



## A LAWYER'S INSIGHT ON CRIMINAL TRIALS

Lawyer Jorge Menezes looks into "the dynamics of criminal trials" in Macau and says that they are "a perplexing experience"

P2 OPINION



## SHUTTLES FROM MACAU TO HK AIRPORT SOON

Direct shuttle bus services from Macau to HKIA are on the cards, the Transport Bureau revealed yesterday

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## PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN BRIDES TRAFFICKED TO CHINA

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** confirmed yesterday its economy czar will go to Washington for trade talks despite fears he might cancel after President Donald Trump threatened to escalate a tariff war over Beijing's technology ambitions.

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**CHINA** Automaker Ferrari says its profits rose in the first quarter as demand for its luxury sports cars grew strongly, particularly in China. The Italian manufacturer said that its net profit grew to 180 million euros in the three months through March, up from 149 million euros in the same period a year earlier.

AP PHOTO



**MYANMAR** Two Reuters journalists whose reporting on the Myanmar military's abuses of Rohingya Muslims got them imprisoned and drew the world's attention to curbs on freedom of the press were freed yesterday as part of a mass presidential pardon.

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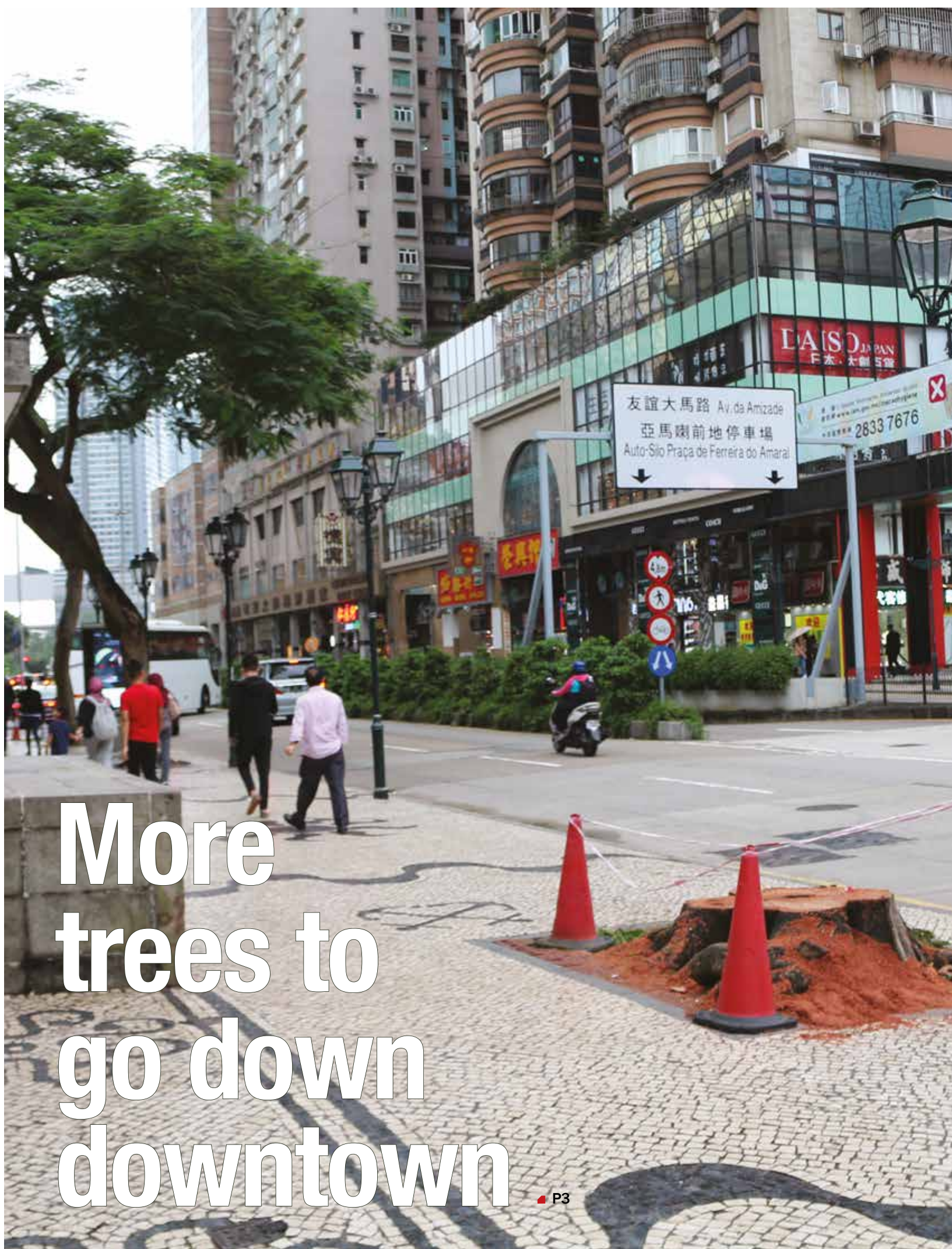
AP PHOTO



**SRI LANKA** Two bomb experts were among the suicide attackers who struck churches and hotels on Easter in Sri Lanka and all those directly involved in the bombings are either dead or under arrest, police said.

**LEBANON** Employees at the Central Bank of Lebanon yesterday suspended their open-ended strike for three days, saying they hope their wages and benefits will not be cut.

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## OPINION

# Criminal trials in Macau: a perplexing experience

Jorge Menezes\*

**C**AN you picture a referee wearing football boots and goalkeeper's gloves awarding a penalty kick, shooting the ball and running to the goalposts to save the shot? In Macau courts, we can.

The dynamics of criminal trials in Macau are intriguingly different from what most would think. Let's take a quick tour. As everyone waits in the courtroom, a door leading to the court's inner world opens and we all stand. The judges and prosecutor enter the courtroom. They have undergone the same two-year course required for judges and prosecutors, are regulated by the same laws, are both called "magistrates," work in offices located "side by side" and walk in and out of the courtroom together. The judges and prosecutors are colleagues.

The trial starts with the defendant being questioned by judges for as long as they wish. Once they're done, the prosecutor first, and defense counsel next, tell the presiding judge the questions they wish to see addressed, which the judge then puts to the defendant. Of-

ten, the judge argues with counsel – not so much with the prosecutor – over the relevance of their questions, allowing some, and barring others from being asked.

The spectacle can be so ludicrous, with defendants listening to questions bouncing back and forth between professionals dressed in black before they are called by the judge to address them, that judges, using their sense of justice, often correctly authorise direct questioning. Civil parties arguing over damages, and experts such as doctors and engineers are also, for ungraspable reasons, questioned by judges. The dream of a defense strategy and spontaneous examination is left in tatters.

The law seems to have given the notion of a fair process a break regarding witnesses, who alone, for some reason, can be questioned directly by the prosecution and defense. Everyone else is examined by the judges. But it's not that easy. Judges can question witnesses whenever and for as long as they wish, interrupt defense lawyers (which happens often) or prosecutors (which seldom does), and even

start and exhaust examination before the defense lawyer and prosecutor have begun doing their job. The latter doesn't happen often, but when it does it is unlikely that a retrial will be ordered on appeal.

And then, there are witnesses and witnesses: if the victim of the crime chooses to hire a lawyer to assist the prosecutor, he or she will be directly questioned by judges, not by counsel. Why? Good question. If witnesses need to be examined earlier because they may not be available on trial day, questioning falls to the judges as well. Why? Another intriguingly good question. Suppose that counsel requests a direct confrontation between witnesses – you've just guessed who will do the questioning.

What if the prosecutor concludes that there was no offense and wishes to abandon the charge? The judge will proceed with trial. And if the prosecutor fights for an acquittal at trial and on appeal? The judge can still convict the defendant. Remarkably, in such a context the trial judge assumes ownership of the charge, acting as both accuser and adjudicator

– precisely what the law book was designed to avoid.

In the worst-case scenario, judges can (1) become accusers, (2) chair the trial session (admitting or rejecting evidence and managing the session), (3) introduce new evidence, (4) question the defendants, civil parties, experts and witnesses, and (5) convict them. Macau inherited this system from Portugal, which borrowed it from elsewhere. Labelled the "inquisitorial system," it plays hide-and-seek with fairness and due process, with the potential to turn advocates and defendants into near passive-beggars of justice.

Political governance under the rule of law requires the separation of powers: history has shown the devastating wrongs committed by those benefiting from the concentration of too much power for too long. However, the separation of powers has not yet entered the courtroom.

When asked why we concentrate all this power on the one person when you have at least two other professionals in the room (defense counsel and prosecution), many will answer promptly: "Because the judge is impartial." Yet, impartiality is the end, not the starting-point. Under this numbing argument, one could wonder whether perfection could be achieved by placing judges in the prosecutors' and advocates' seats.

Relying on the judges' impartiality to justify their extensive

functions is like choosing the lightest car because it drives fast, and then loading it with heavy luggage from the boot to the passenger's seat. Like the car's speed, impartiality can be annihilated by filling the judges' plate with too many powers and roles. It not only impacts court practices, it also fuels a judicial culture imbued with excessive exertion of power.

It goes without saying that there are challenges in any truth-seeking system where fundamental rights and liberties are at stake and no magic solution can be offered. But a sacred goal must be to put forth the necessary conditions for an impartial decision-maker.

**The spectacle can be so ludicrous, with defendants listening to questions bouncing back and forth between professionals dressed in black.**

Impartiality is not derived from announcements in law books and rules do not create inherently impartial people. Their goal is drawing up legal roles that make impartiality possible. We see hundreds of practicing lawyers and academics sitting successfully as impartial "judges" in complex arbitrations worldwide – they switch robes and embrace a new role.

Macau's criminal system, although defective and performing below its due, still seems to work in a relatively satisfactory fashion, not thanks to its design, but in spite of it, due to publicity, free press, general ethics, and a judicial culture inherited and shared by judges. However, just as no successful army can depend on heroes, no prosperous social institution can seek to rely essentially on personal virtue, which is sometimes present, and sometimes is not.

\* Lawyer

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Joe Chan

## ENVIRONMENT

# Old trees cut down downtown

Staff reporter

**T**HE Times received information from readers yesterday that at least two trees in front of the Portuguese School in Avenida Infante D. Henrique had been cut down by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

Likely taken on Monday, a video clip posted on social media by a reader showed workers wearing IAM t-shirts cutting down a large tree in front of the main entrance of the Portuguese-

se School. The tree trunks were moved onto an IAM truck next to the sidewalk.

A photo posted by another reader showed that workers from the bureau were trimming a smaller tree on the same road.

The readers wanted to know on what grounds the IAM had decided to remove these trees. They justified their question by noting the time these trees had been standing and the number of typhoons that they had stood against.

The Times asked the IAM for

clarification but received no response by press time.

Upon being shown photos of the tree stump, environmentalist Joe Chan told the Times that the tree had likely been infected with a fungus.

"It seems to be a Mock Peepul or Mock Bodhi tree of more than 70 years of age. It is very likely to have been suffering from brown root rot disease, which is also known as the tree cancer. This disease is very strong and complete cure is difficult," Chan said.

Regarding disease prevention measures, Chan said that it could be done by spraying medicine into the tree trunk. "However, because complete cure is difficult and this disease is highly infectious, both prevention and cure are hard," Chan said.

He noted that the disease was especially active in spring and summer.

The culprit that causes brown root rot disease is fungal pathogen *Phellinus noxius*, which is a white rot fungus. Trees infected by the fungus can deteriorate

It seems to be a Mock Peepul or Mock Bodhi tree of more than 70 years of age.

JOE CHAN  
ENVIRONMENTALIST

quickly in health and structure. Channels of spread include root contact and contaminated soil and water. In some conditions, it may also spread by air.

To conclude, Chan said the cutting of the tree might have been inevitable.

## LESSONS FROM PENANG

# Malaysian academic provides inspiration for Macau's urban renewal

Staff Reporter

**M**ALAYSIAN-born Dr. Laurence Loh, adjunct professor at the University of Hong Kong, has hosted a lecture on his experience in urban regeneration and the lessons it may be able to offer Macau.

Apart from teaching, Loh also works as an architect. He has spent the past 26 years conserving Malaysian cultural heritage. His expertise and contributions have been acknowledged worldwide.

His restoration of the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion in Penang, Malaysia was awarded "Most Excellent Project" at the inaugural UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2000.



Dr. Laurence Loh

He is also a director at Think City, a "think and do tank," in Loh's own words, which works on regeneration projects in various cities. Loh and Think City have completed many projects, which may be of inspiration to Macau.

Loh and Macau first crossed paths around 14 years ago, when Macau was applying for World Heritage accreditation. Loh was appointed by UNESCO, the accrediting body, as the on-site assessor.

Usually the first steps of a project are the most difficult. In one of Loh and Think City's first projects, "we went into the back lanes of Malaysia, which you have a lot of in Macau, and worked with the community to transform the

lanes." After working on a couple of the lanes, the government finally noticed the project's feasibility and took over.

Another project involved a grassroots, relatively messy district in Penang. A lot of theft and petty crimes formerly took place there, and many businesses were under mafia control. In order to rejuvenate the district, the Think City team had deep conversations with not only community leaders, but also citizens about their ideal image of the district. "It was a conversation of two years," Loh said.

They eventually succeeded in rejuvenating the district, and tourists were attracted by the district's new character.

These two examples illustrate the importance of "community-led rege-

neration," according to Loh, which is one of the two core mottos of Think City. "You need to keep the people in the heart of your solution," Loh said.

The other core motto is "evidence-based planning," which almost echoes the Macau government's slogan of "scientific policymaking."

In other projects, Loh only acted as inspiration. "Think City does offer grants, but it's only 10 to 20% of the total cost. That means the owner or developer should have their financial foundation. Also, we have a 'pay-back' clause in our contracts. If they sell the rejuvenated projects within a given period of time, they need to pay us back the grant," Loh explained.

Loh emphasized that a quasi-philosophy that UNESCO applies to World Heritage listing is the government's ability to "manage change." In his lecture, Loh expressed his wish that more effort had been applied to better conserving Macau's heritage sites.



## IAM to enhance public access to food safety information

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) is updating their website and app to keep the public better informed regarding food safety information. The bureau stated that the update would have new features, including training materials and mock tests, as well as push notifications. The website update will enable automatic adjustment to different device types. The updated app, on the other hand, makes continual education on food safety more accessible. Push notifications will also become available, should users opt-in. The app is available in four languages and supports the two most popular operating systems.

## CTM offers free Wi-Fi to support social services

Telecom company CTM has announced an investment to enhance social services in the form of an initiative with the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) to provide free-of-charge Wi-Fi services at nine IAS frontline units and 55 private social service centers, such as the Macau Deaf Association, the YMCA, the Obra das Mães and Caritas Macau centers. Each device can log onto the Wi-Fi network for 60 continuous minutes every day. The company said it was one of the many actions it had taken to transform Macau into a smart city. Prior to this, CTM had built Wi-Fi networks at public locations and on some passenger vessels running within the Pearl River Delta.

## AL PLENARY | GOV'T TO AMEND LAW ON 'ILLEGAL WORK'

# Heavier fines and recidivism

Renato Marques

**T**HE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, said yesterday that the government is working on amendments to the relevant laws to establish heavier fines and a recidivism penalty for illegal work activities undertaken by non-resident workers (TNR).

The information came through Leong's statements at the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly (AL), which was solely scheduled to debate the matter after a proposal by the lawmaker Ella Lei.

In the justification of the debate, lawmaker Lei highlighted the case that motivated the proposal, which occurred in early March this year when a 22-year-old university student died in a traffic accident involving an "illegal driver." The man had been hired by a company to perform work that did not include driving.

Continuing to call for heavier fines and penalties for



illegal work, Lei noted that the existing law "is obsolete and does not produce the needed deterrent effects," recalling that the large majority of the cases "are only treated as administrative offenses, punished with a fine of just a few thousand patacas."

Aside from fines being low and unsuitable as deterrents,

the lawmaker also urged the government to explain the very significant drop in the number of cases in which additional penalties had been applied compared to a couple of years ago.

In her speech, Lei mentioned that in 2011, additional penalties (including suspended quotas for imported manpower) had been

applied in 93% of cases of illegal work, compared to only 2% last year, leading the lawmaker to state, "The rigorous application of the measures [established by the law] is just a slogan from the government."

In the debate that followed, lawmaker Leong Sun Iok also addressed the plenary and government saying, "The sce-

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# penalty to be included



Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong (center) at the plenary yesterday

nario of illegal work is very serious at the moment and [the current status] disrupts all the job market locally and contributes to many work-related accidents." He further added, "I also don't understand the lack of commitment from the government in addressing this problem. We can even see by statistics that from 2017 to 2018 there was even a reduction in the number of inspections."

According to Leong Sun Iok, the average number of cases of illegal work found in Macau is currently one per workplace.

In conclusion, he asked, "Why are we slacking on this problem?"

Secretary Leong acknowledged the problem in his reply and accepted the suggestions, justifying the issue with reference to the fact that the law has not been updated for the past nine years. "The law has been in force for nine years and I recognize that there is room for improvement, namely in the aggravation of the fines and additional penalties," Leong said. He further stated, "The DSAL [Labour Affairs Bureau] has been conducting studies that aim to review the current regime. There is already a calendar for that work, including the situations raised by the lawmakers [...] The aggravation of additional sanctions is a topic that we are submitting to the Legal Affairs Bureau for examination, as it involves the penal code."

## AMENDMENTS BILL READY BY Q3

In response to lawmaker Sulu Sou calling for a

more precise date for the final bill, and following Secretary Leong's reply that a calendar of legal amendments already exists, DSAL director Wong Chi Hong said, "We hope that by the third quarter of 2019 we can conclude the work and have a public consultation, as well as hear the opinion of the CPCS [Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs]."

Sou was also interested in knowing exactly what conclusions were reached by the DSAL investigation regarding the case of the student killed in a traffic accident, since the department had said that it had concluded investigations but there has been no official disclosure of the outcome.

Wong replied, "The DSAL concluded the investigation on the case and the results show that there was an infraction of the law regarding the incident. [...] There were two non-resident workers involved and the DSAL applied a fine in the amount of MOP20,000 to the company, as well as an additional sanction that suspended the company from hiring TNRs for 2 years. I can also add that the fine has been paid already."

## ADD'L SANCTIONS 'CASE-BY-CASE'

The DSAL director's reply to Sou sparked a reaction from lawmaker Lei, who again called for a reply from the government on why the penalties enforced by the government are now "so light" compared to pre-

vious years, even in cases with very serious consequences like the aforementioned traffic death.

Secretary Lionel Leong replied that it is not possible to "define a ratio for the sanctions," and it is a matter "decided case-by-case" according to a series of criteria that then the deputy director of the DSAL, Ng Wai Han, explained in more detail.

The main criteria are "the severity of the case and level of responsibility of the agent [company], and the number of people involved and whether or not there was recidivism. The damages and consequences [of the case] are also taken into account," Ng clarified, failing to mention the frequency at which such additional sanctions are applied once again, and leading to the intervention of lawmaker Au Kam San who urged for a reply on the matter.

At the insistence of the lawmakers, the secretary finally replied, saying that the DSAL had not prepared a reply on such figures and that was why they were not addressing the topic.

## DIFFICULTIES WITH COOPERATION

Facing questions on the matter from several lawmakers, the Secretary for Economy and Finance admitted that the DSAL has also been experiencing difficulties with interdepartmental cooperation and was undertaking an investigation, a fact which restricted and restrained the application of sanctions.

In order to investigate the cases, "we need

to cooperate with other services in order to tackle these matters. This sometimes causes difficulties," he said. Deputy Director Ng noted that the DSAL is undertaking joint operations with the Public Security Police Force and Macao Government Tourism Office, including roadblock operations.

Nevertheless, she also acknowledged difficulties in the collection of proof, "namely from the construction sites in which there are usually many sub-contractors and it's difficult to ascertain who the workers are working for."

## HOTEL, F&B SECTORS WITH MOST CASES

Replying to a question from lawmaker Agnes Lam, the deputy director of the DSAL noted that, according to the bureau's statistics and records, in 2016 and 2017 the sectors responsible for the highest number of cases of illegal work were from the hotel and food and beverage industries. She did not cite exact figures but stated that they accounted for the large majority.

Her observation triggered responses from other lawmakers who noted that the reduction in the number of inspections, combined with the lack of effective legal deterrents, were contributing to the problem becoming more widespread. Whereas in the past the issue was self-contained within the construction sector, it has spread to other areas these days, including the main pillars of local economy.

## ADVERTORIAL

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## TAKE MOM ON A GASTRONOMIC ADVENTURE

Mother's Day isn't only for little children, but every single one of us with a mom. On this day, we show our appreciation for all her hard work and sacrifice, and just do all we can to make her the happiest woman in the world.

Many of us shower mom with gifts and flowers – but why settle for store bought gifts, when the best present for mom is time spent with you. And don't settle for just an ordinary outing. This year, you can take mom to a memorable trip to the Loire Valley, or even New England – right here in Macau.

Le Gourmay is the only major festival dedicated to gastronomy à la française, organized under the umbrella of Le French May Arts Festival – one of Asia's largest French cultural festivals. Here in Macau, France is coming alive at MGM MACAU and its restaurant, Aux Beaux Arts, with its quaint French brasserie ambiance. The restaurant's charming chef, Tiago Reis, has prepared an exquisite menu from the famed Loire Valley with dishes like langoustine and foie gras, egg meurette, chicken en barbouille – with a selection of wines to pair with your meal. The region's unique geography contributes to the richness of style, freshness, fruity flavors and maturity that are characteristic of a bottle from Loire Valley, which is also blessed with culinary treasures that go wonderfully well with its wine – and you can bring mom to taste the best of it at Aux Beaux Arts.

New England is synonymous with clams, and a taste of this hearty mollusc is like taking a trip to this North Eastern region of the USA. This Mother's Day, Rossio is introducing the first ever Weekend Clam Bake to make it a delicious celebration with mom. The clams are the freshest and



most succulent you can find, and prepared in authentic, traditional New England style. Even better, the restaurant will treat every 2 diners with a free bucket of delicious seafood like lobsters, crab legs, mussels, shrimps, and more.

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## German measles cases reach 34

**A**NOTHER case of rubella was reported by the Health Bureau (SSM), bringing the total number of cases to 34. The new case was diagnosed in a 45-year-old woman living in Macau and working at Galaxy Macau.

SSM noted in a statement that the patient's laboratory tests on Monday were positive for rubella, after the patient suffered from a fever and rashes on her face and neck.

"The woman was born in China and her history of vaccination against rubella is unknown," SSM said.

The bureau is monitoring the health status of people who have been in contact with the patient during the onset of the infection.

Rubella is highly contagious and patients may be infected for days to weeks before showing visible signs of infection, such as a rash.

The incubation period, that is the time from exposure to the appearance of symptoms, varies from 12 to 23 days.

Last month, SSM warned that it expected a slight increase in the number of rubella cases this year, but noted that the region has a sufficient stock of vaccines to manage the situation.

The bureau called on residents to comply with its immunization and vaccination program. **LV**

## SMALL CIRCLE

# 351 people running for places on CE election committee

**A**N aggregate of 351 people has signed up for the right to contest available places on the Chief Executive Election Committee, the Government Information Bureau announced yesterday. The figure was confirmed after applications for candidature regarding the June polling closed at 6pm.

A total of 120 candidature applications was received from the First Sector, which covers the industrial, commercial and financial sub-sectors. The number of applications received is equal to the number of places on the Chief Executive Election Committee allocated to this sector.

Among the candidature applications from the Second Sector, 26 came from the cultural sub-sector; 31 from the educational sub-sector; 43 from the professional sub-sector; and 17



from the sports sub-sector.

In the Third Sector, the labor and social service sub-sectors generated 63 and 51 candidature applications respectively.

Candidates in the educational sub-sector, the labor sub-sector and the social service sub-sector exceeded the number of places

on the Chief Executive Election Committee available for each of the respective sub-sectors.

The Fourth Sector membership is formed by representatives of the Legislative Assembly; representatives of the Municipal Affairs Bureau; and Macau's delegates respectively to the

National People's Congress and to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Once the applications have been assessed regarding eligibility, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau will publish Tuesday next week a list of eligible candidates.

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# Shuttles from Macau to HKIA to come soon

Staff reporter

**F**OLLOWING Macau International Airport's (MIA) intention to set up a reception area at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and the Macau checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), the Transport Bureau (DSAT) has revealed their progress so far in commencing direct shuttle bus services from Macau to HKIA.

In response to an interpellation by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, the DSAT disclosed that the Hong Kong government is working on the tender for the service.

The bureau also noted that current traffic over the bridge fell within expected levels, while the average occupancy



of the two car parks at the Macau checkpoint is 0.74% and 3% respectively. The addition of express public bus routes to the Macau checkpoint during peak seasons is being studied.

Regarding numerous complaints about the insufficient facilities at the immigration building, the DSAT, quoting

the Office of the Secretary for Security, stated that the tender is currently being reviewed.

The shuttle bus service from Zhuhai Airport (ZUH) to Hong Kong was launched two days ago, with routes from ZUH to the Hong Kong checkpoint of the HKZMB, HKIA and downtown Hong Kong.

The DSAT hopes the

bus will further improve the dynamics between cities in the Greater Bay Area.

The ZUH authority has also expressed their hope of opening routes from the airport to Macau. Routes under consideration include one from ZUH to tourist spots in Macau, one to downtown Macau and one to MIA.

## FORUM

MDT/Macauhub

## Forum Macau wants more tourist cooperation with member countries

**B**OOSTING exchange and cooperation in the areas of tourism, conventions and exhibitions is a key task in the framework of Forum Macau, the Secretary-General of the bloc said earlier this week.

Xu Yingzhen, speaking at the closing session of the Colloquium on Tourism Management, Conventions and Exhibitions for Portuguese-Speaking Countries, said that strengthening the exchange and cooperation in these areas is one of the main objectives of these meetings.

"Macau, with its multicultural characteristics and linguistic diversity, has unique advantages in the construction of the World Tourism and Leisure Centre," said the Secretary-General of Forum Macau.

In conclusion, Xu Yingzhen called for the continued support of the participants in the development of Forum Macau and in the develop-

ment of cooperation between the tourism, conventions and exhibitions centre between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries through the Macau Platform in order to promote the growth of the countries involved.

The Colloquium on Tourism Management, Conventions and Exhibitions for Portuguese-Speaking Countries, organised by Forum Macau Training Centre in collaboration with the University of the City of Macau, was held from 23 April to 6 May 2019, the first to be held by that centre in 2019.

A total of 31 officials, representatives and managers in various areas from the eight Portuguese-speaking countries that are members of Forum Macau, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste to receive training in Macau.

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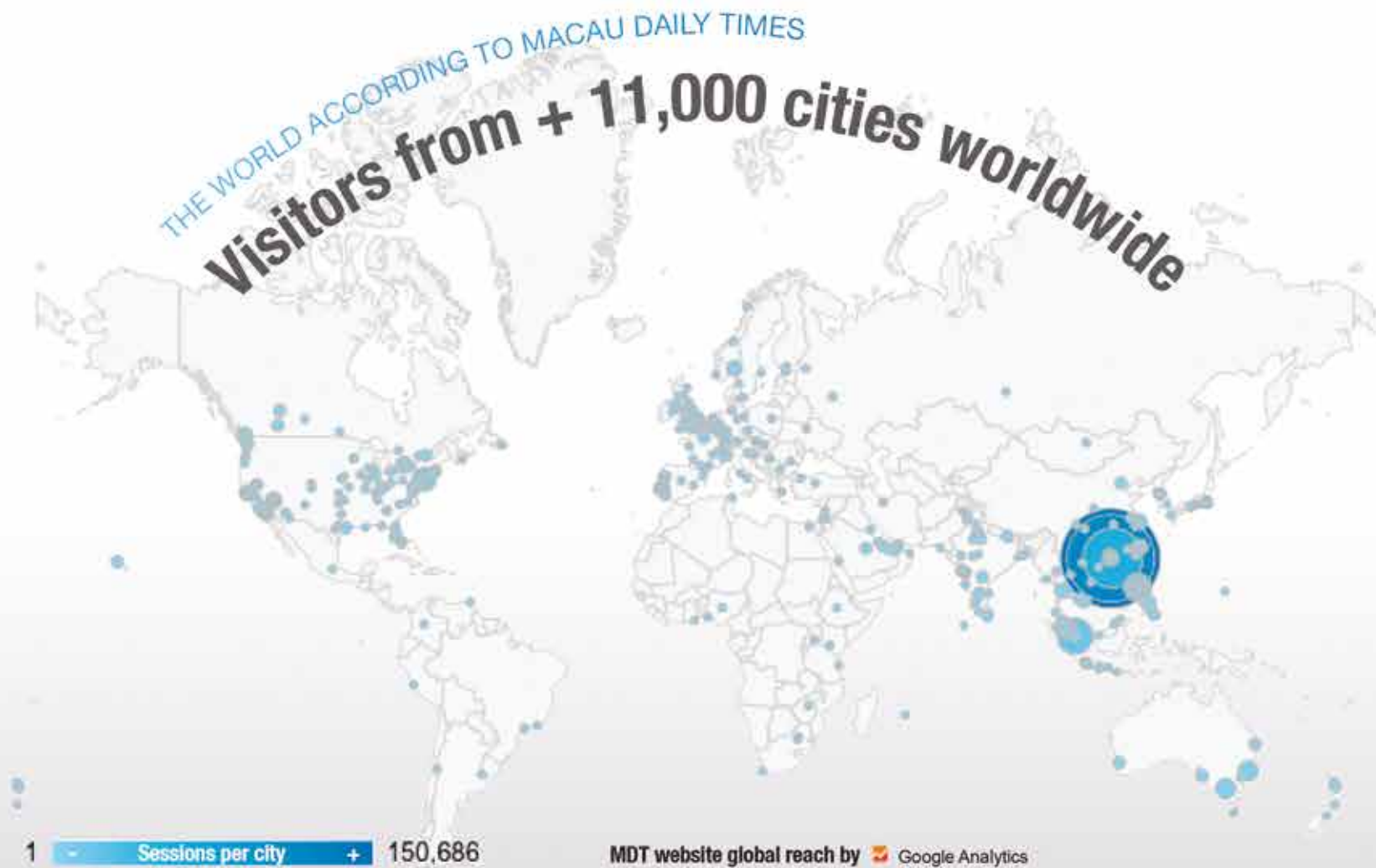
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”





## GAMING

# Singapore fills coffers with nearly \$1 billion on casino visits

Pooja Thakur

**H**IGHER entrance levies haven't stopped rich Singaporeans or those just feeling lucky from flocking to the country's only two casinos.

The city-state has received about S\$1.3 billion (USD954 million) in entrance fees from citizens and permanent residents since 2010 even as tourists are allowed to enter for free, Minister for Manpower Josephine Teo said in response to a question in parliament Monday.

Levies for Singaporeans and permanent residents to

enter either Resorts World Sentosa or the more glitzy Marina Bay Sands were raised to S\$150 a day, or S\$3,000 a year, last month. That's up from S\$100 and S\$2,000. Singapore initially introduced the charges to deter locals from gambling.

"The daily and annual entry levies serve to deter casual and impulse gambling by locals and are part of a holistic suite of social safeguards," Teo said. "Between 2010 and 2018, the number of local visitors to the casinos declined by 50 percent."

Singapore said last month it would extend the ex-

clusive licenses for the two casino operators until 2030 after they pledged to invest S\$9 billion in additional tourism attractions. Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s Singapore venture will build a fourth tower at Marina Bay Sands plus a new entertainment arena, while Genting Singapore Ltd.'s Resorts World will construct two new theme zones and enlarge its aquarium.

For the new attractions to remain commercially viable, the government also agreed for both operators to increase their gaming facilities, beyond the current approved 15,000 square meters and 2,500

gaming machines each. Marina Bay Sands will be given an option to expand its gaming area by an extra 2,000 square meters and add 1,000 more machines, while Resorts World can choose to add an extra 500 square meters and 800 more machines.

As part of the overall expansion, the duo will pay around S\$2.3 billion for extra land, the New Paper reported, citing Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Chee Hong Tat.

The S\$1.3 billion collected will go to the Tote Board, a government body that funds social and community programs. **Bloomberg**

## Vancouver casino take dives as crackdown keeps high rollers away

**G**REAT Canadian Gaming Corp. reported a decline in money spent on chips at its casino tables in British Columbia as anti-money laundering rules curb high-stakes play.

Table drop in the western Canadian province fell 12 percent to C\$283 million (USD210 million) in the first quarter compared with the same period the previous year, the Richmond, British Columbia-based casino operator said in a statement yesterday [Macau time].

"VIP play is still down out here in B.C.," Rod Baker, the company's chief executive officer, said on an investor call. Since the rules were introduced in January 2018, business from table games -- such as baccarat and blackjack -- is "a little more stable" at River Rock casino, but the Hard Rock facility was "frankly much less broadly dispersed at the VIP level," he said.

A provincial crackdown on money laundering has caused turmoil at Vancouver-area casinos, which for years were known for accepting cash from gamblers, some arriving with suitcases and hockey bags bulging with bills. New rules implemented last year to more tightly identify sources of funds have put a damper on that roaring trade.

Great Canadian Gaming's casinos aren't the only ones feeling the effect of the tighter restrictions. Parq Vancouver, a luxury waterfront casino whose opening coincided almost exactly with the dirty money crackdown, missed an interest payment on a second-lien loan last week after business took off slower than expected.

Great Canadian fell as much as 8.6 percent, the most in two months, after reporting lower-than-expected profit margin at its Ontario business. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### SANDS CHINA ORDERS 5,000 KG OF ORANGES FROM CONGIANG COUNTY



Sands China Ltd. recently received a shipment of oranges from Guizhou's Congjiang County at The Venetian Macao's receiving dock as part of the company's response to the SAR government's call for targeted poverty alleviation in mainland China.

The 5,000 kg shipment of oranges is the third batch of products received to date. Previous shipments have included chili sauce, mineral water and manda-

rins, the gaming operator said in a statement.

The oranges were served at the company's back-of-house dining rooms, which service the company's 28,000 team members.

Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. said, "Our company will continue to explore opportunities to purchase more products from Congjiang, with an aim to help boost its industrial and economic development."

#### JW MARRIOTT HOTEL, THE RITZ-CARLTON LAUNCH PROMOTIONS TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate the fourth anniversary of the JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The Ritz-Carlton Macau, the properties are launching a series of food and beverage promotions.

At Urban Kitchen, guests who have the digits 5, 2 or 7 in their cell phone number can enjoy a discount on their bill. If they have two of the three special digits, they can receive a 20 percent discount, and guests with all three digits are entitled to a 30 percent discount.

Divided into six zones, each zone has its own specialty chef offering the best seafood, regional Chinese cuisine and European dishes in Macau. This buffet will offer an exclusive anniversary deal for the first 50 bookings daily from May 1 to June 30.

Meanwhile, The Ritz-Carlton Macau is offering exquisite sets at Lai Heen, The Ritz-Carlton Café and The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge, featuring signature dishes and specialty drinks at a promotional price.



# Bride market trafficks Pakistani Christian women to China

AP PHOTO



Kathy Gannon  
& Dake Kang, Gujranwala

**HUNDREDS** young women from Pakistan's small Christian minority have been trafficked to China as brides in recent months as their impoverished community is targeted in an aggressive new marriage market, activists and officials say.

Brokers offer desperately poor parents thousands of dollars to give girls in marriage to Chinese men, even cruising outside churches for potential brides. They are helped by Christian pastors paid to preach to their congregations with promises of wealth in exchange for their daughters.

Once in China, the girls — most often married against their will — can find themselves isolated in rural regions, vulnerable to abuse, unable to communicate and reliant on a translation app even for a glass of water. Touted as wealthy Christian converts, the grooms often turn out to be neither, according to accounts from brides, their parents, an

activist, pastors and government officials, speaking to The Associated Press.

"This is human smuggling," said Ijaz Alam Augustine, the human rights and minorities minister in Pakistan's Punjab province, in an interview with the AP. "Greed is really responsible for these marriages [...] I have met with some of these girls and they are very poor."

The Associated Press interviewed more than a dozen Christian Pakistani brides and would-be brides who fled before exchanging vows. All had similar accounts of a process involving brokers and members of the clergy.

"It is all fraud and cheating. All the promises they make are fake," said Muqadas Ashraf, who was 16 when her parents married her off to a Chinese man last year. Less than five months later, she returned to Pakistan, pregnant and seeking a divorce.

In China, demand for foreign brides has mounted, a legacy of the one-child policy that skewed the country's gender balance toward males. Brides initially

came largely from Vietnam, Laos and North Korea. Now men are looking further afield, said Mimi Vu, director of advocacy at Pacific Links, which helps trafficked Vietnamese women.

"It's purely supply and demand," she said. "It used to be, 'Is she light-skinned?' Now it's like, 'Is she female?'"

Pakistan seems to have come onto marriage brokers' radar late last year.

Saleem Iqbal, a Christian activist, said he first began to see significant numbers of marriages to Chinese men in October. Since then, an estimated 750 to 1,000 girls have been married off, he said.

Pakistan's small Christian community is particularly vulnerable. It is among the country's poorest and has little political or social supporting, numbering some 2.5 million in Pakistan's overwhelmingly Muslim population of 200 million.

Among all faiths in Pakistan, parents often decide a daughter's marriage partner. The deeply patriarchal society often sees girls as a burden because the

bride's family must pay a dowry and the cost of the wedding.

By contrast, potential Chinese grooms offer parents money and pay all wedding expenses.

Some of the grooms are from among the tens of thousands of Chinese in Pakistan working on infrastructure projects under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. Other grooms search directly from China through networks. They present themselves as Christian converts, but pastors complicit in the deals don't ask for any documentation.

They pay on average USD3,500 to \$5,000, including payments to parents, pastors and a broker, said Iqbal.

Muqadas' mother Nasreen said she was promised about \$5,000, including wedding costs. "But I have not seen anything yet," she said.

"I really believed I was giving her a chance at a better life and also a better life for us," Nasreen said. When her daughter became increasingly miserable in China, Nasreen contacted the husband and demanded her daughter be sent home.

Dozens of Pakistani priests are paid by brokers to find brides for Chinese men, said Augustine, the provincial minorities minister, who is Christian. Many are from the small evangelical churches that have proliferated in Pakistan.

In Gujranwala, a city north of Lahore, more than 100 local Christian women and girls have been married off to Chinese in recent months, according to Iqbal.

The city has several mainly Christian neighborhoods, largely dirt poor with open sewers running along narrow slum streets.

Pastor Munch Morris, who serves at a local evangelical church, opposes such marriages. But he said he knows a group of pastors in his neighborhood who work with a private Chinese marriage broker. Among them, he said, is a fellow pastor at his church who tells his flock, "God is happy because these Chinese boys convert to Christianity. They are helping the poor Christian girls."

**They pay on average \$3,500 to \$5,000, including payments to parents, pastors and a broker**

Rizwan Rashid, a parishioner at the city's Roman Catholic St. John's Church, said that two weeks earlier, a car pulled up to him outside the church gates. Two Pakistani men and a Chinese woman inside asked him if he knew of any girls who want to marry a Chinese man.

"They told me her life would be great," he said. They were willing to pay him to help, but he said he refused because the church's priest often warns his flock against such marriages.

Human Rights Watch called on China and Pakistan to take action to end bride trafficking, warning in an April 26 statement of "increasing evidence that Pakistani women and girls are at risk of sexual slavery in China."

On Monday, Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency arrested eight Chinese nationals and four Pakistanis in raids in Punjab in connection with trafficking, Geo TV reported. It said the raids followed an undercover operation that included attending an arranged marriage.

The Chinese embassy said last month that China is cooperating with Pakistan to crack down on unlawful matchmaking centers, saying "both Chinese and Pakistani youths are victims of these illegal agents." **AP**



Joe McDonald, Beijing

## TRADE

# Gov't confirms economy czar going to Washington for talks

**C**HINA confirmed yesterday its economy czar will go to Washington for trade talks despite fears he might cancel after President Donald Trump threatened to escalate a tariff war over Beijing's technology ambitions.

The announcement suggests President Xi Jinping's government is putting its desire to end a conflict that has battered Chinese exporters ahead of the political need to look tough in the face of U.S. pressure.

The decision to have Vice Premier Liu He, Xi's top economic adviser, take part in talks due to start tomorrow might keep alive hopes the two biggest global economies could make peace as early as this week.

The Trump administration is pressing Beijing to roll back plans for government-led development of Chinese global competitors in robotics, electric cars and other technologies. Washington, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say those violate China's market-opening commitments and are based in part on stolen technology.

Trump's announcement Sunday that he would increase tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to 25% from 10% caused global stock markets to plunge. Markets steadied after a Chinese spokesman said Monday that envoys still were preparing to go to the United States, though there was no word then whether Liu would take part.

Yesterday, the Shanghai Composite index surged 0.7% and most other regional markets also rebounded.

The American side is led by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

A Commerce Ministry statement announcing Liu's plans gave no indication whether other details such as the size of his delegation might change.

Washington and Beijing have raised tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's exports, disrupting trade in goods from soybeans to medical equipment. Estimates of lost potential sales so far range as high as \$25 billion.



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, right, and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

## We hope the United States can still work together with China.

GENG SHUANG  
FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

Both governments have said negotiations were making progress, but Trump expressed frustration Sunday at the pace.

Mnuchin said Monday that Chinese officials "were trying to go back on some of the language" that had been negotiated in

10 earlier rounds of talks.

In response, a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said Beijing "is sincere in continuing consultations."

Asked whether China took Trump's threat seriously, Geng said similar situations had happened "many times before."

"We hope the United States can still work together with China," Geng said at a news briefing. "On the basis of mutual respect and equality, we will resolve each other's legitimate concerns and strive to reach an agreement of mutual benefit and win-win."

The conflict is testing how far Beijing is willing to go in changing a state-led economic mo-

del it sees as the path to prosperity and global influence — and how much power Washington will have to enforce any agreement.

The United States accuses Beijing of pressing foreign companies to hand over technology in exchange for market access, improperly subsidizing Chinese firms and stealing American trade secrets.

No details of the talks have been released. But private sector analysts say Beijing is willing to change details of its plans so long as it preserves the ruling Communist Party's dominant economic role.

The Trump administration has imposed 10% tariffs on

\$200 billion in Chinese imports and 25% tariffs on another \$50 billion. The Chinese have retaliated by targeting \$110 billion in U.S. imports.

Trump said Sunday he also planned to impose 25% tariffs on another \$325 billion in Chinese products. That would extend penalties to everything China ships to the United States, its biggest foreign customer.

A stumbling block in the talks is U.S. insistence on an enforcement mechanism with penalties if Beijing fails to keep its promises. The Trump administration wants to keep tariffs on Chinese imports to maintain leverage over Beijing. **AP**

## Chinese media start mentioning renewed US trade war threats

**C**HINESE media outlets began to report on the renewed threats of U.S. tariffs yesterday, more than a day after President Donald Trump tweeted that he would impose higher rates to force quicker negotiations. However, the news was still limited to a few outlets, and generally

took a measured tone.

Domestic media stayed silent Monday on the news, even as markets plummeted in reaction to the renewed tensions. There was no mention of the cause of the stock market plunge in an official Xinhua News stock report on Monday afternoon, while a story on

the Hong Kong market obliquely said "market sentiment was affected amid trade disputes between China and the United States" without more detail.

The 21st Century Business Herald newspaper reported that an unspecified "black swan event" caused the crash, without

elaborating.

Tuesday's papers had more detail, though there was nothing about the cause of the market turmoil on the front pages of any of the five main business papers. The state-run Global Times paper carried stories in both English and Chinese on Trump's tweets, the sub-

sequent market turmoil and China's official response, though the Chinese story wasn't online.

The Global Times story was the only article on the tweets to feature on the front page of any of the major Chinese-language state media. Global Times later followed up with an editorial on the matter.

The flagship newspaper of the Communist Party, the People's Daily, made no mention of the issue, although a Wechat ac-

count affiliated with it published a story saying the trade talks should be based on mutual respect and benefits, and that the parties should be prepared for consequences if they resort to threats as a negotiation tactic.

The article doesn't specify what Chinese policy makers may do next, apart from repeating the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement on Monday that China's position and attitude have always been clear. **Bloomberg**



AP PHOTO



Reuters reporters Wa Lone, center right, and Kyaw Soe Oo hold their children after being freed from prison

# Pressured over press rights, Myanmar frees Reuters reporters

Aung Naing Soe  
& Grant Peck, Yangon

**T**wo Reuters journalists whose reporting on the Myanmar military's abuses of Rohingya Muslims got them imprisoned and drew the world's attention to curbs on freedom of the press were freed yesterday as part of a mass presidential pardon.

Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, walked out of Yangon's notorious Insein Prison at about 9:40 a.m. As they passed through the front gate, waving to the gathered crowd, they were mobbed like rock stars by fellow reporters who as professionals had covered their plight and as colleagues pushed for their release.

"I want to say that I am very happy today. I want to thank our friends and families who were trying for our freedom and also to those from all over the world who sympathized with us," Wa Lone said. "I am really excited to see my family and colleagues. I can't wait to go to my newsroom."

Then they were hustled into a black van that took them to reunite with their families.

The two reporters were arrested

in December 2017 as they were working on a story about security forces involved in killing Rohingya and were accused of illegally possessing official documents, a violation of the colonial-era Official Secrets Act. At their trial the two contended they were framed because of official displeasure over their work, but they were convicted last September and sentenced to seven years in prison.

The case drew global attention not only as a media freedom issue but also as an example of how democratic reforms in Myanmar have stalled under Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government, which took power in 2016 with high hopes that it would usher in a new, more open era after decades of isolation under military rule.

It also came as international condemnation built over the brutal counterinsurgency campaign that Myanmar's military — which still maintains unchecked control of key ministries such as those responsible for security — launched in the western state of Rakhine, driving more than 700,000 members of the Rohingya minority group to flee to Bangladesh. U.N. officials

and others likened the offensive to ethnic cleansing, or even genocide.

Stories based on reporting from Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were published while they were in prison and the two last month were part of a Reuters team that won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting, one of journalism's highest honors. They shared the award with The Associated Press, which won for its reporting on Yemen.

Zaw Htay, a spokesman for the office of President Win Myint, told journalists he spoke with in the eastern state of Kayah yesterday that the reporters' families had sent letters requesting they be pardoned, and they were included among 6,520 prisoners released to promote peace and national reconciliation.

The families of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, their employer, press freedom groups, and journalist associations around the world had called for their release all along. Prospects looked grim after Myanmar's Supreme Court on April 23 rejected their final appeal of their prison terms, and even grimmer after they were not included in two other recent mass pardons.

It wasn't clear what had changed

by yesterday but the news was welcomed by rights groups and many others.

"I think this will reduce the pressures on Myanmar's government by the international community," said Yan Myo Thein, a political analyst. "Releasing them is progress. But it will be better for democracy and the transition of Myanmar if the president will consider releasing [all] those who are in jail for exercising freedom of expression."

The U.N. human rights office in Geneva welcomed their release but said they never should have been arrested.

"We remain concerned about flaws in the judicial process that led to their conviction in the first place," spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said.

Reuters released a video showing Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo reuniting with their families, hugging their wives and young children.

At the time of their arrest, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were working on an investigation of the killings of 10 Rohingya villagers. The government last year said seven soldiers were sentenced to up to 10 years in prison with hard labor for the killings.

Reporting on the Rohingya is sensitive in Myanmar, where many of the country's majority ethnic Burmese agree with the official government of denying the group citizenship and labeling them as illegal migrants from Bangladesh. The military has said its actions in Rakhine state were a response to attacks by Rohingya guerrillas, and it did not have a policy violating human rights or the laws of war.

During their trial, the prosecution claimed the Reuters reporters were found in possession of secret government documents. The defense said the documents were neither secret nor sensitive and had been given to them by police seeking to frame them.

That assertion was supported by surprise testimony from a whistleblower in the police department, who told the court that his superior had arranged for two policemen to meet the reporters and hand over documents described as "important secret papers" in order to entrap them.

**It will be better for democracy and the transition of Myanmar if the president will consider releasing [all] those who are in jail for exercising freedom of expression.**

YAN MYO THEIN  
POLITICAL ANALYST

As a result of his testimony, that officer was jailed for a year for violating the Police Disciplinary Act and his family was forced to leave their police housing unit.

Even with the reporters' release, serious concerns remain about freedom of expression in Myanmar.

The Myanmar group ATHAN, the Freedom of Expression Activist Organization, said last month that 47 journalists have faced trials since Suu Kyi came to power, and 31 have complaints against them pending. Of the 31, 18 were sued by government officials, four by the military and nine by various individuals.

The online magazine The Irrawaddy and other media outlets have recently been sued by the army for their coverage of fighting between the government and the Arakan Army ethnic rebel group, which also operates in Rakhine state. **AP**





Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak

## IMDB SCANDAL

# Malaysia: US to return \$196m in seized assets

**M**ALAYSIA'S attorney general said yesterday that the U.S. will return USD196 million recovered from seized assets linked to the multibillion-

-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund, part of which has already been repatriated.

Attorney General Tommy Thomas said Malaysia has received a first tranche of \$57

million that came from a settlement reached with Red Granite Pictures Inc., the production company behind the 2013 Leonardo DiCaprio film "The Wolf of Wall Street."

Red Granite, owned by the

stepson of former Malaysian leader Najib Razak, paid the U.S. government \$60 million last year to settle claims that it benefited from the 1MDB scandal. Thomas said the U.S. withheld \$3 million to cover its investigation costs.

Thomas said in a statement that the U.S. is in the process of remitting another \$139 million from the sale of a Manhattan property linked to fugitive Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, who is wanted in both the U.S. and Malaysia.

U.S. investigators say more than \$4.5 billion was stolen

from 1MDB by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014 and authorities are working to recover some \$1.7 billion. They say the ill-gotten gains were laundered through layers of bank accounts in the U.S. and other countries to finance Hollywood films and buy hotels, a luxury yacht, art works, jewelry and other extravagances.

Some \$700 million from the fund that Najib set up for Malaysia's economic development allegedly landed in his own bank account. Anger over the 1MDB scandal led to the spectacular election defeat of Najib's long-ruling coalition a year ago. Najib is now on trial for multiple counts of corruption linked to 1MDB.

Thomas said Malaysia's government has recovered a total of \$322 million worth of 1MDB assets so far.

Apart from the U.S. recoveries, Singapore is also returning 50 million Singapore dollars in funds linked to 1MDB and the government sold a luxury yacht bought with 1MDB funds by Low for \$126 million, Thomas said.

"1MDB asset recovery efforts across the globe are still ongoing and Malaysia is optimistic of recovering further monies in the coming months," he said. **AP**

AD



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## US-IRAN

# Tensions rise ahead of anniversary of deal pullout

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

A sudden White House announcement that a U.S. aircraft carrier and a bomber wing would be deployed in the Persian Gulf to counter Iran comes just days ahead of the anniversary of President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is said to be planning a speech today on the anniversary to discuss the next steps Tehran will take in confronting the U.S. Officials in the Islamic Republic previously warned that Iran might increase its uranium enrichment, potentially pulling away from a deal it has sought to salvage for months.

The military has almost always had an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf as part of its sprawling military presence in the strategic region, but had begun to scale back its presence as the air campaign against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria wound down.

Sunday night's statement from national security adviser John Bolton said the USS Abraham Lincoln, other ships in the carrier's strike group and a bomber wing would deploy to the Mi-

deast. Bolton blamed "a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings," without elaborating.

"The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces," Bolton said.

In Iran, the semi-official ISNA news agency on Monday quoted an anonymous official as saying that Rouhani planned a broadcast address today and may discuss the "counteractions" Tehran will take over America's withdrawal from the nuclear deal. It said Iranian officials have informed their European counterparts — with whom Iran has been trying to salvage the agreement — of the planned speech.

"Partial and total reduction of some of Iran's commitments and resumption of some nuclear activities which were ceased following [the deal] are the first step," ISNA said. Iranian state television and the semi-official Fars news agency similarly suggested an Iranian response loomed.

A spokesman for Iran's Supreme National Security Council,

Keivan Khosravi, also dismissed Bolton's comments as "psychological warfare."

Iran's hard-line Javad newspaper, associated with the Revolutionary Guard, said today would "ignite the matchstick for burning the deal." It suggested in its yesterday edition that Iran may install advanced centrifuges at its Natanz facility and begin enrichment at its Fordo facility, activities prohibited under the nuclear deal.

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog says Iran has continued to comply with the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal, which saw it limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. But American sanctions have wreaked havoc on Iran's already-anemic economy, while promised help from European partners in the deal haven't alleviated the pain.

The U.S. last week stopped issuing waivers for countries importing Iranian crude oil, a crucial source of cash for Iran's government.

It's unclear what specific threat American officials perceive coming from Iran. A U.S. official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity

to discuss intelligence matters, said American troops at land and sea could be targeted.

The USS Abraham Lincoln had been in the Mediterranean Sea conducting operations alongside the USS John C. Stennis, another aircraft carrier that has twice been in the Persian Gulf in recent months.

However, American military officials have stopped the near-continuous presence of aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf, a pattern set following the 1991 Gulf War. American air bases spanning the region can scramble fighter jets and drones, lessening the necessity of an aircraft carrier as U.S. officials also worry about China and Russia.

Already in the Persian Gulf is a group of U.S. Navy warships led by the USS Kearsarge, an amphibious assault ship carrying troops from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. The Kearsarge also carries AV-8B Harrier fighter jets, MH-60 helicopters and MV-22 Osprey airplanes.

Across the wider 5th Fleet, there were 17 warships deployed, according to the most-recent count by the U.S. Naval Institute, which tracks deployments around the world.

The Bahrain-based 5th Fleet

declined to comment on the White House announcement when reached by the AP on Monday.

It also remains unclear what bomber wing would be deployed to the region. Typically, the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, home to the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command, hosts such bomber deployments.

In late March, the Air Force acknowledged a rare gap in bomber cover in the Mideast after a squadron of B-1 Lancers left al-Udeid to return to Texas. B-52 bombers also had been deployed to the area to keep up attacks on the Islamic State group, the first time the aging aircraft had deployed to the region in 25 years.

**We are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces.**

JOHN BOLTON  
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

Officials at al-Udeid, which also hosts the F-35 fighter jet, declined to answer questions from the AP.

The Trump administration, which abruptly announced in December that it was pulling out of Syria, still maintains 2,000 U.S. troops in the northern part of the war-torn country. Officials suggest they serve as a check on Iranian ambitions and help ensure that Islamic State fighters do not regroup. No significant U.S. forces have so far withdrawn from Syria.

Trump has also said he has no plans to withdraw the 5,200 troops stationed in Iraq as part of a security agreement to advise, assist and support the country's troops in the fight against IS. Earlier this year, Trump angered Iraqi politicians and Iranian-backed factions by saying troops should stay there to keep an eye on neighboring Iran. **AP**

## RUSSIA

# Plane crash survivor recalls strong lightning strike

A survivor of the Russian commercial airliner that crash-landed in Moscow on Sunday, killing 41 people, says a flash of lightning was

heard moments before the plane began its emergency descent.

Investigators are still working to understand what happened to cau-

se the plane to ignite in a fireball upon landing. A lightning strike is one theory.

Dmitry Kharinin, an engineer and resident

of Volgograd told a local news outlet Tuesday that he saw the lightning: "It was very strong, and could be heard throughout the cabin."

Kharinin says he did not witness a direct lightning strike on the Russian-made Sukhoi SSJ100. However, he speculates that the electromagnetic discharge

of the lightning may have disabled plane systems.

The plane landed hard, destroying the landing gear and igniting the engines, he said. **AP**



## ELECTIONS

# Erdogan defends Istanbul vote redo, critics see power grab

Suzan Fraser, Ankara

**T**URKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan insisted yesterday that rerunning the Istanbul mayoral vote won by the opposition will only strengthen democracy, while critics called the decision an "outrageous" move to eliminate dissent against his government.

Ruling in favor of Erdogan's governing party, Turkey's top electoral body on Monday annulled the results of the March 31 vote in Istanbul, which opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu narrowly won, and scheduled a re-run for June 23.

The loss of Istanbul — and the capital of Ankara — in Turkey's local elections were sharp blows to Erdogan and his conservative, Islamic-based Justice and Development Party, or AKP.

AKP had challenged the results of the vote, claiming it was marred by irregularities. Critics accuse the AKP of clinging to power in

AP PHOTO



the city of 15 million people that is Turkey's cultural and commercial hub and of exerting heavy pressure on the country's electoral body to cancel the outcome.

The controversial decision has increased concerns over democracy and the rule of law in Turkey, a NATO member that is still formally a candidate to join the European Union and a key Western ally in the fight against terrorism and stemming of the flow of refugees to Europe.

"The will of the people has been trampled on," said Meral Akse-ner, leader of a nationalist party in Turkey that had backed Imamoglu.

The move is raising questions about whether Erdogan, who has consolidated power throughout his 16 years in power and is increasingly accused of authoritarianism, would ever accept any electoral defeat or relinquish power.

The redo of the vote also threa-

tens to further de-stabilize the Turkish economy, which has entered a recession.

The Turkish lira crashed spectacularly last summer over investor concerns about Erdogan's policies, shaking the economy. It has been sliding again in recent weeks and yesterday it hit its lowest level since October, due to the prolonged political uncertainty.

"This outrageous decision highlights how Erdogan's Turkey is drifting toward a dictatorship," Guy Verhofstadt, a European Parliament lawmaker and the leader of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats, said on Twitter. "Under such leadership, accession talks are impossible."

Europe's top human rights and democracy watchdog expressed concerns about reports of pressure exerted by Erdogan's government on the electoral body.

"We face the repeat elections in Istanbul with great concern and urge Turkish authorities to do their utmost to restore the safeguards of the electoral process,"

said Anders Knappe, the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

Delivering a speech in Parliament, Erdogan reiterated that the vote was sullied by "irregularities we could not ignore."

"We see this decision as an important step in strengthening our democracy, which will enable the removal of the shadow cast over the Istanbul election," he said.

He rejected opposition accusations that his party was trying to win back a key election that it had lost.

But opposition newspaper Birgun, however, branded the decision a "coup" and argued that justice in Turkey had "been suspended."

Imamoglu arrived in Ankara yesterday for emergency talks with senior members of the opposition Republican Peoples' Party, or CHP. Media reports had said the party was considering boycotting the repeated vote in Istanbul, but CHP signaled that Imamoglu would run again.

"We extend our hand to all our citizens," the party said at the end of the meeting. "We wholeheartedly believe that this extended hand will be held strong on 23 June, that it will strengthen our democratic struggle and that we will achieve a greater victory than on March 31." AP

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## what's ON



## SEE SAW ZINE?

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

UNTIL: July 12, 2019

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6212

## STROLLING AND FEELING: WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS OF LAI IENG

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 16, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD – LIECHTENSTEIN, KINGDOM OF STAMPS

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: May 31, 2019

VENUE: Temporary Gallery, Communications Museum

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

## PHOTO-SCRIPTS

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 2, 2019

VENUE: Contemporary Art Center - Navy Yard No.1

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

## Offbeat

## COFFEE CUP IN 'GAME OF THRONES' SCENE PERKS UP VIEWERS

AP PHOTO



"Game of Thrones" fans got a taste of the modern world when eagle-eyed viewers spotted a takeout coffee cup on the table during a celebration in which the actors drank from goblets and horns.

The characters Daenerys and Jon did not react to the out of place cup in Sunday's episode.

Many viewers complained the show should have caught the gaffe, which turned into an enduring meme on Monday.

HBO poked fun at the oversight: "The latte that appeared in the episode was a mistake. Daenerys had ordered an herbal tea."

Amateur sleuths tried to determine where the coffee cup came from, with But some viewers who took to Twitter concluding it was from Starbucks. HBO only said it was from its craft services crew.

Even the show's executive producer, Bernie Caulfield, expressed disbelief that the cup made it on screen.

"Our onset prop people and decorators are so on it, 1,000%," she said in an interview with Alison Stewart on WNYC's "All of it."

"Nowadays you can't believe what you see because people can put things into a photo that really doesn't exist, but I guess maybe it was there, I'm not sure," she said. "We're sorry!"

She also joked that Westeros was the first place to actually have a Starbucks: "It's a little known fact."

The last "Game of Thrones" episode airs May 19.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	12.12.12: O Concerto para Auxílio ao Ciclone Sandy
17:00	Conferência de Imprensa do Presidente da República de Portugal (Directo)
18:00	No Ar
18:30	Linha da Frente
19:00	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Montra do Lilau
21:50	LiteraturAqui
22:20	Network Negócios
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	Júlio Pereira ao Vivo em Macau
01:05	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:50	RTPi Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

01 - 08 May

## AVENGERS: ENDGAME

ROOM 1  
2:30, 5:45, 9:00pm

ROOM 2

4:45, 8:00pm

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring: Brie Larson, Scarlett Johansson, Karen Gillan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 181min



## P STORM

ROOM 2

2:30pm

Director: David Lam

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Louis Koo, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 96min



## 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



## 1945 REJOICING AT END OF WAR IN EUROPE

The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, has officially announced the end of the war with Germany.

In a message broadcast to the nation from the Cabinet room at Number 10, he said the ceasefire had been signed at 0241 yesterday at the American advance headquarters in Rheims.

Huge crowds, many dressed in red, white and blue, gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London and were cheered as the King, Queen and two Princesses came out onto the balcony.

Earlier tens of thousands of people had listened intently as the King's speech was relayed by loudspeaker to those who had gathered in Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square.

In it he paid tribute to the men and women who had laid down their lives for victory as well as to all those who had "fought valiantly" on land, sea and in the air.

The act of unconditional surrender is to be ratified in Berlin today - but in the interest of saving lives the ceasefire came into effect yesterday.

In his speech, Mr Churchill said: "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead. Japan with all her treachery and greed, remains unsubdued.

"We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad. Advance Britannia."

Even after dark, floods of people continued to converge on some of London's great monuments, floodlit specially for the occasion. There were fireworks, too, and effigies of Hitler burned on bonfires around the capital.

Later Mr Churchill was greeted by cheering crowds as he made his way to Whitehall and appeared on the flag-bedecked balcony of the Ministry of Health.

"God bless you all," he said over the loudspeaker, which was greeted with further cheering and waving from the crowd and a round of "For he's a jolly good fellow".

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The act of surrender was signed again in Berlin the following day before Marshal Georgi Zhukov, representing the Russian High Command. Also present at the signing were Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, General Carl Spaatz of the United States Air Forces and General Jean-Marie de Lattre de Tassigny of the French First Army.

The Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin, refused to accept the surrender signed in Rheims - probably because he suspected the motives of the Western Allies and Germany. He insisted the treaty was ratified in Berlin the following day, so Moscow celebrated VE Day one day later than the rest of Europe, on 9 May.

A victory parade was held in London on 10 August 1945 when once again huge crowds of cheering, flag-waving crowds took to the streets.

Following the two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the deaths of tens of thousands of people, Japan surrendered on 14 August 1945. Victory in Japan Day was celebrated on 15 August. It is also marked on 2 September, the day Japan signed an unconditional ceasefire.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You're not feeling great, but that's perfectly normal, all things considered. If you were feeling any better you'd have real cause to worry. So don't throw good money after bad trying to suppress your emotions.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

The world's collective mind is on finances. But that you're not the only one who's tight with money doesn't make it any easier to be frugal. Is it still considered cheap if everyone else is doing it too?

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

With your sensitivity, you can tell almost instantly when emotions are bruised. And when money is involved, that could be often. It shouldn't be too difficult to maintain an honest level of goodwill.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Friends and family may tell you to quit but you have what it takes to persevere, even if it looks like you're not making any progress. Stick with a current project until you start to see the first glimmer of profit.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

True, you need more than a band-aid, but that's all you have in your first aid kit. You have to make do with things mismatched on other levels, too. Be flexible and use what's at your disposal without asking for more.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It's time to move on. You still have plenty of other responsibilities you need to attend to. Stop thinking about all the things that went down with the ship and start looking ahead.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Money is making you nervous, but focus on the things that really make you feel secure. Socializing over a good meal, time with family and friends – these are the things that will ultimately make you happy.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If only your balance could double along with your emotions. But while your feelings are on high alert, your bank account remains static. Focus the spotlight on anything in between the two.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Gatherings of all kinds are being curtailed but you can still get together with family and friends. Doing things on the cheap shouldn't rule out informal get-togethers. They're the ones most worth doing anyway.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

If a good day to you is getting what you want, then you haven't had many good days lately. But if you change your definition to something more valuable than your everyday requests, you'll see you've actually had plenty.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Don't let everything in your life collapse around you. Start with what you can control. Instead of focusing on only one person, be social, for instance. Then branch out from there.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

If you have to act like everything is fine, you're not the only one who's performing. In fact, plenty of people in your circle are all playing the same role. Just who's who is the big mystery of the day.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	12	27	clear
Harbin	7	16	cloudy
Tianjin	13	26	clear
Urumqi	12	22	moderate rain
Xi'an	13	26	overcast
Lhasa	8	20	cloudy
Chengdu	16	24	drizzle
Chongqing	18	29	cloudy
Kunming	14	22	shower
Nanjing	15	23	clear
Shanghai	14	23	cloudy
Wuhan	15	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	15	25	cloudy
Taipei	19	25	heavy rain
Guangzhou	21	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	27	shower

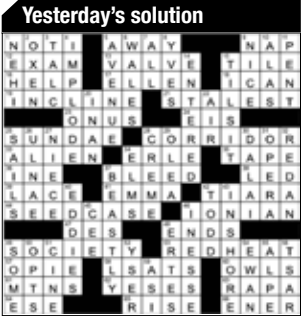
WORLD

Moscow	2	12	cloudy
Frankfurt	9	20	drizzle
Paris	7	18	drizzle
London	5	16	overcast
New York	8	17	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Trading center; 5- Mantel piece; 9- Charlotte \_\_\_\_; 14- "Song of the South" song syllables; 15- Mil. addresses; 16- Continental identity of a Chinese person; 17- Chief monk of Tibet; 19- Bottled spirit; 20- Australian runner; 21- Bad habit; 22- Summed; 23- Milk sugar; 25- One-armed bandit; 26- Whole; 27- Light tones; 30- Pisa place; 31- Pertaining to the kidneys; 32- Variety; 34- Baseball team; 35- Seashore; 36- "The Time Machine" race; 37- SASE, e.g.; 38- Blot out; 39- Half of a 45; 40- Most strange; 42- Blemish; 43- Part of MIT; 44- Color board; 48- Arranges; 50- Ukraine's capital; 51- Suffer; 52- Key \_\_\_\_; 53- State in the SE United States; 55- Fall flower; 56- Tolstoy's Karenina; 57- Of the ear; 58- "Surprise Symphony" composer; 59- Tailless amphibian; 60- Car scar;

DOWN: 1- Small shell-shaped cake; 2- Utterly unyielding; 3- Unwillingness; 4- Crumpets partner; 5- Suitcase; 6- Swiftly, to Shakespeare; 7- A few; 8- That, in Tijuana; 9- 4 Seasons No. 1 hit of 1964; 10- Familiar with; 11- Trig ratio; 12- Uttered; 13- Benz trailer?; 18- Tusks; 22- \_\_\_\_ once; 24- Mosaic piece; 25- Have a feeling about; 27- Brewer's need; 28- Not tamed; 29- Gin flavorer; 31- Way to cook; 33- Korean auto; 35- Salad green; 36- Dublin's land; 38- Primitive form of wheat; 39- Medicinal ointment; 41- Like Saturn; 42- Frenzied woman; 44- Flipper; 45- Flavor; 46- Connection; 47- Vote into office; 48- Tabula \_\_\_\_; 49- Bohemian; 50- Game of chance; 52- \_\_\_\_-di-dah; 53- Rat-a- \_\_\_\_; 54- Lawn material;



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## FOOTBALL

# Man City back on top of EPL after Kompany wonder goal

MAN CITY 1, LEICESTER 0

**M**ANCHESTER City returned to the top of the English Premier League with one round left after captain Vincent Kompany hit a sensational goal to beat Leicester 1-0 in a dramatic and tense match yesterday [Macau time].

The ferocious long-range shot by City's long-serving and influential captain settled nerves 70 minutes into the nail-biting contest at Etihad Stadium.

Few will have expected Kompany to shoot when the ball fell to him 30 yards out but he let fly with a powerful strike.

"Vinny, I tell you, 'No shoot!'" City striker Sergio Aguero was captured on television telling Kompany after the final whistle.

Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel had no chance as the ball swerved away from him into the top corner.

Pep Guardiola's treble-chasing side needed to win to retain control of their title destiny, and their 13th successive victory took them a point above Liverpool. City should successfully defend the title next Sunday at lowly Brighton. Liverpool hosts Wolverhampton at the same time.

"One more game," Guardiola said. "We were seven points behind not long ago from Liverpool but we didn't give up."

"I know now is not (about) saying how good was the season, now is arriving first. We just have to win our game."

It was anything but straightforward against Leicester who, under the guidance of former Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers, proved tough defensively and a threat on the break.

Yet City, knowing the importance of victory, gave it everything. They were again missing the midfield composure of Fernandinho but made their usual high-energy start.

Bernardo Silva and Raheem Sterling tore down the right and left flanks respectively and cut inside menacingly while Phil Foden, again trusted by Guardiola in another key fixture, was also lively.

Leicester was also relishing the contest and it was the visitors who created the first serious opening when Ricardo Pereira skipped into the area and had his shot blocked by Kompany. Marc Albrighton's follow-up effort was also charged down.

City threatened as Foden chested down and volleyed at Schmeichel, then Youri Tielemans forced a low save from Ederson.

Sterling raced behind the defense and flicked the ball onto Jonny Evans' arm but penalty appeals were half-hearted and dismissed by referee Mike Dean.

A sign of City tension came as David Silva was booked for a cynical challenge on Tielemans which prevented

a breakaway from inside his own half.

But City then started to take control, and Sergio Aguero hit the bar with a thumping header. Schmeichel did brilliantly to claw the ball off the line as it bounced down.

City finished the half on top but there was another moment of alarm as Kompany was booked for bringing down James Maddison in full flow.

City sent on Leroy Sane and poured all its efforts into attack after the break. City appealed for another penalty as Sterling went down under a Hamza Choudhury challenge but nothing was given and the Foxes almost caught the hosts out as Maddison flashed an effort wide.

The tension increased and the anxiety was evident as Aguero was denied at point-blank range by Schmeichel after Evans miskicked.

Then Kompany produced his first league goal of the season. **AP**



Manchester City's Vincent Kompany

AD

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opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



A SHENZHEN ADVENTURE

A Hong Kong friend was my recent tour guide to visit some high, medium and low end furniture centers in deepest, darkest Shenzhen. I got up very early and caught the ferry from Taipa to enter Hong Kong via Sheung Wan. I then took the MTR to meet my friend and his son at Lo Wu where we crossed into China and took the Shenzhen Metro to the furniture centers. We spent several hours happily wandering around, talking to salespeople and taking photos of furniture. We finished the outing with a good Chinese dinner before I returned to Macau.

To me, Deng Xiaoping was the greatest of China's modern leaders and his ideas of "One Country, Two Systems" and export led market economy development - "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" - have totally transformed China and our modern day world over the last 40 years. He died in early 1997 just failing to see his dream of Hong Kong actually returning to Chinese sovereignty. The change of Shenzhen from a small fishing village in 1980 to a modern, world city of 12.5 million people that today has eclipsed Hong Kong in some ways is unbelievable and a major exemplar of Deng's achievements.

I have vivid memories of first visiting Shenzhen in late 1991 when it was a mass of factories and people walking or riding bicycles to get around. There were no private cars, and only a few blue factory trucks and white factory vans and some dilapidated Soviet Bloc buses. There were also gangs of children begging on every street corner. Now it is all glass skyscrapers and streets full of whisper quiet electric vehicles and a largely excellent public transport system. Living there, for the most part, seems to be comparable to living in Hong Kong.

The Shenzhen Metro is good, and very inexpensive, but can be somewhat confusing to navigate. Like Hong Kong there are many adjoining and crossing train routes and while they are color coded they are identified by number. The stations also have numbered platforms, so when changing trains you need to get on the route N train at platform M. This is OK, but the English signage often neglects to clearly distinguish whether a number is referring to a train route or a platform! It would be much simpler and better if they just identified both trains and platforms by train route color. In my experience, the complexity of the industrial design involved in creating good signage is widely under-estimated, and poorly done in many parts of the world, including Macau.

It happened to be raining on the day, and our massively over-capacity, over budget, long delayed Taipa ferry terminal was awash in water from roof leaks! I really hope that all the government officials involved in this disaster of a project were fired and the contracting companies that built it were sued into bankruptcy, but I doubt it.

I also, cannot wait for the Greater Bay Area (China's plan for integrating the greater Pearl River Delta) to become an effective, integrated region. I had to go through 4 travel checkpoints and use 3 identity documents (Macau ID, Hong Kong ID and Australian passport) to get to Shenzhen! I also used 3 different currencies and traveled through 2 international telephone regimes that involved exorbitant data roaming charges. I do not need one now, but my 200km round trip also involved 3 different work permit regimes. It is very reminiscent of the few trips I took to Europe before the Schengen Area was fully operational. I am totally baffled as to why Great Britain is leaving the EU - it seems to be an unbelievably backward step.

Roll on the Greater Bay Area, and I hope our government makes it as integrated as possible. Assuming, of course, that we have any involvement in formulating it.

THE BUZZ GOOGLE EXPECTED TO SHOW OFF NEW HARDWARE, AI AT ANNUAL EVENT

Google CEO Sundar Pichai is expected to showcase much-anticipated updates to the company's hardware lines and artificial intelligence.

Google will also likely address privacy updates as concerns about data sharing continue to plague the tech industry. Facebook dedicated much of its own conference last week to addressing privacy.

Rumors suggest that Google may unveil a mid-range Pixel phone as a cheaper option to the fla-

gship model currently on sale for USD800.

Pichai has a keynote scheduled yesterday at the company's annual I/O conference for software developers in Mountain View, California.

Google says more than 7,000 developers will attend. The conference is focused on updates for the computer engineers that build apps and services on top of Google technology. I/O has also become a stage to announce new consumer products.

Will new royal baby's name honor Princess Diana? Stay tuned



Political artist Kaya Mar walks with his latest work past Windsor Castle in Windsor

Gregory Katz, London

BRITONS love to lay down their bets — and with the birth of a healthy baby boy for Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, and Prince Harry, it's time to focus on boys' names.

Britain's legal bookmakers reported high interest yesterday in the names Alexander, James and Arthur. They also noted speculation about the name Spencer, the maiden name of Harry's late mother, Princess Diana.

Royal babies usually have a string of names, opening the way for endless betting possibilities.

"Following a flurry of bets last evening, Alexander is now the new favorite at the top of our name betting and the one we are fearing the most," said John Hill of the Coral betting agency.

Alexander has 4/1 odds at Coral, while Arthur is 6/1 and Albert, James and Spencer are all 8/1.

Choosing Spencer as a first or middle name is seen as a way for Harry to honor Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997 when he was only 12. Before he married Meghan last year, Harry spoke about his desire to pay tribute to his mother's memory during the wedding ceremony.

Others believe Meghan could choose a name that

reflects her American biracial heritage. One Twitter user suggested Marvin — for the late singer Marvin Gaye.

The infant, known only as Baby Sussex for the moment, was born Monday at 5:26 a.m. at a yet-undisclosed location. In a gushing announcement of the birth, Harry said he and Meghan are "thinking" about names and hinted that an announcement might be made Wednesday or shortly thereafter.

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The couple is also expected to pose with their newborn or release a photo on their Instagram account at some time and to publicly name godparents for the child.

The new arrival is the eighth great-grandchild of Queen Elizabeth II, who smiled when asked about the baby's arrival at a luncheon yesterday.

Asked if life is good, the 93-year-old monarch said: "Yes, thank you."

The baby boy is the first of her great-grandchildren to have an American parent. His mother Meghan is the daughter of a white man and a black woman, bringing a biracial heritage to the House of Windsor.

Trevor Phillips, a retired black broadcaster who headed Britain's Equality and Human Rights Commission, wrote an open letter to the royal baby, saying his arrival reflects British society's more open attitude nowadays and the increasing inclusiveness of the royal family.

"This is a family that lives the reality of a multicultural world daily," he said. "It's their job: to interact with people of different backgrounds to themselves on behalf of the nation, and to treat them all with respect. I have to tell you, they are pretty good at it."

He went on to tell the baby: "Whether you like it or not, you're going to have a special place in the nation's heart."

Prince William, Harry's older brother, joked that he will be glad "to welcome my own brother into the sleep deprivation society that is parenting!"

"Obviously thrilled, absolutely thrilled, and obviously looking forward to seeing them in the next few days when things have quietened down," William told reporters. AP

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

EGYPT's highest appeals court has upheld death sentences for 13 people convicted of terror charges over attacks in the capital in which explosive devices killed at least two police officers.

UK British Prime Minister Theresa May faced renewed pressure yesterday from lawmakers in her Conservative Party to abandon efforts to seek a Brexit compromise deal with the opposition Labour Party.



UK Prince Charles of Britain is visiting Germany on a four-day charm offensive during which he will stress the two European countries' close ties.



MACEDONIA Pope Francis made the first-ever papal visit to North yesterday and sought to encourage its efforts to integrate into European institutions after its name change resolved a decades-long dispute with Greece.



USA Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has made it official: The administration won't be turning President Donald Trump's tax returns over to the Democratic-controlled House.



USA-IRAN A sudden White House announcement that a U.S. aircraft carrier and a bomber wing would be deployed in the Persian Gulf to counter Iran comes just days ahead of the anniversary of President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal.

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