



## IMF FORECAST RELATIVELY 'CONSERVATIVE'

The economic growth rate of Macau was projected by IMF at 4.3% in 2019 and about 4.0% over the medium term

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## CHUI PRAISES PORTUGAL'S YOUNG ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Chief Executive Chui Sai On is on his third day of an official visit to Portugal taking him touring Lisbon and Porto

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## MIGRANT WORKERS

# Helpers exposed to 'modern slavery'

P2

## WORLD BRIEFS

**US-CHINA** President Donald Trump is warning Chinese President Xi Jinping that China "will be hurt very badly" if they don't agree to a trade deal.

**CHINA** has announced it is raising tariffs on USD60 billion in U.S. goods in retaliation for the latest penalties on its exports announced by the Trump administration.



**TAIWAN** Terry Gou, head of the world's largest contract assembler of consumer electronics, stepped closer to running for president of Taiwan yesterday by announcing that he would not accept a vice presidential slot on the ticket of the opposition Nationalist Party.

**PHILIPPINES** Filipinos voted yesterday in midterm elections highlighted by a showdown between President Rodrigo Duterte's allies who aim to dominate the Senate and opposition candidates fighting for checks and balances under a leader they regard as a looming dictator. More on p13

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## For sake's drunk

P6 BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY



## MGTO in Cebu for PATA Annual Summit

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) attended the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Annual Summit 2019 in the Philippines. The four-day event featured a series of panel sessions, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)/PATA Leaders Debate, the PATA Annual General Meeting and the PATA Youth Symposium. The Annual Summit, one of the PATA's major annual events, had Global Editorial Director Andrew Staples of the Economist Corporate Network giving a keynote speech. Co-founder Nathan Blecharczyk of Airbnb was interviewed in the BBC Leadership Interview. The Annual Summit attracted 383 delegates representing a total of 194 entities, coming from 43 countries and regions across Asia Pacific.

## Fight in Fai Chi Kei eatery injured three

Two groups of diners were involved in a fight at a congee eatery in Fai Chi Kei at around 3 a.m. on Sunday, leaving three people injured. The police are currently conducting an investigation into the fight. In total, there were seven people involved, six men and one woman, all of whom were aged between 30 and 40. One group said they were being verbally provoked before they began a physical altercation with the other group; the other group said a female friend was hit from behind by a beer bottle, which then led to the fight. One of the three injured, all were released from hospital.

## Gov't to transfer 3% to Social Security Fund yearly

At the end of every year, the government will transfer a total of 3% from the Central Budget Balance to the Social Security Fund. This measure said to ensure the sustainability of the Social Security Scheme over the next 48 years. The measure was announced on last Friday by the Executive Council that informed it had concluded the analysis of the bill that aims to facilitate the implementation of these amendments to the law. As was announced, the measure is the fulfillment of the promise made by Chief Executive Chui Sai On during his candidacy for his second term. It is expected that the nominated percentage will equal to a yearly amount of around MOP500 million.

# Rights group says domestic workers suffer 'modern slavery' in both SARs

Lynzy Valles

AMNESTY International has described the exploitation of domestic workers in Hong Kong and Macau as modern slavery, citing the workers' vulnerability to overworking and being underpaid.

According to a report issued by Portuguese news agency Lusa, the human rights watchdog said that its investigation into the situation of these workers in both SARs revealed that in both cities, workers could be trapped in a cycle of exploitation that is equivalent to modern slavery.

Migrant workers in Macau have been calling for a standard contract and a minimum wage of MOP4,500 yet no response has emerged.

"Gaps in legal protection make it easier for employers to abuse workers, and harder for workers to get help," the rights group said.

Echoing the sentiment, Jassy Santos, chairperson of the Progressive Labour Union explained that domestic workers are prone to abuse due to the absence of rights protection for them.

"I believe they have defined it as modern slavery because even when these workers have been working for long hours ... if they are already tired, they cannot do anything but to continue working if the employer says so," Santos told the Times.

AP PHOTO



## According to a survey we did, we found out there are a few domestic workers that work 17 to 18 hours a day.

JASSY SANTOS  
PROGRESSIVE LABOUR UNION

"According to a survey we did, we found out there are a few domestic workers that work 17 to 18 hours a day," she lamented.

Amnesty International also cited the lack of regulations for employment agencies in

regards to placement fees, an issue which affects workers mainly from Indonesia.

The human rights watchdog said that agencies have been exploiting people in conditions of forced labor, putting them in positions where they are "compelled to work in situations that violate their human rights."

The organization also cited the confiscation of identity documents and restrictions of movement as grounds for a definition of modern slavery.

According to Santos, the report creates a negative image for the city, as the government continuously turns a blind eye to the situation of these workers.

"The government does not acknowledge that domestic workers can contribute to the economy. This type

of work is not easy; we are also human beings, not machines," she said, adding, "what we need is for them to acknowledge that there are a number of domestic workers whose employers treat them like machines. We need them to at least listen that we also need to be protected by law." Santos noted that Hong Kong's law on domestic workers is better.

"What happens here is that when we complain about abusive situations, they [the employers] will just send you back home," said Santos.

Migrant worker rights advocates held dialogues with the Labor Affairs Bureau back in February, calling for an establishment of a minimum wage of at least MOP4,500, along with an increase of housing allowance and an eight-hour work day.

# GBA job fair attracts hundreds of Macau students

A job fair organized by the Jinan University in Guangzhou saw 23 enterprises within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) advertising more than 600 working and 300 internship positions. To date, this is the largest

fair targeting students from Macau.

The advertised positions covered areas such as entertainment and gaming, finance, culture, medicine, insurance, and information technology.

Several hundred Ma-

cau students attended the fair, and many were asked to leave their contact information for further communications.

GBA companies are hiring people from cities within the area. While Macau com-

panies were present at the fair, many companies from elsewhere in the region were also trying to attract candidates from Macau. An attendee from Macau pointed out that many of his fellow students had chosen to pursue

careers in Guangzhou after graduation.

Additionally, Macau students studying at Jinan University enjoy the right to do an internship in the free-trade areas in Guangzhou's Nansha, Shenzhen's Qianhai, and Hengqin. After the internship, they may continue their work with the companies in question provided their work is satisfactory.

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Times

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# IMF predicts economy to grow by 4.3% in 2019

**T**HE economic growth rate of the Macau SAR was projected at 4.3% in 2019 and about 4.0% over the medium term, the Monetary Authority (AMM) said on Saturday, quoting a report from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The monetary watchdog said the IMF concluded the 2019 Article IV Consultation with the Macau SAR and published its staff report over the weekend.

The report affirms the region's strong fiscal and external financial positions, credible linked exchange rate system,

sound financial system, wide-ranging plans for economic diversification and prudent macroeconomic policies.

On the economic outlook, the IMF mission expects the SAR's economy to achieve relatively stable and solid growth over the medium term, driven by tourism and continued diversification efforts.

The investigation also recognized the prudent macroeconomic policies of the SAR government leading to zero gross debt, which has endowed Macau with large fiscal and external financial buffers. These buffers will continuously anchor

the stability of the economy and reduce external vulnerabilities emanating from global economic uncertainties.

On the external financial front, the SAR remains a net foreign creditor, driven by its sizable current account surplus and reserves as well as the external position of its banking sector. Macau's ample net foreign assets will underpin its medium-term external solvency.

The report mentions Macau's sound financial sector and welcomes the progress to strengthen its anti-money laundering and combating financing

of terrorism framework. The financial soundness indicators regarding asset quality, earnings, and liquidity remain robust.

The current macroprudential regulations with respect to the real estate market appear broadly appropriate while systemic risks are largely contained, it added.

In addition, the IMF welcomed the incentives of the Monetary Authority of Macao in strengthening cross-border supervisory cooperation, which are deemed to facilitate the prevention of regulatory arbitrage and avoidance.

## FORECAST 'CONSERVATIVE'

Professor Zeng Zhonglu of Macau Polytechnic Institute's Gaming Teaching and Research Centre said he expects a slight increase in gambling revenue this year, following the International Monetary Fund's forecast.

Zeng's optimism echoes that of Professor Davis Fong, Director of Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of the University of Macau, who expressed his confidence in Macau's 2019 gambling revenue early this year.

Fong voiced the expectation there would be a single-digit increase in overall gambling revenue, as he saw the 20th anniversary of the Macau Special Administrative Region and the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge opportunities to drive in tourists.

Zeng considered the IMF's forecast "relatively conservative, but basically reliable." He said forecast for Macau's economic growth for this year should be based on two foundations: the result of gambling revenue and the Chinese-America trade negotiation. Three out of the first four months of this year saw falls in gambling revenue, especially in VIP business. Zeng attributed this to the general smoking ban in casino, and expected normalcy after players became accustomed to it.

However, Zeng noted difficulty in predicting the effect on gambling revenue caused by the trade war between China and the U.S., especially as this ongoing issue might affect the global economy, which consequentially might affect tourist and consumption figures in Macau. Zeng noted that a slowed economic growth may not necessarily affect gambling revenue. **MDT/Agencies**

Renato Marques

**T**HE future public tender for new gaming concessions, to be held by 2022, should not establish any limitation on the number of concessions to be granted, according to gaming law specialist Jorge Godinho.

The visiting professor at the University of Macau was speaking on TDM Radio's weekly Saturday interview program where he addressed several topics related to the new gaming concessions.

In the interview, he said, "it does not make any sense to launch a public tender to attribute only six gaming concessions," adding, "this would be the same as saying that everything would remain exactly as it is now."

## Gaming law expert says tender should not limit number of concessions

In the opinion of the gaming laws and regulations specialist, the tender will be the opportunity that both the government and the concessionaires are waiting for to promote changes, in particular the opportunity to overhaul the current system of concessions and sub-concessions, thus placing all concessionaires on equal terms with the same commitments and rights.

Godinho said he does not expect the government to create any changes to taxation in the upcoming public tender, noting that the current taxation system is balanced and still up-to-date.

On the same day, the Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong said that the government is already doing preparatory work for the new public tender for gaming concessions so that all the work is done "prior to the 2022 expiry date [of the current concessions]."

Leong said that among the work being done, are legislative initiatives; amendments to the laws which should include, for example, the clarification of non-gaming elements to be introduced by the concessionaires, and the introduction of a social responsibility mechanism.



Jorge Godinho



## CE TOURS PORTUGAL

# Chui praises Lisbon efforts on promoting young entrepreneurship

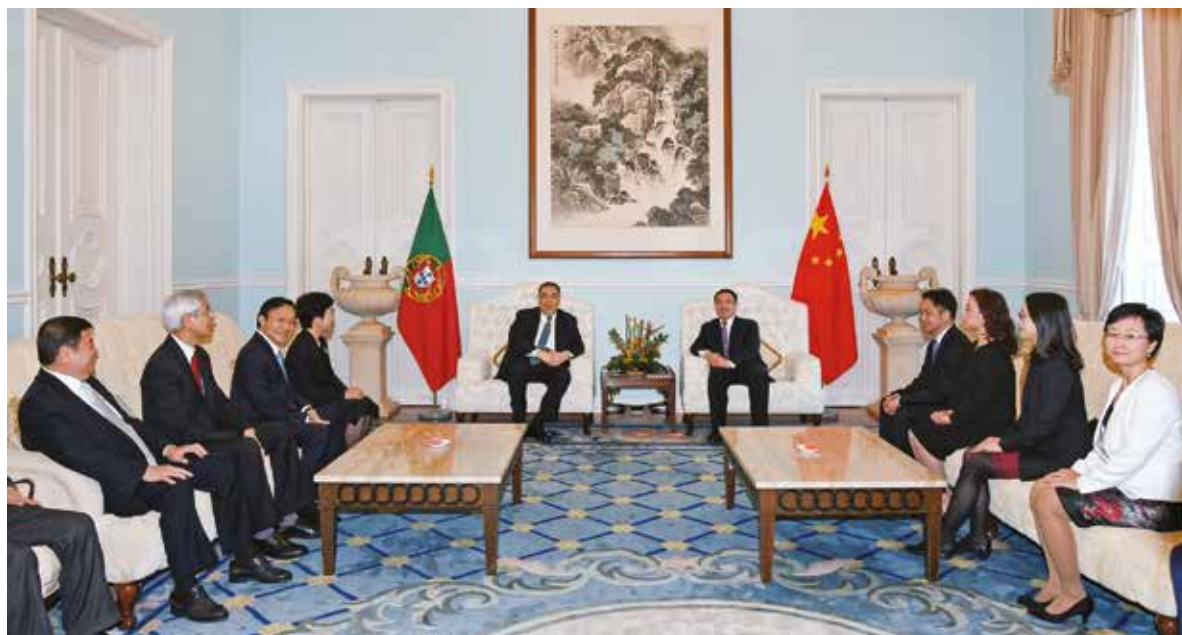
Renato Marques

**C**URRENTLY on his third day of an official visit to Portugal, Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On, leading a Macau delegation, met with several authorities in the country, starting with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Lisbon, Cai Run.

During this meeting, Chui and Cai exchanged views on how to boost Portuguese-Chinese relations and strengthen Macau's role as a platform for cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The CE praised the work carried out by Portugal on the entrepreneurship of its young people, noting that the Macau delegation intends to observe and learn about these initiatives, as well as to strengthen exchange in this area, an official statement from the Government Information Bureau noted.

At the meeting, Chui thanked



Chui Sai On with ambassador Cai Run

the Chinese authorities for their support in strengthening bilateral ties with Portugal, especially on a year full of celebrations between the three parties. In early May, during his visit to Macau, the President of the

Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, expressed his focus on the development of Portuguese culture and Portuguese language learning in Macau. He also voiced his intention to support the participation of

the Portuguese-speaking countries, namely Portugal, in supporting Macau's construction of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the implementation of the "General Planning Guidelines for the Development of Greater

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Bay (GBA)." These topics are once more in discussion across the CE's visit to Portugal.


Ambassador Cai Run recalled the recent visits from both the President Xi Jinping and the President of the Portuguese Republic to each other's countries as a display of this "high-level bilateral relationship," noting that Portugal pays great importance to several areas of construction within the GBA which not only offers new opportunities of cooperation between Macau and Portugal but also contributes to the development of local economic diversification.

Cai identified several projects in recent years where Macau companies and the Macau government created partnerships with Portuguese entities, creating delegations and branches. In the ambassador's opinion, this demonstrates Macau's role in linking China and the lusophone world.

AD


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## CIVIL PROTECTION

## Gov't moves forward with crime for 'rumor spreading'

Renato Marques

**T**HE government has moved forward with the idea of penalizing the spreading of false rumors during typhoons or other civil protection-related crisis with imprisonment for up to three years.

The bill defines the crime as "against safety, order and public peace during sudden incidents of public nature," and it is normally punishable with imprisonment for two years, or a fine equivalent to 240 days. However in instances when conduct causes social panic and affects the operations of the authorities, it can be escalated to three years of imprisonment.

This is one of the measures within in the final proposal of the bill that aims to create a basic law of civil protection. The analysis of the bill was concluded by the Executive Council which presented the final draft



last week.

The new bill proposes to finally establish a legal framework for the measure first announced by the government after the occurrence of Typhoon Hato in 2017. It will extend the mandate of the authority and the Chief Executive (CE) to act in cases of calamity.

Among the announced measures is giving the CE the power to order the closure of casinos and the evacuation of people from houses located in endangered areas.

These measures are not only triggered in cases of emergencies and natural catastrophes such as typhoons, but also during other kinds of public incidents that pose a risk to either public health or safety. The bill also clearly defines the level of responsibility during such events from public and private, as well as individual people, establishing punishments in cases where entities and people fail to comply with their duties.



## Sands Macao Celebrates 15 Years in Macau

A five-part series on the growth of Sands China since 2004



Dr. Wilfred Wong, President of Sands China Ltd.

MACAU DAILY TIMES PRESENTS:

# IT ALL STARTED WITH SANDS MACAO

## Part 1: A company focused on its team members

The opening of Sands Macao on May 18, 2004, marked the beginning of an era of transformation for Macau's tourism industry – a period that has witnessed enormous growth in the SAR and for Sands China Ltd. Fifteen years later, the company's first property continues to welcome millions of guests through its doors each year, and has since been joined by four integrated resorts on the Cotai Strip. Together, they have recorded 700

million visits to date, while setting ever-higher standards of service excellence in a city that is establishing itself as a world centre of tourism and leisure – a city primed to be a key player in the development of the Greater Bay Area. To mark this decade-and-a-half milestone, this is the first in a five-part look at Sands Macao and Sands China Ltd. We start with the company's focus on its team members.

**W**HEN you talk to Sands China's team members, you often discover that they are happy, and that they are loyal.

Approximately 8,300 of Sands China Ltd.'s more than 28,000 team members have spent more than a decade in service to the company. Over 1,600 of those have worked for the company for 15 years, representing more than a third of Sands Macao's opening team. Sands China has worked hard to create a positive and supportive workplace environment and to ensure its employees are well cared for – establishing and optimising a human resources management system that keeps pace with the times. This is one of the key reasons that its team members are so loyal to the company.

The benefits scheme the company offers its employees across all pay grades could be considered the top factor in this retention rate, believes Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. Understanding team members' needs, and the company's desire to truly meet them, are a key factor, Dr. Wong said. Reflecting this value is the fact that Sands China's medical insurance plan, which covers all team members, also extends out to the families of team members

of eligible grades.

Moreover, unused sick days can be carried over to the following year and converted to annual leave. This focus on employee wellbeing has created a culture of loyalty from staff as they feel cared for and valued.

### TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Sands China believes that nurturing talent is the major driver of sustaining the company and the community's development.

In 2018, Sands China provided 1.7 million on-the-job training hours in more than 400 categories for its team members – equivalent to around 580 team members trained each day. On average, each Sands China team member receives approximately 67 hours of training, higher than the standard of 34 hours introduced by the Association for Talent Development (ATD).

Sands China's management team has seen a striking and impressive growth in the ratio of Macao locals in management positions – from 20 percent in 2004 to 90 percent in 2019. Since 2004, the company has made over 15,300 promotions and more than 1,400 horizontal

movements – giving team members the flexibility to explore career opportunities in other departments, where they are able to gain new skills and broaden their professional horizons.

### A 15-YEAR CONNECTION

The Times spoke with three Sands China team members who have been with the company for 15 years.

Daniel Hui, who began at Sands Macao as a security manager in 2004, has not only been promoted to become the department's associate director, but he also played a role in Sand Macao's opening-day mega spectacular – likely the first time Macao had seen such anticipation for an establishment's opening. "At 4 p.m. the day before the opening, there were already about 100 people waiting opposite the Sands Macao main entrance," Hui recalled. "Over the next seven hours, 25,000 people gathered around the building." The company had provided Hui with first aid, management, and customer service training before he ever began working – something that was not the norm for Macao's security guards at the time. As a result, Sands Macao's

security guards became well-known for greeting all customers with a smile.

When Sands Macao opened in 2004, Tina Leong was a senior bartender making and serving drinks to guests on the main floor, and supervising other staff. Now, as a team member dining room manager, she oversees what was at the time the largest employee dining room in Macao. She remembers when she started at Sands Macao, she didn't have the knowledge or training to provide the five-star service that is associated with the company. However, she was provided training to help her ultimately deliver the best possible service. "The company even invited a tea specialist to teach us how to make tea!" she remembers. After she transferred to the 24-hour dining room, which at the time served 7,000 to 8,000 meals a day, one of the first lessons she learned was that Sands Macao is a company which treats its team members like guests. The décor of the team member dining room at Sands Macao emulates an American diner, with a buffet featuring separate stations for drinks, bread, salad, cold cuts, desserts, and main dishes.

Ann Lam began her journey with Sands Macao as part of the pre-opening team, and was working with Macau's first semi-automatic wardrobe system. Uniforms are delivered automatically to team members as they begin work each day, and for Lam, seeing it in action for the first time was an "inspiring experience." Lam is a prime example of Sands China's capacity to spot talent. Although she wasn't highly educated at the time, Lam

believes her experience in factory work appealed to Sands China – "Probably the company thought I could help with last-minute uniform repairs," she noted. Lam was subsequently trained in communication skills, as she interacts with team members frequently as part of her current job as a supervisor in the wardrobe department of 20 staff members, including four tailors – a team that handles 5,000 to 6,000 uniform movements per day.

### FAMILIES OF TEAM MEMBERS

Icy Lam joined Sands Macao the day before opening, as a pit supervisor. She is now a gaming shift manager who has 10 other family members working for Sands China. Then there's Thomas Leong and Koey Lam, who both work in the gaming department. They met each other at Sands Macao and got married right before the opening of The Venetian Macao. They started their careers as dealers, and Thomas is now an assistant casino manager, while Koey works as a casino manager. They've each been promoted seven to eight times since beginning their careers at Sands Macao.

The way in which people recommend Sands China to family members seeking employment is a testament to the attractiveness of the organization as a workplace, in terms of career experience gained, the benefits it provides to team members, and the work environment. When asked how they would describe their experience at Sands China, every single employee we spoke to used the same word: family.

Continued on page 07

■ Over 28,000 team members  
More than 8,300 are 10-year veterans



Daniel Hui



Tina Leong



Ann Lam



Koey Lam & Thomas Leong



Icy Lam (center)



## UN SYMPOSIUM ON ABDUCTIONS

## Family of Thai woman kidnaped in '70s Macau hope 'she's still alive'

**RELATIVES** of abductees from Japan, Thailand, the U.S. and Macau whose loved ones are believed to be held in North Korea pleaded for their return at a United Nations symposium promoting international cooperation on abductions held last week in New York.

Banjong Panchoi said his aunt, Anocha Panchoi who is from Thailand, was abducted by North Korean agents in Macau in 1978 and the family isn't sure she's still alive. But "our family still has hope that one day she will come back," he said.

The father of American college student Otto Warmbier who died soon after being sent home from North Korea in a vegetative state said at the symposium last week that Kim Jong Un should be called "criminal Kim" — not "chairman Kim" which "makes me sick."

Fred Warmbier said that calling the North Korean leader "chairman" gives him status on the world stage, and "if we're afraid to tell the truth of who we're dealing with we don't stand a chance of making a difference."

"He's a criminal and he's a murderer," Warmbier said. "Every member of Kim's regime

AP PHOTO



is a thug."

He said the truth is that North Korea's leader is telling his people that they have to limit rations to 300 grams per day — the equivalent of five slices of white bread — "at the same time he's begging for food from the (U.N.) World Food Program."

Warmbier said the Dutch go-

vernment in February seized 90,000 bottles of vodka heading to Pyongyang — a violation of U.N. sanctions — at the same time "he is systematically starving the people of North Korea."

Warmbier urged the world's nations not "to coddle" Kim but "to stand up to North Korea."

"It doesn't mean we can't enga-

ge them," Warmbier stressed.

The brother of American student David Sneddon, who is from Utah and disappeared in China in 2004, said the family has collected evidence that he was abducted to North Korea.

James Sneddon said "David is a victim and abductee of North Korea's callous, cruel and inhu-

man regime."

"I want my brother released, and able to choose how he lives, independent and free," James Sneddon said. "It's time to release David. ... It's past time."

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshide Suga, the minister in charge of the abduction issue, said as many "as 17 people have been officially recognized as abductees by the government of Japan" and "there are more than 800 people for whom the possibility of abduction by North Korea cannot be ruled out."

## Warmbier urged the world's nations not 'to coddle' Kim but 'to stand up to North Korea'

Greg Scarlatou, executive director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, said in addition to Japanese and South Koreans taken by North Korea, there are at least 25 other foreign citizens from China, France, Guinea, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Macau, Netherlands, Romania, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the United States that been abducted.

"Our ultimate goal is to get the abductees back as soon as possible," he said. **MDT/AP**

## DRUNKEN DRAGON

## Dance for divine protection

Staff reporter

**DRUNKEN** Dragon Dance is a core ceremony celebrating Buddha's Birthday in Macau. It is a ritual praying for peace and health.

There are at least two legends which explain this ritual. In one version, a monk about to bathe in a river was attacked by a snake which he later killed and chopped into several chunks. Afterwards, several seemingly drunk fishermen appeared and danced with the body. Surprisingly, the snake came back to life and flew away as a dragon.

In the other version, when villagers prayed to Buddha against a plague, a snake leaped out of the water and was slain. Its blood turned the water red but the plague disappea-

red, which made the villagers think it was an incarnation of dragon.

The ritual has changed over time, but the core remains: the head and the tail of the dragon crafted into wooden artifacts. Normally several dragons "appear" in a dance.

In the night before the dance, the fisherman community gathers to eat and pray. During dinner some of them will start dancing with the wooden dragons. The dinner also makes the foundation for the "Rice of the Dragon Boat Head" that symbolizes longevity.

The ritual is also observed in Zhuhai and Zhongshan, collectively known as Xiangshan County.

Buddha's Birthday is celebrated on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month in Chinese-speaking jurisdictions.





Sands Macao Celebrates 15 Years in Macau

A five-part series on the growth of Sands China since 2004



MACAU DAILY TIMES PRESENTS:

# IT ALL STARTED WITH SANDS MACAO

## Part 2: Creating a MICE and entertainment destination

Missed Part 1? Read it on page 05

**T**HINKING back 15 years to consider the environment of the meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) industry, very few people in Macau would have known what the term actually meant, let alone what was required for the industry to succeed here. Fifteen years ago, the scale of events in Macau was relatively small, and there were limited venues for events to be held in. Even though the Macau International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) had been in existence since 1996, there were only 200 exhibition booths at the 2004 fair – compare that to the 1,500 booths at MIF 2018 at The Venetian Macao.

The industry began rapidly changing when, in 2002, Chief Executive Edmund Ho advocated for a diversified economy, with MICE as one of the important industries that could potentially contribute to that goal.

Thinking back to that time, President of the Board of Directors of the Macau Convention and Exhibition Association (MCEA) Alan Ho cited Sands China's MICE background as being an important part of its entry into Macao.

Mr. Sheldon G. Adelson, the chairman of Sands China's parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp., had already founded the successful computer trade show COMDEX, which was first held in 1979. Then in 1990, he built one of the world's largest convention

centres: the Sands Expo and Convention Centre in Las Vegas. The company's MICE product has been a key part of the success of the integrated resort model it pioneered. Mr. Ho noted, "In 2002 [in Macau], there were only 278 convention and exhibition projects, around 10,000 sqm of event spaces, and about 300 employees in the industry." That's in stark contrast to today; since 2007, Sands China has attracted a total of over 10 million visitors and attendees to its MICE events, which have surpassed 8,000 to date.

In the years since the opening of Sands Macao, Sands China has been an integral player in building the MICE industry within the SAR. "We have a number of international conventions under our belt. We are organizing the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) convention this year, and we have organized several conventions for the Institute of Electronics and Engineers (IEEE) already," Ho stated, illustrating the scope of the MICE industry in Macau today, and the vital role which Sands China plays within it. Indeed, global industry associations seem to agree that MICE in Macau is flourishing; the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) and the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI) have both voiced their admiration for Macau.

This is a testament to how far the industry has come in merely 15 years. Irene Va Kuan Lau, Acting President of the Macao Trade and

Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) said that when Macau initially began to host MICE events, not only did the city not enjoy the world-class facilities that it now has, but staff were few, and lacking in training: "At that time, many of the industry workers were not experienced. Many lessons were learned before the industry developed to the stage it is [at] today."

The heads of MCEA and IPIM both voiced their belief that while Macau may be a relatively small city, it has been able to turn its size to its advantage with regard to the MICE industry, as all of the industry facilities are close together as a result.

In Cotai, Sands China has Cotai Expo at The Venetian Macao, and Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao both have convention and exhibition venues. All three integrated resorts also offer dining and hospitality facilities, interconnected retail malls, and entertainment venues – the 15,000-seat Cotai Arena, the 1,800-seat Venetian Theatre, the 1,700-seat Sands Cotai Theatre, and the 1,200-seat Parisian Theatre.

To have the variety of venues under the one roof is a significant bonus. IPIM's Lau drew attention to this proximity: "A 25,000-attendee convention we organized last year coincided with a strong typhoon. We were worried, but we had contingencies. We contacted all relevant hotels and venues beforehand." Because, according to Lau, it is difficult to cancel, re-

locate, or postpone a convention of such a scale at the last minute, her team decided that "the show must go on." Lau recalled that "Sands China prepared in advance their staffing, food and beverage (F&B), and other resources to cope with any possible situation." As a result of this organizational prowess, honed by years of practice, "the convention was held smoothly, with zero complaints from the attendees."

### ENTERTAINMENT

But Sands China does not rest on its laurels, whether in regards to MICE or in others areas, like entertainment. It is constantly looking at how it can improve the experience it offers. When its initial property Sands Macao opened, arranging on-site entertainment was very challenging. Manuela Palmer, an entertainment manager for the company, recalled that "even dancers were not easy to find in Macau...not to mention Las Vegas style ones." In the intervening years, Sands China has introduced several new entertainment types, from intimate bar performances to large arena concerts. "At Sands Macao, we have a bar called Xanadu on the main gaming level. There's a dedicated stage on which shows are performed alongside the F&B business," Ms. Palmer noted.

The most popular entertainment venue in Sands China's portfolio is The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena, which hosts everything from concerts and sporting events to awards shows and mega-sca-

le conventions. It is arguably the top entertainment destination in southern China, and hosts performances by some of the world's and the region's biggest superstar entertainers, many of whom choose the Cotai Arena as the starting point of their Asian tours. Just a small sampling of the Cotai Arena's many big-name acts include the Rolling Stones, Katy Perry, Celine Dion, Maroon 5, Jay Chou, Sammi Cheng, Big Bang, and many others.

The luxurious theatres at The Venetian, The Parisian and Sands Cotai Central have each held a wide variety of cultural events as well, including, among many others, The Philadelphia Orchestra, the St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre's Swan Lake, The Sound of Music, and the legendary Broadway musical CATS.

In all, Sands China's entertainment events have attracted a total audience of over 4.3 million since 2007, with more than 560 live entertainment events presented to date.

From relatively small MICE and entertainment industries in Macau, to now thriving ones, the last 15 years at Sands China has seen an incredible pace of development, both in terms of the facilities it offers, as well as the skill with which its team members deliver outstanding experiences to its customers – helping make Macau the MICE and entertainment powerhouse it is today.

Don't miss Part 3 in our series in tomorrow's paper



Irene Va Kuan Lau



Alan Ho Hoi Ming



Manuela Palmer



Ken Ho



## opinion

HONG KONG'S BAY AREA  
STOCKS ARE A HAVEN  
FROM TRADE-WAR JOLTS

Ronald W. Chan, Bloomberg

The plunge in Hong Kong stocks this week triggered by the renewed U.S.-China trade conflict was the latest jolt for a market that's veered wildly between bear and bull territory in the past two years. Investors seeking a haven from the volatility have few places to turn: one may be stocks tied to the Greater Bay Area.

China's plan to knit together nine mainland cities with Hong Kong and Macau into a cohesive economic powerhouse has generated optimism and suspicion. Critics have attacked the project as hot air. Worse, some have seen it as simply another tactic by the Chinese government to undermine the greater political freedom enjoyed by the former colonies.

The Greater Bay Area is more than a renaming exercise. The region is already one of the fastest-growing in China, with 69 million people and combined GDP of about USD1.5 trillion. At current projected growth rates, it will soon surpass the New York metro area in economic size. By geography, it's three times the size of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The project envisages using "smart-city" technology to keep businesses and citizens connected, and to meet international demand for manufacturing, trade, tourism, and other services.

The Chinese government is enacting measures to support the area's growth. The Ministry of Finance recently announced new tax incentives and subsidies to entice foreign professionals to work in the tech sector. Supporters believe that, in addition to stimulating the Chinese economy overall, the Greater Bay Area will be especially beneficial to Hong Kong millennials who have had difficulty finding affordable housing and high-paying jobs in the city.

The level of official backing for the Greater Bay Area is offering opportunities to companies and investors. For example, real estate developers such as Logan Property Holdings Co. and Times China Holdings Ltd. focus primarily on development and investment in the region.

Logan has a market cap of more than \$8 billion and generated \$6.7 billion of revenue in 2018. Sales are forecast to jump 37 percent this year and a further 27 percent in 2020, according to consensus estimates compiled by Bloomberg. With an estimated price-book ratio of 1.7 for fiscal 2019 and a price-earnings multiple of less than 6, Logan's valuation is undemanding. The stock had gained 21 percent this year as of Friday's close.

Times China's stock has surged 59 percent over the same period. Trading at close to its estimated fiscal 2019 book value and at a multiple of 4.3 times forecast earnings, the company is predicted to increase sales by about 25 percent annually in the next two years.

Shenzhen International Holdings Ltd. is another stock worthy of consideration. The conglomerate focuses on construction, logistics, and toll roads in the bay area. At a prospective price-book ratio of 1.1 and a multiple to forecast 2019 earnings of 9.2, the company offers more stable growth, with earnings estimated to grow about 10 percent in the next two years. The shares have gained less than 10 percent this year.

All these companies are trading at considerably cheaper levels than the Hang Seng Index. Hong Kong's benchmark gauge was on an estimated price-earnings ratio of about 11 as of Friday's close, in line with its three-year average. The market may have a rocky path over the next 12 months, given the uncertainty over U.S.-China trade relations, according to equity analyst Dennis Lam at UBS Global Wealth Management. Volatility typically increases during the later stages of an economic cycle, and current implied volatility remains close to the lowest level seen in 2018, Lam points out.

Time will tell whether the Greater Bay Area initiative is more symbolic than pragmatic. Either way, companies exposed to the region are already seeing a positive impact on their businesses.

## HONG KONG

Chaotic scenes at legislature  
over extradition law

Alice Fung, Hong Kong

HONG Kong's legislative assembly descended into chaos over the weekend as lawmakers for and against controversial amendments to the territory's extradition law clashed over access to the chamber.

At least one lawmaker was taken from the chamber on a gurney after apparently fainting during the morning melee, in which legislators pushed and shoved each other on the floor, amid seats and tables and in an adjoining hallway.

The amendments have been widely criticized as eroding the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's judicial independence by making it easier to send criminal suspects to mainland China, where they could face vague national security charges and unfair trials.

Under the "one country, two systems" framework, Hong Kong was guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years following its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997. However, China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by forcing through unpopular legal changes.

Legislators in the pro-Beijing camp attempted to seat Abraham Razack, also known as Abraham Shek, who had been named earlier in the week through another committee and a contested interpretation of council rules to replace pro-democrat James To Kun-sun as head of the Bills Committee. To had stalled passage of the legislation over two sessions and Razack was seen as the best chance to push it through before the July recess.

However, pro-democracy legislators continued to claim James To is the legitimate chief of the committee guiding discussion of the proposed new law. Both they and their opponents had scheduled rival meetings on the same topic in the same Legislative Council meeting room on Saturday, starting just 30 minutes apart.

The two rival committees both claimed to be in charge of the same process of scrutinizing the new law



Pro-democracy and pro-Beijing lawmakers scuffle in the chamber at Legislative Council in Hong Kong

before deciding on whether to vote on it.

At one point, Wu Chi-wai, the Democratic Party chairman who tried to stop Shek from presiding over the meeting, shouted at him, saying "Don't be a sinner for a thousand years! Don't sell out Hong Kong."

The legislator removed by paramedics was identified as Gary Fan Kwok-wai of Neo Democrats.

The amendments expand the scope for the transfer of criminal suspects to China and remove the legislature's right to scrutinize individual extradition decisions filed by Hong Kong's chief executive.

They could also open the way for further measures to erode Hong Kong's civil liberties, including the passage of anti-subversion legislation that has been strongly opposed by many.

Saturday's legislative scuffle came weeks after a Hong Kong court handed down prison sentences of up to 16 months to eight leaders of massive 2014 pro-democracy protests on public nuisance charges. The harsh sentences were seen as an effort by the Hong Kong government to draw a line under the protests amid pressure from Beijing.

Tens of thousands of people marched against the extradition law amendments in Hong Kong last month and numerous legal, professional and human rights organizations have voiced their opposition. They warn the amendments would undermine not just Hong Kong's legal independence but also its attractiveness as a center for international business.

Hong Kong's Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung said last week the government would "further explain the proposed fugitive law change to the public," according to the government's press office.

"Some citizens and overseas organizations might have misunderstandings about the proposed law amendments," Cheung said.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam has said the amendments must be passed to close a "loophole" under which the government has been unable to extradite a Hong Kong man, Chan Tong-kai, accused of killing his girlfriend in Taiwan last year. Lam was chosen in 2017 from among a slate of candidates approved by Beijing and elected by a 1,200-member pro-China electoral body.

However, self-governing Taiwan has firmly ruled out signing any extradition agreement with Hong Kong unless it is treated as an equal, a condition Beijing, which claims the island as its own territory, is certain to reject. That would appear to undermine one of the government's major justifications for the amendments.

Taiwanese officials have also warned that Taiwanese detained in Hong Kong could be sent to China for their political activities if the amendments are passed. A Taiwanese activist, Lee Ming-che, is currently serving a five-year sentence in China after being convicted by a Chinese court in November 2017 on charges of subverting state power for holding online political lectures and helping the families of jailed Chinese dissidents.

Lee disappeared into the custody of the security services in March 2017 after crossing into China from Macau to meet with a friend. His arrest was seen as a sign the ruling party intends to extend its intolerance of criticism even outside its borders.

The Hong Kong government will continue to liaise with Taiwan over the homicide case, Cheung said. AP





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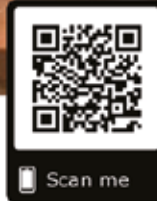
### Property of the Week



**NAM LONG, TAIPA HK\$8,680,000**

1,408 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 2

Unique opportunity to acquire two apartments joined together to form a large living space in Taipa Village. The property can be kept in its current form or put back to its original condition of two units, and can be sold with tenancy or vacant according to your preference. A newly renovated public hallway adds value to the building and leads to a single entrance open plan space on the first floor. The properties measure 711 ft<sup>2</sup> and 697 ft<sup>2</sup> Gross respectively and are ideal as home or an investment in this area of extremely high demand. Viewing is available at short notice, and the property is not expected to remain on the market for very long.



### Property Hotlist



**MANHATTAN, TAIPA**

**\$23,800**

~~\$24,800~~/mth

1,366 ft<sup>2</sup>

3

2



**KINGLIGHT GARDEN LOFT, TAIPA**

**\$7,880,000**

800 ft<sup>2</sup>

1

1



**NICE COURT, TAIPA**

**\$8,980,000**

1,600 ft<sup>2</sup>

3

2



### More Listings

#### For Sale

[Taipa] The Buckingham	2  2	1,439 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$11,770,000</b>	(ref: 19045004)
[Taipa] Hellene Gardens	3  3	1,663 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$8,800,000</b>	(ref: 19025577)
[Taipa] Ocean Gardens	4  4	3,700 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$32,000,000</b>	(ref: 19015576)
[Taipa] Kinglight	Car park		<b>\$1,450,000</b>	(ref: 19035001)
[Taipa] The Manhattan	Car park		<b>\$1,580,000</b>	(ref: 19045003)

#### For Rent

[Macau] Macau CBD Office	1,813 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$21,000/mth</b>	(ref: 19010699)
[Macau] Macau Square Office	837 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$21,000/mth</b>	(ref: 18100691)
[Taipa] Nam Long 1  1	720 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$12,300/mth</b>	(ref: 17110658)
[Taipa] Nova Park 2  2	1,134 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$16,400/mth</b>	(ref: 17020638)
[Taipa] 4 storey Commercial Building	4,003 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$168,000/mth</b>	(ref: 17040646)

### Recent Movements

**Sold** Nova Taipa Gardens, Taipa  
4 bed, 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 18115570)

**Rented** Warehouse, Keck Seng  
3,788 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 18050678)

**Rented** Vila, Taipa  
2 bed, 800 ft<sup>2</sup> (ref: 19010698)

### JML in the Community



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## E-COMMERCE

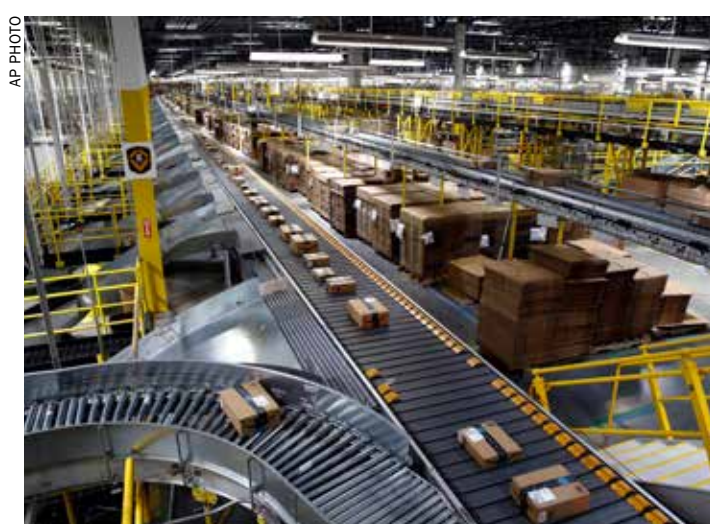
# Amazon offers to help employees start delivery business

**A**MAZON, which is racing to deliver packages faster, is turning to its employees with a proposition: Quit your job and we'll help you start a business delivering Amazon packages.

The offer, announced yesterday, comes as Amazon seeks to speed up its shipping time from two days to one for its Prime members. The company sees the new incentive as a way to get more packages delivered to shoppers' doorsteps faster.

Amazon says it will cover up to USD10,000 in startup costs for employees who are accepted into the program and leave their jobs. The company says it will also pay them three months' worth of their salary.

The offer is open to most part-time and full-time



Packages ride on a conveyor system at an Amazon fulfillment center in Baltimore

Amazon employees, including warehouse workers who pack and ship orders. Whole Foods employees are not eligible to receive the new incentives.

Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. declined to say how many employees it expects to take them up on the offer.

The new employee incen-

tive is part of a program Amazon started a year ago that let anyone apply to launch an independent Amazon delivery business and provided \$10,000 in reimbursements to military veterans.

The program's expansion is part of the company's plan to control more of its deliveries on its own, rather than rely on UPS, the post office and other carriers. Startup costs start at \$10,000 and contractors that participate are able to lease blue vans with the Amazon smile logo stamped on the side.

Overall, more than 200 Amazon delivery businesses have been created since it launched the program last June, said John Felton, Amazon's vice president of global delivery services.

One of them is run Milton Collier, a freight broker who started his business in Atlanta about eight months ago. Since then, it has grown to 120 employees with a fleet of 50 vans that can handle up to 200 delivery stops in a day. It has already been preparing for the one-day shipping switch by hiring more people.

"We're ready," says Collier.

## Uber shares continue sliding in first full day of trading



**U**BER shares were down 8% in morning trading and dipped below \$38 after the opening bell.

Yesterday was the first full day of trading for the ride-hailing company after its rocky debut on the stock market Friday. Its shares had been priced at USD45 each.

It's rare to see shares in a tech company hit so hard upon going public. Over the past five years, just 10% of similar companies finished their first day of trading below their IPO price, said Matt Kennedy, senior IPO market strategist at Renaissance Capital, a manager of IPO focused funds.

Uber's revenue last year surged 42% to \$11.3 billion, but the company admits it could be years before it turns a profit.

Uber closed Friday at \$41.57 and shares in Lyft fell about 7%. **AP**

AD



### Breakfast Briefing

Thursday 16 May  
with

**Guest Speaker: James Law**  
Founder, Chairman & CEO  
James Law Cybertecture

### Opod Tube Housing

### Micro Homes in Concrete Pipes

### What Macau can learn from HK's housing crisis

Cities such as Hong Kong and Macau are all becoming more expensive to live in. Many people struggle to afford to own or rent a decent size home. This has created frustration and anguish for many especially the young who have little hope of getting on a housing ladder. Some have had to resort to living in squalid conditions including in sub divided flats and caged homes. This talk illustrates this current difficult situation and highlights a project called OPod that seeks to alleviate this problem by creating affordable homes out of concrete water pipe in Hong Kong.

Jade Room, Level 5  
The St. Regis Macao, Cotai  
07:45 Registration  
08:00 Breakfast  
08:15 Presentation  
09:00 Close

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Macau Bats Rugby



# Terry Gou moves closer to run for Taiwan president

**T**ERRY Gou, head of the world's largest contract assembler of consumer electronics, stepped closer to running for president of Taiwan yesterday by announcing that he would not accept a vice presidential slot on the ticket of the opposition Nationalist Party.

Gou is chairman of Foxconn, which assembles electronic products such as Apple's iPhones. He would bring a strongly pro-business and China-friendly platform to what is expected to be a crowded field for next year's presidential election.

Gou, who ranks among Taiwan's richest people with a fortune estimated by Forbes at USD7.8 billion, says the Nationalists should hold debates to select their candidate.

Incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen has been hampered by low public approval ratings and a diplomatic embargo imposed by China, which claims the island as its own territory.

"I am not a suitable candidate for a vice president, because I am used to making decisions," Gou told reporters.



Terry Gou

Gou's candidacy would be the first for a Taiwan business mogul and may appeal to Taiwanese dissatisfied with

stagnating incomes who want a different, more business-oriented style of leadership.

However, Gou is likely to face

criticism from China skeptics in Taiwan over Foxconn's 12 factories in nine Chinese cities and his close ties to the

Chinese government.

Gou, the 68-year-old son of a police officer who moved to Taiwan after the Communist takeover of the mainland in 1949, began his career in plastics before branching out into electronics and later mobile phones.

China claims sovereignty over self-ruled Taiwan and has threatened to take it by force if it deems it necessary. More than 80% of Taiwanese oppose unification with China, the island government's Mainland Affairs Council said in January.

Despite that, the Nationalists favor closer ties with Beijing, largely as a way of recharging the island's high-tech economy through access to China's massive economy.

Gou has a reputation at Foxconn for a strongly authoritarian leadership style and strictly controlling employees.

Foxconn announced in 2017, to much fanfare, that it planned to invest \$10 billion in the U.S. state of Wisconsin and hire 13,000 people to build an LCD factory that could make screens for televisions and a variety of other devices.

After waffling earlier this year on its intentions, Gou recommitted to the project in February after a meeting with President Donald Trump. **AP**

## TRADE

# Companies bracing for Beijing's retaliation in tariff dispute

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**B**USINESSES were bracing yesterday for Beijing's retaliation against President Donald Trump's escalation of a tariff battle that threatens to disrupt a Chinese economic recovery.

Regulators threatened "necessary countermeasures" in response to Trump's increase in tariffs Friday on USD200 billion of Chinese imports. But three days later, Beijing had yet to say what it might do.

In previous cases, China imposed tit-for-tat penalties immediately.

A foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday he had gotten no details about Chinese plans or high-level contacts since negotiations ended Friday without a deal.

"We are determined and capable of safeguarding our legitimate rights and



interests," said the spokesman, Geng Shuang. "We hope the United States will meet China halfway to address each other's legitimate concerns."

China is running out of U.S. imports for penalties due to their lopsided trade balance. Regulators have targeted American companies in China by slowing down customs clearance for shipments and processing of business licenses.

Officials appeared to be studying the potential impact on China's economy before picking their next steps, said Jake Parker, vice president of the U.S.-China Business Council. Officials might be worried companies may shift operations out of China in response to "aggressive retaliatory actions," he said.

"I assume this goes fairly high within China's government before retaliatory

actions are settled upon," said Parker.

Additional penalties would hurt exporters on both sides, as well as European and Asian companies that trade between the United States and China or supply components and raw materials to their manufacturers.

The increases already in place have disrupted trade in goods from soybeans to medical equipment and

sent shockwaves through other Asian economies that supply Chinese factories.

Forecasters warned Friday's hikes could disrupt a Chinese recovery that had appeared to be gaining traction. Growth in the world's second-largest economy held steady at 6.4% over a year earlier in January-March, supported by higher government spending and bank lending.

The tensions "raise fresh doubts about this recovery path," Morgan Stanley economists Robin Xing, Jenny Zheng and Zhipeng Cai said in a report.

The latest U.S. charges could knock 0.5 percentage points off annual Chinese economic growth and that loss could widen to 1 percentage point if both sides extend penalties to all of each other's exports, economists say. That would pull annual growth below 6%, raising the risk of politically dangerous job losses.

The latest talks ended with no word of progress after Washington accused Beijing of trying to back-track on earlier commitments.

Trump might meet his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, during next month's meeting of the Group of 20 major economies in Osaka, his economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said Sunday.

Chinese officials invited the top U.S. envoys — Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin — to Beijing, Kudlow said on Fox News. But he said there were no "definite plans."

Trump started raising tariffs last July over complaints China steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

Washington wants Beijing to roll back government support for Chinese companies striving to become global leaders in robotics and other technology. The U.S. and other trading partners say such efforts violate Beijing's free-trade commitments.

A stumbling block has been U.S. insistence on an enforcement mechanism with penalties to ensure Beijing carries out its commitments. Economists say Chinese leaders probably reject that as a violation of Chinese sovereignty. **AP**



## THAILAND

# Exile's parents seek information on his disappearance

Preeyapa T. Khunsong  
& Kaweewit Kaewjinda, Bangkok

**T**HE parents of a self-exiled Thai activist who disappeared after reportedly being extradited from Vietnam visited government offices and diplomatic missions in Bangkok yesterday to seek information about his fate.

Siam Theerawut is one of three exiles about whom human rights groups have expressed concern about because neither Thai nor Vietnamese authorities acknowledge holding them.

Siam, Chuchep Chivasut and Kritsana Thapthai fled Thailand after a May 2014 military coup to neighboring Laos, where they continued political activities critical of their homeland. Thai authorities have been seeking their return on charges of insulting the monarchy, which is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

There is increased fear for the safety of Thai dissidents after three others disappeared from



Laos last year, and the eviscerated bodies of two of them were found later in the Mekong River.

Siam's parents, accompanied by sympathizers, presented letters to Thailand's National Human Rights Commission, the

Vietnamese Embassy and the European Union's office.

Theerawut's mother, Kanya Theerawut, told reporters that Thailand's Crime Suppression Division police said they have no information about his case.

"I want information from

Vietnam's embassy on whether Siam was deported to Thailand or not. I'm most worried for his life," she said.

In a letter addressed to Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Hai Bang, she said she hoped the ambassador would look after the rights of the Thai people and not extradite refugees who risk harassment.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said the three were handed over to Thai authorities on May 8, though Thai officials have denied any knowledge of such a transfer.

"Only by publicly affirming that these three activists are in detention and in contact with their relatives and legal counsel will the authorities put to rest the fear that these men have been forcibly disappeared," Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said at the time.

Many of those who fled to Laos after the 2014 coup are associated with Thailand's anti-military Red Shirt movement, which sta-

ged aggressive street protests in Bangkok in 2010 that were violently crushed by the military.

Chuchep has been a particularly high-profile target as he has produced an online radio program in which he has been critical of both Thailand's military and its constitutional monarchy.

Siam, Chuchep and Kritsana are believed to have moved to Vietnam after their fellow Thai activists in Laos were killed. Their deaths raised concern among fellow activists that they were kidnapped by a death squad, either vigilante or officially sanctioned.

Last September, Thailand's military government linked activists in Laos to a tiny political movement advocating the abolishment of the constitutional monarchy. They arrested several of the group's sympathizers inside Thailand on charges of sedition, seizing as evidence T-shirts bearing the group's logo of a red and white flag.

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, a former army chief and member of the ruling junta, commented at the time that those detained were part of a network of outlaws that had fled to Laos to evade charges of sedition and insulting the monarchy. He called them "traitors" and said they would all be arrested. **AP**

AD



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ELECTIONS

# Filipinos cast vote in midterm polls crucial to Duterte

Jim Gomez, Philippines

**F**ILIPINOS voted yesterday in midterm elections highlighted by a showdown between President Rodrigo Duterte's allies who aim to dominate the Senate and opposition candidates fighting for checks and balances under a leader they regard as a looming dictator.

Nearly 62 million Filipinos have registered to choose among 43,500 candidates vying for about 18,000 congressional and local posts, including 81 governors, 1,634 mayors and more than 13,500 city and town councilors in 81 provinces, in one of Asia's most rambunctious democracies.

Final results are expected to be declared in at least a week for national posts and a few days for local positions unless specific outcomes come under protest.

Many see the elections as a crucial referendum on Duterte's rise to power with a brutal crackdown on illegal drugs that

AP PHOTO



has left thousands dead, his unorthodox leadership style, combative and sexist joke-laden outbursts and contentious embrace of China.

"President Duterte's name is not on the ballot but this is very much a referendum on his three years of very disruptive yet very popular presidency,"

Manila-based analyst Richard Heydarian said.

The outcome will show whether the Filipino populace affirms or rejects Duterte's authoritarian-style leadership in an Asian bastion of democracy, Heydarian said.

Wearing casual clothes, Duterte cast his vote at a school in his hometown in southern Davao city before voting closed at nightfall. He told reporters that he was ready to step down if all his candidates lose.

Asked about his three children, who are running in the elections, Duterte said he wished they would abandon politics. He warned his daughter, Sara, who is running for re-election as Davao city mayor and has been seen as a possible successor for him, that the presidency "will just destroy you."

The most crucial races are for 12 seats in the 24-member Senate, which Duterte wants to fill with allies to bolster his legislative agenda. That includes the return of the death penal-

ty, lowering the age for criminal liability of child offenders, and revising the country's 1987 constitution primarily to allow a shift to a federal form of government, a proposal some critics fear may be a cover to remove term limits.

Military and police forces were on full alert to respond to any violence, especially in security hotspots that include the entire southern region of Mindanao, and to help prevent cheating amid intense local political rivalries.

Two explosions were reported in southern Maguindanao province, including one grenade blast shortly before voting started at 6 a.m. that caused no injuries. In Lanao del Sur province, also in the south, three men in a parked van were arrested after they tried to hurl a grenade at soldiers guarding a voting center in Marantao town. The grenade hit the van's window and exploded in the van, wounding one of the three suspects, who also possessed a homemade bomb, army brigade commander Col. Romeo Brawner said.

Despite pockets of violence, Commission on Elections spokesman James Jimenez said the campaign has been relatively peaceful compared to past years. Police say 20 people have died in poll-related violence. AP

AD

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## WIKILEAKS

# Sweden to reopen rape case against Assange

David Keyton  
& Jan M. Olsen, Stockholm

**S**WEDISH prosecutors said yesterday they are reopening a rape case against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and will seek his extradition after he has served his 50-week prison term in Britain for jumping bail.

Eva-Marie Persson, Sweden's deputy director of public prosecutions, told a news conference in Stockholm that "there is still a probable cause to suspect that

Assange committed a rape." She added: "It is my assessment that a new questioning of Assange is required."

Swedish prosecutors filed preliminary charges — a step short of formal charges — against Assange after he visited the country in 2010, following complaints from two Swedish women who said they were the victims of sex crimes committed by Assange.

The Australian secret-spiller left Sweden for Britain in September 2010, and took refuge

in the Ecuadorian Embassy in June 2012 to avoid extradition.

After almost seven years holed up inside the building, he was arrested by British police April 11 when Ecuador revoked his political asylum, accusing him of everything from meddling in the nation's foreign affairs to poor hygiene.

He is currently in London's Belmarsh Prison serving a 50-week sentence for jumping bail in 2012. He is also being held on a U.S. extradition warrant for allegedly hacking into a Penta-

gon computer.

While a Swedish case of alleged sexual misconduct was dropped in 2017 when the statute of limitations expired, a rape allegation remains. Swedish authorities have had to shelf it because Assange was living at the embassy at the time and there was no prospect of bringing him to Sweden.

The statute of limitations on that case expires in August next year. Assange has denied wrongdoing, asserting that the allegations were politically motivated and that the sex was consensual.

Julian Assange's Swedish lawyer Per E. Samuelson told The Associated Press yesterday that the decision to reopen the case is "outrageous."

"He is in prison in the U.K., he faces the risk of being extradited to the United States and on top of that, to demand that he's going to put all his energy into looking into a 10-year-old story from Sweden is just too much," he said.

Persson said a European arrest warrant will be issued for Assange. A Swedish court would formally issue the extradition request, which Assange could appeal.

She added that while there is a risk the case may cut close to the statute of limitations deadline, "there is also a chance that we will be able to get him extradited before August 17 next year."

The Swedish move would leave British authorities to decide whether to extradite Assange to Sweden or to the United States, where he is wanted separately

for allegedly hacking into a Pentagon computer.

Persson said it was "impossible to predict" how the extradition process would unfold.

There was no immediate reaction from Elisabeth Massi Fritz, the lawyer for the woman who reported being raped by Assange.

The 47-year-old Australian met the women in connection with a lecture in August 2010 in Stockholm. One was involved in organizing an event for Sweden's center-left Social Democratic Party and offered to host Assange at her apartment. The other was in the audience.

A police officer who heard the women's accounts decided there was reason to suspect they were victims of sex crimes and handed the case to a prosecutor.

Neither of the alleged victims has been named publicly.

Assange faces a maximum of four years in prison in Sweden.

The British extradition process is not swift, and Assange could appeal several times if decisions go against him. It's expected it would take a year or longer for him to be sent to the United States or possibly to Sweden even if he ultimately loses in court.

WikiLeaks' Editor-in-Chief Kristinn Hrafnsson said the decision to reopen the case against Assange "will give Julian a chance to clear his name."

He said in a statement that Persson had been under "intense political pressure" to reopen the case, and criticized authorities for "mishandling" it from the start. **AP**

## SAUDI ARABIA

# Official says two oil tankers damaged by sabotage attacks

Jon Gambrell, Fujairah

**A**RABIA said yesterday two of its oil tankers were sabotaged off the coast of the United Arab Emirates in attacks the previous day that caused "significant damage" to the vessels, one of them as it was en route to pick up Saudi oil to take to the United States.

The announcement by the kingdom's energy minister, Khalid al-Falih, came as the U.S. issued a new warning to sailors and the UAE's regional allies condemned Sunday's incident that targeted at least four ships, including two Saudi tankers, off the port city of Fujairah.

The statement came just hours after Iranian and Lebanese media outlets aired false reports of explosions at Fujairah's



port. Emirati officials have declined to elaborate on the nature of the sa-

botage or say who might have been responsible.

The U.S. has warned

ships that "Iran or its proxies" could be targeting maritime traffic in

the region. America is deploying an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf to counter alleged threats from Tehran.

Sky News Arabia, a satellite channel partly owned by a member of the Abu Dhabi ruling family, aired footage of a tanker identified as the Al Marzoqah that it said had been targeted in the sabotage.

The broadcast only showed one side of the ship, which bore no signs of damage, describing it as the closest one to shore in Fujairah.

Tensions have risen since President Donald Trump withdrew America from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and restored U.S. sanctions that have pushed Iran's economy into crisis. Last week, Iran warned it would begin enriching uranium at higher levels in 60 days if world powers failed to negotiate new terms for the deal.

European Union powers were meeting yesterday in Brussels to thrash out ways to keep the Iran

nuclear deal afloat, and were likely to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo amid rising tensions between Washington and Tehran. Saud Arabia is Iran's regional rival.

The statement by al-Falih, the Saudi energy minister, said the attacks on the two Saudi tankers happened at 6 a.m. Sunday.

"One of the two vessels was on its way to be loaded with Saudi crude oil from the port of Ras Tanura, to be delivered to Saudi Aramco's customers in the United States," al-Falih said. "Fortunately, the attack didn't lead to any casualties or oil spill; however, it caused significant damage to the structures of the two vessels."

The kingdom's Foreign Ministry on Monday condemned the incident as a "criminal act" threatening the "safety of maritime traffic, which reflects negatively on regional and international peace and security," according to the state-run Saudi Press Agency. **AP**



## what's ON



MASTERPIECES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF CHINA  
TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: July 28, 2019  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

STROLLING AND FEELING: WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS OF LAI IENG  
TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: June 16, 2019  
VENUE: 3rd Floor, Gallery of Exhibitions 2, Macau Museum of Art  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

2019 BRAND STORY - MACAU ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION II  
TIME: 10am-8pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
UNTIL: June 23, 2019  
VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery  
ADMISSION: Free admission  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

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

ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I  
TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: September 30, 2019  
VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy  
ADMISSION: Free

## Offbeat

## 'KILLING EVE' SLAYS THE COMPETITION AT BRITISH TV AWARDS

AP PHOTO



Jodie Comer

Sharp-edged spy thriller "Killing Eve" has won three major trophies at the British Academy Television Awards, including best drama series.

Jodie Comer was named best actress for her performance as ruthless assassin Villanelle. She beat co-star Sandra Oh, who plays Villanelle's secret-agent nemesis Eve.

Fiona Shaw was named best supporting actress for playing a spy chief in the BBC series.

The show's creator, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, thanked her cast "for taking risks. Jodie Comer almost swallowed a wasp in Tuscany. It was a really edgy moment that we did capture on camera."

Benedict Cumberbatch was named best actor in a drama for playing a man confronting a lifetime of demons in "Patrick Melrose."

The supporting actor trophy went to Ben Whishaw for political drama "A Very English Scandal."

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	T2 para 3 Remodelado
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionario
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.3
18:20	Portugal de... Ricardo Costa
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:20	O Pátio das Cantigas
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:10	Ocidente no Oriente - Macau nos Cantos da Memória
01:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:10	RTPi Directo

## cinema



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## POKEMON: DETECTIVE PIKACHU

ROOM 1  
2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm  
Language: Cantonese  
ROOM 1  
9:30pm  
Director: Rob Letterman  
Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Justice Smith, Kathryn Newton  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 104min



## AVENGERS: ENDGAME

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



## THE HUSTLE

ROOM 3  
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm  
Director: Chris Addison  
Starring: Anne Hathaway, Rebel Wilson, Tim Blake Nelson  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 94min

## this day in history

1964 NASSER AND KHRUSHCHEV  
DIVERT THE NILE

President Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev have marked the first stage in the building of the Aswan High Dam.

At a dramatic ceremony in southern Egypt, the two heads of state together, along with President Arif of Iraq and President Sallal of Yemen, pressed a button to blow up a huge sand barrage and divert the ancient River Nile into a canal, allowing the next stage of the Dam to begin.

The dam has been financed and built with Russian help and thousands of cheering Egyptian and Russian construction workers witnessed great columns of sand shoot up into the air, followed by a cascade of muddy Nile water swirl through a manmade channel.

Standing alongside the presidents of Egypt, Iraq and Yemen on a platform above the 300-foot gorge, Mr Khrushchev said the dam should be called "the eighth wonder of the world".

Referring to the United States' refusal to fund the dam back in 1956, President Nasser said "reactionary powers" had conspired to prevent the building of the dam but that Egyptian and Russian solidarity had overcome all obstacles.

Mr Khrushchev also condemned "imperialist powers and their agents" and reiterated Soviet plans to strengthen ties with Arab nations.

In a barely veiled attack on Britain, France and the United States, he said all traces of imperialism should be wiped out from the region by getting rid of military bases, multinational companies and foreign missionaries.

He also announced President Nasser would receive Russia's highest honour - Hero of the Soviet Union.

The project, due to be completed in four years' time, will increase arable land in Egypt by one third, more than double its current power resources, add £200m to the national income and create the world's largest man-made lake - Lake Nasser.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The dam was a huge propaganda coup for President Nasser, still reeling from the United States' refusal back in 1956 to finance the project because of his links with the USSR.

But in October 1964 Egypt did accept £4.3m from the United States - along with Unesco's £5m grant - to save the Ancient Nubian monuments of Abu Simbel and the Philae temples, under threat from the rising waters created by the dam.

In 1968, they were painstakingly removed and reassembled on higher ground.

The Aswan High Dam was inaugurated in 1971, the year after the death of President Nasser, regarded by his countrymen as a hero of Arab nationalism.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Get out there and take in a museum or a performance — your energy demands cultural exposure, and there's just no denying it this time. You may have to create your own event.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

This is a bad time to hang onto old ideas — you need to look forward if you want to get anywhere. It's one of those days when you may be tempted to go it alone, but you need others by your side.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your generosity is almost limitless today — and you've got the energy to back it up! Try not to dip into your retirement fund, but the more you give, the better off you'll be in the future.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Philosophical meanderings are good for the soul — so your soul should be in excellent shape by the end of the day! Your mental energy is engaged with the biggest issues facing humanity.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You either make a new friend or take a current friendship to a new level today — your energy is undeniable, and others are drawn to you. Romance may be in the air, but it's not your sole focus.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You are feeling the social vibe today — and you ought to be able to get your people to go along with you. It's a good time for you to throw a party or celebrate something small but wonderful.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You've got a lot going on in your head today — so much so that it may get kind of confusing! Try not to read too much into the frenzy of ideas, as this is just your mind defragging itself.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You need to deal with a service issue — it may be a utility that's out of whack, or possibly your own service to someone else is in need of maintenance. Think it through and take care of business!

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You are your own drill sergeant today — and you may find that you start to resent how responsible you can be! Just tackle the important stuff and you can kick back and have fun soon.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Don't be too sure of yourself today — cockiness is a serious risk for you. Things may get a little weird later in the day when you're tempted to make a bigger play than you can really afford.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

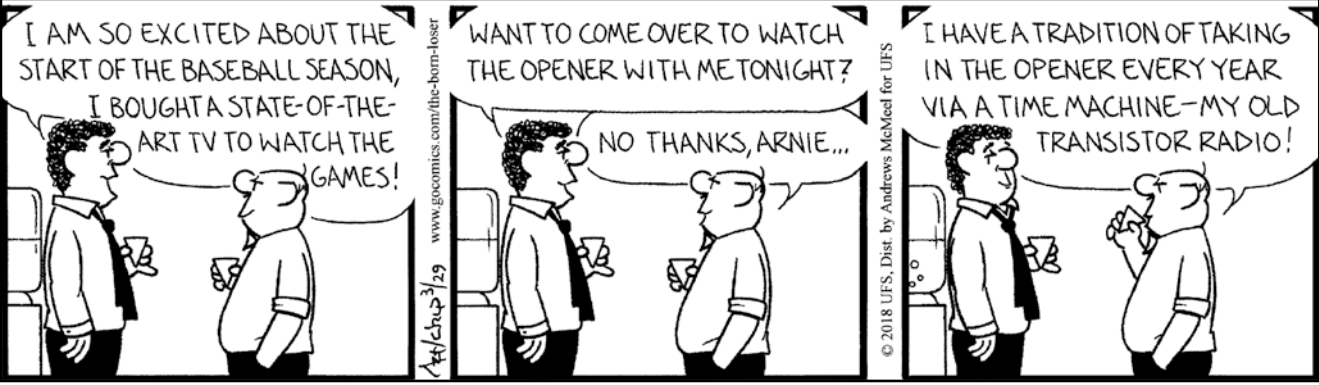
Nothing seems to be working out for you today — but you still believe, don't you? If not, look elsewhere for inspiration, as you need to stick it out this time. Success is almost upon you!

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Your supervisor at work (or teacher at school) doesn't seem to listen today — so you may be better off keeping your opinions to yourself. This is short-lived, so take notes and get them at a better time.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

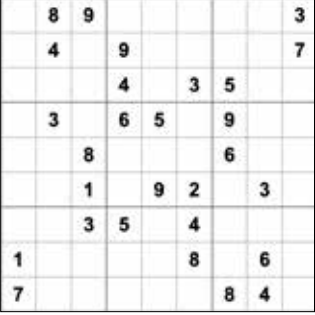
Easy



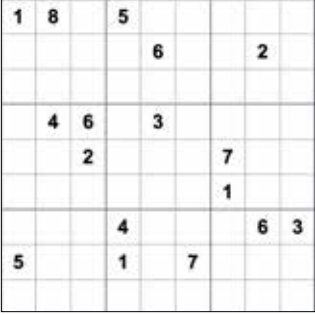
Easy+



Medium



Hard



WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	14	30	cloudy
Harbin	11	30	clear
Tianjin	17	30	cloudy
Urumqi	13	26	clear
Xi'an	11	27	cloudy
Lhasa	7	22	clear
Chengdu	15	25	clear
Chongqing	17	27	cloudy
Kunming	15	28	cloudy
Nanjing	15	28	cloudy
Shanghai	16	27	clear
Wuhan	14	29	cloudy
Hangzhou	17	28	cloudy
Taipei	21	24	drizzle
Guangzhou	21	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	26	cloudy

WORLD

Moscow	15	24	drizzle
Frankfurt	8	18	drizzle
Paris	12	17	drizzle
London	7	15	drizzle
New York	11	20	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS:** 1- Litmus reddeners; 6- Deep unconscious state; 10- Baseballer Slaughter; 14- Worth; 15- Soon; 16- A few; 17- Car bomb?; 18- Spanish muralist; 19- And \_\_\_ goes; 20- Property; 22- Hill dwellers; 23- Invalid; 24- Put Down; 26- Have need of; 30- Dampen; 34- Violinist Stern; 35- Dirty Harry's org.; 36- Now \_\_\_ seen everything!; 37- Bone: Prefix; 38- Pond scum; 40- Face concealment; 41- Narc's org.; 42- Work without \_\_\_; 43- Essential; 44- Livid; 46- Maintenance; 48- Greek cross; 49- Nautically sheltered; 50- Jump on the ice; 53- Opposition; 59- Village People hit; 60- Positive principle; 61- Model Campbell; 62- Resinous substances; 63- British submachine gun; 64- Zeal; 65- I'd hate to break up \_\_\_; 66- Roman god of war; 67- Intervening, in law;

**DOWN:** 1- Assert; 2- Mediterranean juniper; 3- Ingrid's "Casablanca" role; 4- Shootout; 5- Containing element #34; 6- Fortified feudal residence; 7- Ryan or Tatum; 8- Death, in France; 9- Eland; 10- Compositions; 11- Time for lunch; 12- Skip; 13- Tennis units; 21- California's Big \_\_\_; 25- Assistance; 26- \_\_\_ Janeiro; 27- Ruhr city; 28- Persian Gulf country; 29- Persian Gulf fed.; 30- Curator's deg.; 31- Connect with; 32- Perrier rival; 33- Singer Furtado; 35- Cpl.'s superior; 38- Arterial dilatation; 39- Went first; 40- Vigor's partner; 42- Turkish general; 43- Country in SE Asia; 45- Finally!; 46- Straightens; 47- \_\_\_ Miz; 49- "Lou Grant" star; 50- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" heroine; 51- Dec. holiday; 52- \_\_\_ homo; 54- I could \_\_\_ horse!; 55- Swiss river; 56- Agrees tacitly; 57- Let's go!; 58- Emerald Isle;

Friday's solution



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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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[Taipa] *Ocean Gardens* 4 1/2 4 1/2  
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[Taipa] *Kinglight*  
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[Macau] *Macau Square* Office  
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[Taipa] *Nam Long* 1 1/2 1 1/2  
720 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$12,300/mth** (ref: 17110658)

[Taipa] *Nova Park* 2 1/2 2 1/2  
1,134 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$16,400/mth** (ref: 17020638)

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## FOOTBALL

# Title addict Guardiola retains Premier League with Man City

Rob Harris, Brighton

**A**LL the strain Pep Guardiola feels during the pursuit of titles becomes worthwhile when a winners' medal is placed around his neck.

It happens a lot.

Manchester City won its second straight Premier League trophy yesterday [Macau time], finishing one point ahead of Liverpool in a thrilling title race and giving Guardiola eight league championships over 10 years in three countries.

"We're so, so tired, but at the same time winning the title gives you a lot of energy," Guardiola said after the clinching 4-1 victory over Brighton, "and is so addictive."

Winning has become routine for City in a way it never was before the flow of Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth began in 2008.

When Sheikh Mansour bought City, City's only English championships in a history stretching back to 1880 were won in 1937 and 1968.

Now the club that was trampled over for so many years by Manchester United — and had to escape the third tier 20 years ago this month — is the force of English football with four titles in eight seasons. City finished first in 2012 under Roberto Mancini and '14 led by Manuel Pellegrini, then under Guardiola became the first repeat champion in a decade since United.

Guardiola, who earned six league titles as a defensive midfielder for Barcelona in the

AP PHOTO



1990s, had hat tricks of league titles as coach at Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

"This is the toughest one," Guardiola said, "especially (because) of the rival we had to face all season."

Guardiola sets standards on the field that require rivals to raise theirs.

City trailed Liverpool by seven points in late December but won its final 14 games after a Jan. 29 defeat at Newcastle and finished with 98 points, the second-highest total in English history behind its 100 last year. Liverpool, chasing its first championship in 29 years, finished with the highest total for a non-champion.

"Liverpool was exceptional,

I don't mean to rub it in, it is what it is, they didn't deserve to lose," said 33-year-old City captain Vincent Kompany, who helped maintain the lead last week when his long-range goal in the second half provided a 1-0 win over Leicester. "It makes me so much more happy that we played such a great team all season."

During a 21-minute stretch in the first half at Brighton, City gave hope to Liverpool supporters at Anfield, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) to the northwest.

With both grounds bathed in brilliant sunshine, Sadio Mané put Liverpool in front against Wolverhampton in the 17th minute and a jittery City fell

behind 10 minutes later — the first time the champions had trailed in a league game since January.

"We heard the Brighton fans singing '1-0 to Liverpool' just at the moment we conceded," Kompany said.

Even when Sergio Aguero leveled 83 seconds after Glenn Murray's header, City only moved back into top spot when Aymeric Laporte nodded in from Riyad Mahrez's corner in the 38th minute.

It turned out to be the goal that decided the title.

But there were still nerves to be eased in the second half. Mahrez netted in the 63rd minute, a rare high point in his first season after joining City

in a record 60 million pound (then USD80 million) signing in July.

There was a stylish conclusion to City's title defense when Ilkay Gundogan scored from a free kick in the 72nd minute for the team's 95th goal in 38 league matches.

"We were creating chances, finding the gaps, imposing ourselves," Kompany said. "Though the pitch was slow I felt we were magnificent. We did everything we needed to do in a game such as today."

City became the first team to retain the trophy since Manchester United won its third straight in the 2007-08, one of 10 it earned under manager Alex Ferguson.

As City flew back to Manchester for a celebration with fans outside its Etihad Stadium, United supporters were reeling from a loss to Cardiff that saw Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side finish in sixth — 32 points behind its neighbor — and without any silverware.

City remains on course for an English treble, having already collected a League Cup and preparing for the FA Cup final against Watford on Saturday.

"The big competitors are like this," Guardiola said. "They are never satisfied feeling this is enough."

But the future is not all bright for a club in the midst of multiple investigations by footballing authorities following leaks of internal correspondence.

The Premier League is looking into whether City broke any rules covering financial compliance, third-party ownership and the recruitment of youngsters.

UEFA is investigating if City tried to disguise the source of revenue from overvalued sponsorships from Abu Dhabi, a case that could potentially lead to a ban from the Champions League — the one major trophy to elude the club. **AP**

## BOXING

## Williams takes Hurd's 154-pound belts by unanimous decision

**J**ARRETT Hurd was welcomed into the ring by the Washington Redskins marching band. He left in a manner familiar to his favorite football team recently, losing to an opponent from Philadelphia.

Challenger Julian Williams unanimously outpointed Hurd over the weekend at EagleBank Arena in front of the defending champ's home fans to take the IBF, WBA and IBO super welterwei-

ght titles.

"This is a dream come true," said the Philadelphia-based Williams, who lost his one previous shot at the IBF title to Jermall Charlo in December of 2016. "I have been waiting for this for years. I never ditched the gym. I never got into girls or left the gym. I am from the streets, but I was never in the gym practicing my craft."

Williams (27-1-1) knocked down Hurd (23-1)

in the second round and stayed on his feet throughout. While both fighters appeared in danger at times, Williams clearly believed he won in the later rounds.

The judges agreed, scoring it 116-111, 115-112 and 115-112, as did Hurd's corner.

"It wasn't the pressure of being home for Jarrett. J-Rock was the better fighter tonight," insisted Hurd trainer Ernesto Rodriguez. "We want the re-

match. Our preparation will be better."

During the middle of the sixth round, arguably Hurd's best, Williams made a "come at me" expression after Hurd connected with a jab. Williams was flexing to his corner after the 11th, and was the more active fighter in the 12th, landing one final promising combination 45 seconds before the bell. When the final bell sounded, trainer Stephen Edwards rushed

AP PHOTO



Julian Williams celebrates after defeating Jarrett Hurd for the IBF, WBA and IBO super welterweight boxing titles in Fairfax

out of Williams' corner to hoist his fighter aloft.

"I am not shocked. I am just happy," Edwards said. "We just knew that we

were going to win. There are certain things that you just know. He trained so hard and he was so ready, I just knew. **AP**



opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



HO BY HIMSELF

Now it is for real and definitive that political heavyweight Ho Iat Seng is running solo, unopposed and undisturbed, up the for confirmatory procedure of the small-circle selection committee. Of the alleged pretenders, no-one dared to make a move for the top job, or rather, nobody received the necessary encouragement or central government blessing to challenge Ho as the replacement for the two-term Chui Sai On as MSAR Chief Executive.

We have largely backed a competitive run to Government House in 2019 and for a candidate whose profile would be different from Ho Iat Seng. Both points remain valid, despite that ultimate factor we call reality. We do have to confess to be at ease with a deferment period, precisely because we have not taken the issue either to make predictions of sorts or as a foray into pseudo-forecasting: to make as many forecasts as possible and proclaim the one you got right. Today, however, everybody is right... Ho Iat Seng will be the next CE and gradually all reservations will fade away.

However, the democratic stain (no offense meant) of a non-binding electoral option of a single candidate remains a harsh, if not crass disregard for the noble essence of elections - to be able to choose: a minimum service to democracy.

Even the 2018 EU annual report - received by MSAR stamped with the label of interference - although it considers the Basic Law, and related legislation, it does not provide for the introduction of universal suffrage, saying it "encourages the Macao authorities to provide for greater public involvement in the election of the CE and the Legislative Assembly. This would increase their legitimacy..."

It is hard to believe that this encouragement, in the report to the European Parliament, suggests the SAR gradually expands the now 400-strong committee to broaden its endorsement. The inflated committee is not the one to choose, let alone elect. It just rubberstamps a solo candidate.

Putting to one side issues around the meddling or legitimacy of the report, we ought to admit that it does not rank with the US State Department paper, usually deeply critical of the shortcomings of Macau. On the contrary, the EU reading is loosely positive: The rule of law and the independence of the judiciary are upheld, as seen in the case of the judicial procedures against the opposition lawmaker Sulu Sou. Rights and fundamental freedoms are generally respected." If this is not accurate who do you call?

As to the profile that Ho's virtual contender should have to give Macau people represented by the small-circle committee a sound alternative, we just need to reflect on Lionel Leong's talking points about Macau and the Greater Bay Area and compare it to Ho Iat Seng's insights to date.

Building the Greater Bay Area could be an innovative testing ground, and an innovative community project, combining international standards and international rules with China's efficiency and advantages of speed." Lionel goes further, envisaging a Macau facing a new pattern of regional cooperation and development for a "new era," seizing the range of opportunities made available by the initiative to achieve a moderate level of economic diversification. Indeed, Macau came a long way from CEPA to GBA.

Finally, a note on range, broad range, and the Macau media: as viewed by the European Union, the media continues to express a broad range of views despite concerns of self-censorship, especially in the Chinese language news. A Steven Pinker point comes to mind: "Adding to the gloom is the ethos of journalism, in which reporting failure is considered professional duty, [...] reporting success is considered public relations."

THE BUZZ FACEBOOK REMOVES FAKE ITALIAN ACCOUNTS AHEAD OF EU ELECTION

Facebook says it has shut down some Italian accounts that were phony and pages that were spreading fake news ahead of European Union parliamentary elections.

The social network said yesterday [Macau time] it "removed a number of fake and duplicate accounts that were violating our authenticity policies, as well as multiple pages for name change."

The company said it "took action against some additional pages that repeatedly posted misin-

formation."

Facebook took action last week after being tipped off by the campaign group Avaaz.

Avaaz said in a separate statement that its investigation found 23 Italian Facebook pages that were spreading false information such as made up quotes and "divisive" content.

It said the pages had about 2.5 million followers, and more than a dozen of the pages supported rightwing and populist parties.

OBITUARY

Legendary actress and singer Doris Day dead at 97

DORIS Day, the honey-voiced singer and actress whose film dramas, musicals and innocent sex comedies made her a top star in the 1950s and '60s and among the most popular screen actresses in history, has died. She was 97.

The Doris Day Animal Foundation confirmed Day died yesterday at her Carmel Valley, California, home. The foundation said she was surrounded by close friends.

"Day had been in excellent physical health for her age, until recently contracting a serious case of pneumonia, resulting in her death," the foundation said in an emailed statement.

The foundation also said she requested "no funeral or memorial service and no grave marker."

With her lilting contralto, wholesome blonde beauty and glowing smile, Day was a top box office draw and recording artist known for such films as "Pillow Talk" and "That Touch of Mink" and for such songs as "Whatever Will Be, Will Be (Que Sera, Sera)" from the Alfred Hitchcock film "The Man Who Knew Too Much."

But over time, she became more than a name above the title: Right down to her cheerful, alliterative stage name, she stood for a time of innocence and G-rated love, a parallel world to her contemporary Marilyn Monroe. The running joke, attributed to both Groucho Marx and actor-composer Oscar Levant, was that they had known Day "before she was a virgin."

Day herself was no Doris



Actress and animal rights activist Doris Day in 1989, in Los Angeles

Day, by choice and by hard luck.

In "Pillow Talk," released in 1959 and her first of three films with Rock Hudson, she proudly caught up with what she called "the contemporary in me." Her 1976 tell-all book, "Doris Day: Her Own Story," chronicled her money troubles and three failed marriages, contrasting with the happy publicity of her Hollywood career.

"I have the unfortunate reputation of being Miss Goody Two-Shoes, America's Virgin, and all that, so I'm afraid it's going to shock some people for me to say this, but I staunchly believe no two people should get married until they have lived together," she wrote.

She never won an Academy Award, but Day was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004, as George W. Bush declared it "a good day for America when Doris Marianne von Kappelhoff of Evanston, Ohio decided to become an entertainer."

In recent years, she spent much of her time advoca-

ting for animal rights. Although mostly retired from show business since the 1980s, she still had enough of a following that a 2011 collection of previously unreleased songs, "My Heart," hit the top 10 in the United Kingdom. The same year, she received a lifetime achievement honor from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. Friends and supporters lobbied for years to get her an honorary Oscar.

Born to a music teacher and a housewife, she had dreamed of a dance career, but at age 12, she suffered a crippling accident: a car she was in was hit by a train and her leg was badly broken. Listening to the radio while recuperating, she began singing along with Ella Fitzgerald, "trying to catch the subtle ways she shaded her voice, the casual yet clean way she sang the words."

Day began singing in a Cincinnati radio station, then a local nightclub, then in New York. A bandleader changed her name to Day, after the song "Day after Day," to fit it on a marquee.

A marriage at 17 to trombonist Al Jorden ended when, she said, he beat her when she was eight months pregnant. She gave birth to her son, Terry, in early 1942. Her second marriage also was short-lived. She returned to Les Brown's band after the first marriage broke up.

Her Hollywood career began after she sang at a Hollywood party in 1947. AP



Doris Day in 1955, in Paris

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	45-66 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate	
Ambient	50-70 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**MALAYSIA** Police yesterday have detained four men who were planning to assassinate "high-profile targets" and bomb places of worship and entertainment centers during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.



**INDIA** Thousands of people have taken to the streets in Indian-controlled Kashmir to protest the alleged rape of a 3-year-old girl by a neighbor who lured her to a school bathroom.



**SAUDI ARABIA** Arabia said yesterday two of its oil tankers were sabotaged off the coast of the United Arab Emirates in attacks the previous day that caused "significant damage" to the vessels, one of them as it was en route to pick up Saudi oil to take to the United States.

More on p15



**SUDAN** Sudanese protesters resumed negotiations with the army yesterday while calling for renewed demonstrations to press the generals to hand over power to a civilian government.



**SWEDEN** Prosecutors said they are reopening a rape case against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and will seek his extradition after he has served his 50-week prison term in Britain for jumping bail. More on p15

**POLAND** A new documentary about pedophile priests has deeply shaken Poland, one of Europe's most Roman Catholic societies, eliciting an apology from the church hierarchy and prompting one priest to leave the clergy.