to provide access to their mobile phones, laptops, smart watches and other devices will have their emails, texts and photographs available to authorities.

The consent form warns that withholding access could lead to cases being dropped.

"If you refuse permission for the police to investigate, or for



the prosecution to disclose material which would enable the defendant to have a fair trial then it may not be possible for the investigation or prosecution to continue," the form states.

The police chiefs tweeted that "officers will only ask for access to private data when necessary and proportionate, and advice will be given so victims can make an informed decision."

Police said there would be stringent rules to avoid misuse of the information in court.

James Slack, spokesman for Prime Minister Theresa May, said police understand that the

use of personal data in criminal investigations is "a source of anxiety." He said police will balance a respect for privacy with the need to pursue "all reasonable lines of inquiry."

The forms have been introduced after several recent sexual assault cases collapsed when crucial evidence emerged from mobile devices.

The independent charity Victim Support said in a statement that giving police access to all the personal information contained on a mobile phone is "very likely" to distress victims and may make them decide not to contact authorities.

"We know that rape and sexual assault is already highly underreported," the group said. "Most rapes and sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim, so if they have been in contact with their attacker, they may worry that their claim won't be taken seriously and be less likely to come forward."

The opposition Labour Party's spokeswoman on justice matters, Shami Chakrabarti, called the consent forms illegal.

"Any suggestion that rape victims must automatically hand over their phones in exchange for the support of the authorities is as unlawful as it is wrong," she said in a statement. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



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TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: July 12, 2019

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6212/ 2857 6118

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

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

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

BELUGA WHALE WITH RUSSIAN HARNESS RAISES ALARM IN NORWAY



A beluga whale found with a tight harness that appeared to be Russian made has raised the alarm of Norwegian officials and prompted speculation that the animal may have escaped from a Russian military facility.

Joergen Ree Wiig of the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries says "Equipment St. Petersburg" is written on the harness strap, which features a mount for an action camera.

He said Monday fishermen in Arctic Norway last week reported the tame white cetacean with a tight harness swimming around. On Friday, fisherman Joar Hesten, aided by the Ree Wiig, jumped into the frigid water to remove the harness.

Ree Wiig said "people in Norway's military have shown great interest" in the harness.

Audun Rikardsen, a professor at the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology at the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, northern Norway, believes "it is most likely that Russian Navy in Murmansk" is involved. Russia has major military facilities in and around Murmansk on the Kola Peninsula, in the far northwest of Russia.

It wasn't immediately clear what the mammal was being trained for, or whether it was supposed to be part of any Russian military activity in the region.

Rikardsen said he had checked with scholars in Russia and Norway and said they have not reported any program or experiments using beluga whales.

"This is a tame animal that is used to get food served so that is why it has made contacts with the fishermen," he said. "The question is now whether it can survive by finding food by itself. We have seen cases where other whales that have been in Russian captivity doing fine."

Hesten told Norwegian broadcaster NRK that the whale began to rub itself against his boat when he first spotted it.

Russia does not have a history of using whales for military purposes but the Soviet Union had a full-fledged training program for dolphins.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:05	T2 para 3 Remodelado
16:35	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:30	Musicbox Club Docs
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 - Fim
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



1952 ANNE FRANK PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH

The moving diary of Anne Frank, a Jewish victim of the Holocaust, is now available in British book shops entitled *The Diary of a Young Girl*.

The book was first published in Dutch in 1947 under the title *Het Achterhuis* (The Secret House) by her father Otto Frank, who survived the concentration camps.

It is a lively and at the same time disturbing account of a teenager living in hiding with seven others in fear of their lives in occupied Holland.

Anne died just before her 16th birthday in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945.

Her father survived and returned to Amsterdam where he, his family and friends had been in hiding for two years before the Nazis found them.

There, his Dutch friends gave him papers left behind after the Gestapo raid. Among them was his daughter's diary.

It was some days before he could bring himself to read it and when he did he was astonished to find out about a side of his daughter he never knew - someone who was wise beyond her years and had a deep faith in humanity in spite of her suffering.

Her entry for 12 July 1944, three weeks before her arrest, read: "I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us ... I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up into the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too will end, that peace and tranquillity will return once more."

The Franks had moved to Holland from Nazi Germany in 1933. In July 1942, after the Germans had occupied the country, the Franks and four other Jewish people went into hiding in an annex of a house in central Amsterdam.

That year, Anne, who had an ambition to be a writer, was given a red and white check diary for her 13th birthday and immediately started writing about her experiences.

The annex was raided by the Gestapo on the 4 August 1944 after a tip-off from a Dutch informer and the eight occupants sent to Westerbork, a transit camp in Holland, and then on to Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen.

Anne died weeks before the liberation of Bergen-Belsen as did her mother, Edith, and sister, Margot.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Anne Frank became a symbol of Jewish suffering under the Nazis. Her diary, later entitled *The Diary of Anne Frank*, was translated into 50 languages and became one of the most popular books in the world. It was made into a play in 1956 that won the Pulitzer Prize and into a film three years later.

An unexpurgated edition was published in English in 1995 revealing both Anne's awakening sexuality and her criticism of some of the adults in hiding with her.

The apartment in Amsterdam where the family hid, Number 263 Prinsengracht, is now the Anne Frank museum.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your focus for the next few days will be on one thing, and one thing only: making sure your dear ones feel warm, wonderful and, above all else, well-loved. And you'll be extremely well equipped for the job.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

You haven't committed all your free time to one particular person - because more interesting, exciting and exotic admirers are en route, one of whom might disrupt the routine of your day in a wonderful way.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

For better or worse, someone has captured your attention, totally and completely. You can't remember the last time you felt this way. And there's a good reason for that: You probably haven't ever felt this way.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Who loves entertaining more than you do? Right, no one. And who loves coming to your place? Everyone! So don't be surprised if the urge to open up your home for dinner, drinks and some light-hearted socializing comes along.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Be careful who you flirt with today, because it will be all too easy to capture someone's heart without even trying. Does that mean you can't talk to anyone at all? Well of course not.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Thinking of doing something different with your hair, your body or your wardrobe? Good for you. Change is good for the soul and refreshing to the spirit. Just don't get too carried away.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Finally you're ready to come out of your cocoon. And not a moment too soon, in the opinion of your sweetheart and your friends, all of whom have probably been pouting since you decided to hide out a few days ago.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's easy for you to become rather focused on - okay, even obsessed with - a tiny thing. So if you're worried about something and you don't see any end in sight, talk to someone about it.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Who's jealous? You? You might be. If you feel guilty about working so much and taking time away from your loved ones, the attention that someone else shows them could be enough to stretch even the most open-minded.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Someone is working hard from behind the scenes to cause a problem between you and a person you love. So if you've had that feeling lately and you thought you were losing your mind, you can rest assured that you're not.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You've been thinking about this for days. Are you going to stay and try to work this out, or let go of the whole thing and start over? You've laid out all the pros and cons in your mind and you're still just not sure.

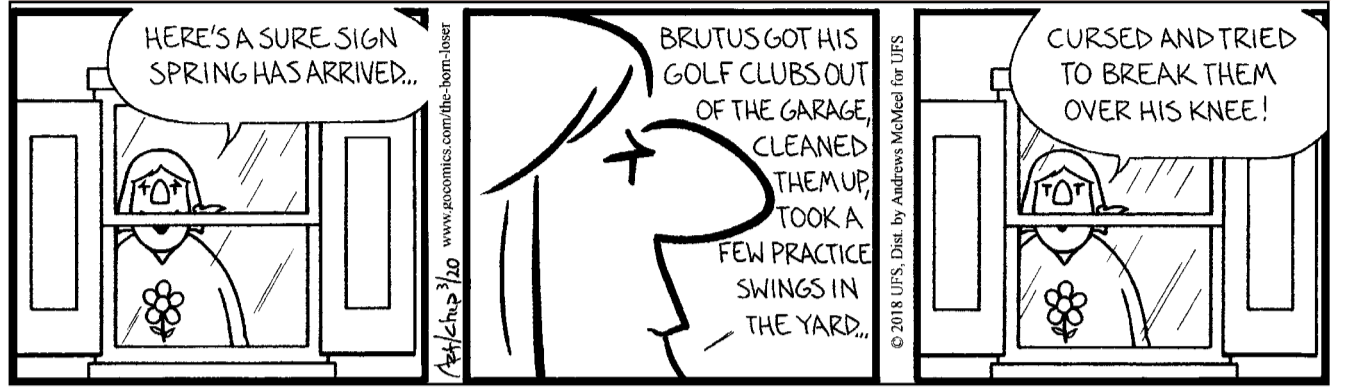


Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Intimacy isn't something that comes easily to you. At least not now that you've had time to tuck a couple of years under your belt and learn how fickle some people can be.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

Sudoku grid for Easy level

Easy+

Sudoku grid for Easy+ level

Medium

Sudoku grid for Medium level

Hard

Sudoku grid for Hard level

WEATHER

CHINA

Weather forecast table for various Chinese cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Weather forecast table for various world cities including Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Mother of Hermes; 5- Utah city; 9- Canonized Fr. women; 13- Pretentious; 15- I could ___ horse!; 16- VCR alternative; 17- Tortilla topped with cheese; 18- Employs, consumes; 19- Send out; 20- Ultimate degree; 21- PBS science series; 23- Principles; 25- Fragrance; 26- Lady of la casa; 27- Offensive; 30- Illustrative craft; 31- Circus employee; 32- Supervisor; 37- Olive genus; 38- Took on; 40- Thomas ___ Edison; 41- Toothless; 43- French clerics; 44- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 45- Unfasten; 47- Flowing water; 50- Well done!; 51- Smear; 52- Proficient; 53- "___ tu" (Verdi aria); 56- Penn name; 57- Wishing won't make ___; 59- Squelched; 61- Narrow cut; 62- Monetary unit of Iran; 63- Splinter groups; 64- Chamber workers; Abbr.; 65- Doesn't exist; 66- Drive off;

DOWN: 1- Jazz flutist Herbie; 2- I smell ___; 3- Scratcher's target; 4- Volcanic fallout; 5- Body of work; 6- Tabula ___; 7- Season after printemps; 8- Perfected; 9- Pad user; 10- Stopwatch-holder; 11- 1996 Madonna role; 12- Tipplers; 14- Over there; 22- Suffix with ball; 24- ___acte (intermission); 25- The Pacific, for example; 26- Rescue; 27- Plains First Nation; 28- Hairless; 29- Hook's henchman; 32- Vein pursuit; 33- Fine fur; 34- Exile isle; 35- Nights before; 36- Grating sound; 38- Ceremonial suicide; 39- List entry; 42- Take ___ Train; 43- Right to enter; 45- Unlock; 46- Zero; 47- Inscribed pillar; 48- Habituate; 49- Leases; 51- Flat sound; 52- Slippery ___ eel; 53- Draw with acid; 54- ___-Rooter; 55- Not ___ many words; 58- ___ the season...; 60- Loser to DDE;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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[Taipa] Choi Long Meng Chui 3 3 3
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)

FOR RENT

- [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
1,813 ft² \$21,000/mth (ref: 19010699)

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FOOTBALL

David de Gea under scrutiny after mistakes at Man United

Steve Douglas, Manchester

IT'S awards season in English soccer, typically a time to hail David de Gea's contribution at Manchester United.

Not this year.

There was no chance of the Spain international making it into the Premier League's team of the year for the sixth time in seven seasons when it was announced last week.

He can also forget about being named Manchester United's player of the year for the fifth time in six seasons, despite there being a dearth of alternatives.

Indeed, De Gea probably wants this season to be over already.

A hat trick of mistakes in three of United's biggest games of the season over the last two weeks have crowned arguably the worst year of the 28-year-old Spaniard's career.

No longer is he being talked about as the best goalkeeper in the world. In fact, there's an argument to say he shouldn't be the No. 1 keeper at United for its final two games of the season.

Not that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is listening to the critics.

"I don't have any worries about him," the United manager said after De Gea's latest error, when he spilled a long-range shot to allow Chelsea to equalize in a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford on Sunday.

It was a mistake that could have huge ramifications, too, ending United's realistic chances

AP PHOTO



of qualifying for next season's Champions League.

Naturally, De Gea retained the backing of his teammates.

"He's been the best player at the club for seven, eight years consistently," United striker Romelu Lukaku said. "I don't think we should discredit him and say all of a sudden he's a bad goalkeeper."

De Gea has been peerless in the Premier League for some time. Many will point to his display in United's 1-0 win at Tottenham

in January, when he was in the right place at the right time and made 11 saves — the most he's ever made in a single Premier League game.

Yet, it is the mistakes that will more likely be remembered in a season when his halo slipped.

His year to forget started at the World Cup in Russia, when De Gea allowed a shot from Cristiano Ronaldo to ricochet off his hand and bobble over the goal line. He later bemoaned the lack of support from the Spanish pub-

lic "in a difficult moment in my life" and said "I haven't killed anyone."

Even before the World Cup, he had let a shot from Switzerland defender Stephan Lichtsteiner creep under his arms, leading to a goal in a warm-up game.

The Spanish jeers returned two weeks ago when he allowed a tame shot from Lionel Messi go underneath his body and into the net in a Champions League match at the Camp Nou. The mistake was shown on the

stadium's big screen just before De Gea came out for the second half, and Barcelona fans bowed to him, mockingly, and chanted his name as he took his position in goal for the restart.

A week later, he failed to keep out a shot that went straight at him from Leroy Sane, conceding a goal that clinched Manchester City's 2-0 win in the derby. Then came the mistake against Chelsea.

Earlier this season, he fumbled a header from Arsenal defender Shkodran Mustafi into his own net in a 2-2 draw in the Premier League.

A few theories have been put forward for his dip in form, ranging from a simple lack of confidence to issues with his concentration amid negotiations with United over a new deal. He only has one year left on his contract and continues to be linked with a move to Real Madrid.

United has a perfectly adequate replacement in Sergio Romero. The Argentina goalkeeper rarely fails to impress when he stands in for De Gea in cup competitions and must be the most highly-qualified understudy in English soccer.

Is it time for a change ahead of United's final two games, against Huddersfield and Cardiff? It is another big call for Solskjaer, at a time when his position at Old Trafford is starting to be questioned.

De Gea has already answered his critics in England. After some errors — particularly aerially — in the first half of his debut season at United in 2011-12, he was dropped by Alex Ferguson and accused by some pundits of being too slight for the rough and tumble of the Premier League.

He was back in the team within a few weeks and has hardly looked back.

Can De Gea bounce back again? **AP**

Spain approves changes to Copa del Rey and Super Cup



THE Spanish soccer federation approved format changes to the Copa del Rey and the Super Cup yesterday despite opposition from the Spanish league.

The Copa del Rey will be played in single-match series until the semi-finals, while the Spanish Super Cup will adopt a "final four" format with the top finishers in the Spanish league and the Copa del Rey.

The changes are expected to take effect at the beginning of next season, although the Spa-

nish league could still appeal the federation's decision, which was approved during its general assembly.

The Spanish league voted last week in its own general assembly not to support the changes, saying it should have been directly involved in the discussions.

The federation said the changes will help reduce the number of games for clubs and players.

Federation president Luis Rubiales said last week the entity was considering playing the new Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia, prompting some criticism by human rights groups who have denounced conditions in the Middle East nation.

The competition has been played at the beginning of the season in a one-game final between the Copa del Rey and the league champions. The final four will now be played in January.

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

The Spanish federation also approved changes aimed at giving more visibility and improving women's soccer. The women's league will have two divisions and a Super Cup will be created.

The federation said it will take actions to increase the number of professional women's players and the number of girls involved in the sport. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Francis Wilkinson, Bloomberg

JOE BIDEN RUNS AGAINST A MYTH ABOUT TRUMP

Between 2011 and 2017, six different national surveys by the Pew Research Center produced similar results. Democratic voters said they liked elected officials who would compromise with opponents. Republican voters said they preferred officials who wouldn't compromise.

As recently as July 2017, the contrast was stark. Among Democrats, 69 percent said they liked officials who compromised. Among Republicans, only 46 percent did — a 23-point gap.

Between July 2017 and March 2018, a time-lapse approximation of Donald Trump's first year as president, Democratic support for compromise plummeted. In the 2018 Pew poll, only 46 percent of Democrats said they supported officials who compromise, roughly equal to the 43 percent of Republicans who said so.

Former Vice President Joseph Biden launched his presidential campaign last week with an appeal to the shrinking ranks of Democrats who can imagine a Republican Party capable, and worthy, of compromise. In announcing that "we are in the battle for the soul of this nation," Biden established political time as Before Trump and After Trump. Before, America was a land of decency. After, Nazis were called "very fine people" from the highest office in the land.

If Trump is re-elected, Biden warned, "He will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation."

The myth that Trump has single-handedly degraded the nation is a comforting one. If the U.S. survives his sustained assault on democratic law, norms and culture — Trump's thuggish calls to arrest his political opponents are now standard presidential rhetoric — that myth may even become necessary as the nation attempts to stitch democratic life back together.

In that case, the news media will pretend, as Biden does, that Trump was an aberration from, rather than a culmination of, Republican politics. Republicans will pretend their support for Trump was qualified and their criticism of him was vocal and constructive. And to help the nation move on, some Democrats (surely not all) will pretend to believe it all.

This is a highly unlikely course of events; Biden surely understands that. He was in the White House when Republicans decided, quite consciously, that they would prefer a second Great Depression to a successful economic intervention by President Barack Obama.

He was there when Republicans manufactured bogus scandals to achieve purely partisan ends — Benghazi to undermine Hillary Clinton's electoral prospects and the two-fer of the Internal Revenue Service imbroglio, which successfully shielded conservative political groups from oversight while battering the federal tax bureaucracy.

And Biden was there when Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell decided that, with the balance of the court on the line, Supreme Court justices shall be named by Republican presidents only.

Along the low road from Newt Gingrich to Bush v. Gore, from birtherism to the white-power programming on Fox News, the GOP concluded that the nation was moving faster than it could successfully adapt. The party could sustain white Christian dominance or it could sustain democracy.

The greatest challenge for the Democratic presidential field is not choosing Medicare for some or all. It is figuring out how to chart a viable national path in a fractured nation. What is the proper course of democratic politics when vengeance is destructive, compromise is unobtainable, and political power, at least in the near future, will rest on narrow, and likely unstable, majorities? What agenda can overcome obstruction without negating, and further radicalizing, the obstructionists?

All of this, of course, presumes that the wounds inflicted on democracy by a vicious presidency are not fatal.

On the hustings, many of Biden's opponents skip forward to a time when Democrats have the power to overwhelm Republican opposition. Democratic Congresses will pass their legislation, and they will sign it into law.

Instead of skipping forward, Biden skips back. He will find a constituency among Democrats of goodwill who wish to follow him back to an era of compromise, calm and bipartisan comity. It's an appealing, sentimental journey, and millions would love to take it. But it ends in the smoldering ruins of a 20th century Pompeii.

THE STREAMING SERVICE SPOTIFY HITS 100 MILLION PAID USER MARK

Music streaming service Spotify says its paying subscribers have reached 100 million for the first time, up 32% on the year and almost twice the latest figures for Apple Music.

The Stockholm-based company called the figure, which was reached during the first three months of 2019, "an important milestone." The growth was driven, among other things, by "a

better-than-planned promotion in the U.S. and Canada."

Spotify said yesterday it had reached "the high end of our guidance range of 97-100 million."

By comparison, archrival Apple Music had about 50 million paying subscribers at the end of 2018, the latest available figures. Apple is expected to release new figures with its earnings report today.

FILM

Ahead of 'The Irishman,' Scorsese and De Niro look back

Jake Coyle, New York

Anticipated and most recent collaboration, "The Irishman," Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro convened at the Tribeca Film Festival to look back on their long partnership together.

The talk, staged yesterday [Macau time] at New York's Beacon Theatre, gave De Niro, co-founder of the festival, one of his most unlikely roles to date: interviewer. With interstitial clips chosen by Scorsese from the director's filmography, the famously terse actor didn't so much pepper or prod the filmmaker as occasionally announce it was time to discuss "the next one."

But if the conversation relied largely on Scorsese, it still offered a window into their long-running collaboration. Begun with 1973's "Mean Streets" and stretching over nine feature films, it's one of the most famous director-actor pairs in cinema. One of Scorsese's other regulars, Leonardo DiCaprio, was among the full crowd, eager to see the legendary New York duo together.

"The Irishman," which Netflix will release this fall, is their latest gangster film together, following "Mean Streets," "Goodfellas" and "Casino." It's based on the 2003 book "I Heard You Paint Houses" by Charles Brandt, which recounts the life of mob hitman Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran (played by De Niro). Al Pacino plays Jimmy Hoffa, whose disappearance some have traced to Sheeran.

"It's in the milieu of the pictures we've done together and are known for, in a sense, but I hope from a different vantage point," said Scorsese. "Years have gone by and we see things in a special way, I hope."

Though its release is months away, "The Irishman" — one of Netflix's biggest-budgeted films yet — has already become the new flash point of the ongoing battle between Netflix and movie theaters. The major chains have refused to play relea-



Actor Robert De Niro (left) and director Martin Scorsese attend "Tribeca Talks - Director Series" yesterday in NYC

ses that don't abide to the traditional exclusive 90-day theatrical window. Netflix has said that doesn't serve the interests of its millions of members.

'The Irishman,' which Netflix will release this fall, is their latest gangster film together

How Scorsese will navigate those divisions is being closely watched. The 76-year-old filmmaker is among the most respected in movies, and has long been a devoted advocate of film history and film preservation.

The director didn't wade into those issues, but he spoke about how "Irishman" reverberates with themes that have long propelled him. "Casino," he said, relates to what he considers a current "cultural explosion." "It's the old story: How much is enough?" said Scorsese. "It has to do with our foibles and our pride. It just so happens (to be told with) gangsters and killers and prostitutes and gamblers."

Scorsese said that "The Irishman" will, like "Casino" did with the score from Jean-Luc Godard's "Con-

tempt," include music from another film. He also said his last feature, "Silence," his 2016 religion epic about Jesuit priests in feudal Japan, connects with "The Irishman."

"Terry Malick wrote me a letter when he saw the picture. He said: 'What does Christ want from us?'" said Scorsese. "In the old neighborhood, I saw some of the people doing terrible things. But they still had something in them. They cared for each other."

"This film comes out of that and our new feature comes out of that," he added. "It's right there."

Scorsese is also prepping the release of his documentary "Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story," which will debut on Netflix on June 12. The film will play in a concurrent Oscar-qualifying release in a handful of theaters, as well as "road show" screenings the night before release in some 20 cities.

Music was a constant theme to Scorsese yesterday — he said it often tells him how to move the camera — as was his enduring interest in gangster films. Alluding to "The Irishman" while discussing "Goodfellas," Scorsese said the genre can contain everything.

"We find that we keep going back to that world because I think we're trying to get to what's essential," said Scorsese. "The microcosm is a macrocosm." AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	35-55 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	😊
Ambient	35-55 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA's decades-long discussion about building a new capital has inched forward after President Joko Widodo yesterday approved a long-term plan for the government to abandon overcrowded, sinking and polluted Jakarta. More on p13



PHILIPPINES A fire raged through the top floors of a 21-story residential building in Manila yesterday in the middle of a scorching summer, killing an elderly woman and injuring five other people, officials said. More than 100 firetrucks battled the blaze at the Pacific Coast Plaza condominium in Paranaque city, where one lane of a coastal road along Manila Bay was closed due to falling debris. An elderly woman was found dead in the upper floors and five other people were injured.



SRI LANKA The Catholic Church urged the government to crack down on Islamic extremists with more vigor "as if on war footing" in the aftermath of the Easter bombings. Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, the archbishop of Colombo, said the church may not be able to stop people from taking the law into their own hands unless the government conducts a more thorough investigation. More on p12



SPAIN's political future is no clearer after a third election since 2015, with experts saying that it won't be anytime soon before the muddle is resolved. The incumbent prime minister, Pedro Sánchez (pictured), celebrated after his Socialist party won the most votes in Sunday's ballot. More on p14