



**TAIWAN POLICEMEN SPOOKY VISITS**  
Taiwan is probing two officers who visited Macau and Hong Kong a multitude of times since March 2017

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**SCOTT CHIANG FOUND GUILTY AGAIN, FILES APPEAL**

P4,20



**\$300B OF CHINESE GOODS TARGETED**  
U.S. officials listed USD300 billion more of Chinese goods for possible tariff hikes while Beijing vowed to "fight to the finish"

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**

AP PHOTO



**NORTH KOREA** yesterday called the U.S. seizure of a North Korean cargo ship involved in banned coal exports a "robbery" and demanded that the vessel be returned immediately.

AP PHOTO



**SAUDI ARABIA** Drones attacked one of its oil pipelines as other assaults targeted energy infrastructure elsewhere in the kingdom on yesterday, shortly after Yemen's rebels claimed a coordinated drone attack on the Sunni power.

AP PHOTO



**ISRAEL's** government went on a spending binge in its West Bank settlements following the election of President Donald Trump, according to official data obtained by The Associated Press.

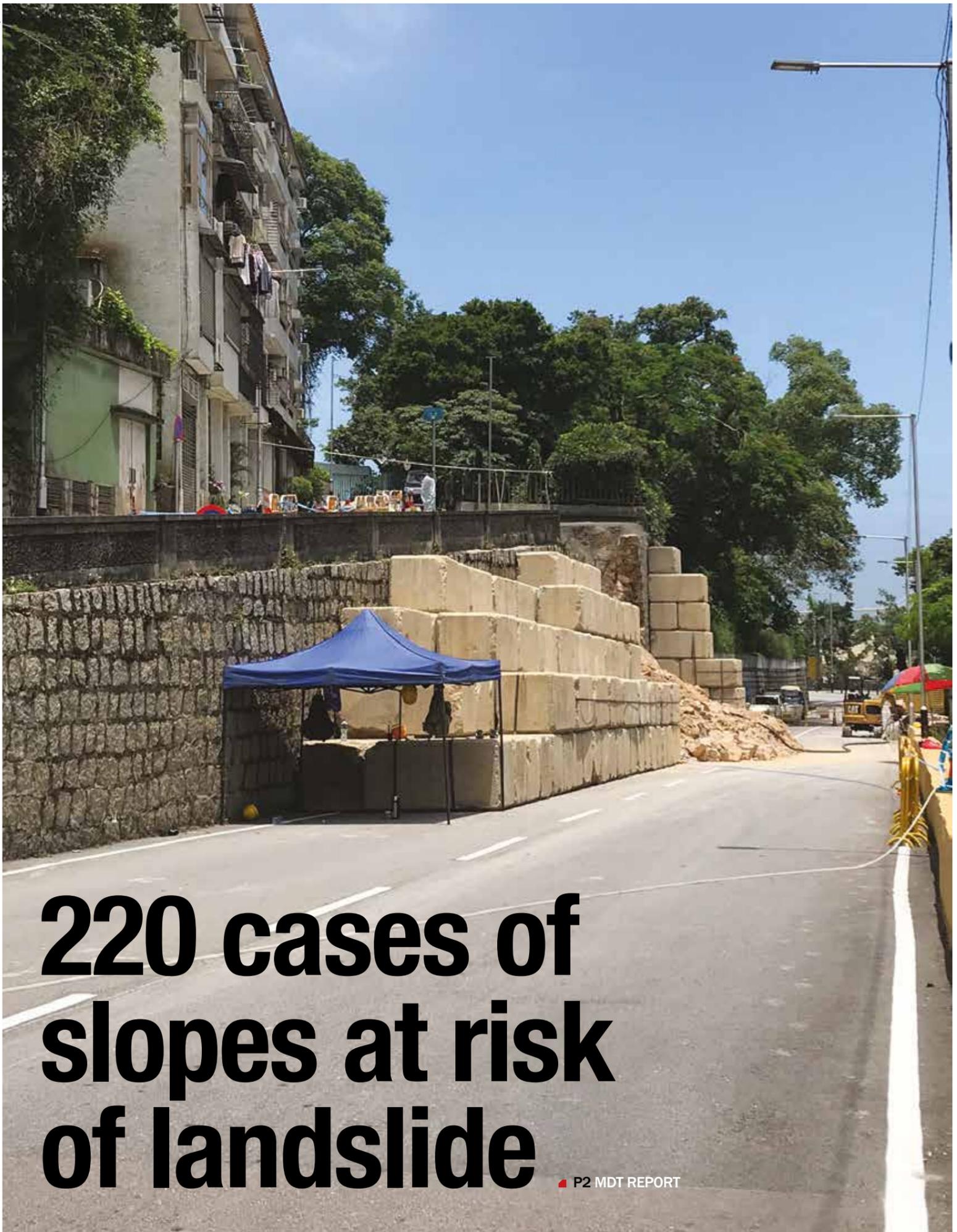
AP PHOTO



**RUSSIA** U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday arrived in Russia for talks that are expected to focus on an array of issues including arms control and Iran.  
More on p15

More on backpage

RENATO MARQUES



# 220 cases of slopes at risk of landslide

P2 MDT REPORT

## City Fringe Festival open for proposals

The 19th Macao City Fringe Festival, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), will be held in January next year adopting the concept of "All around the city, our stages, our patrons, our artists." In a note distributed yesterday, IC says the call for proposals of programmes and performance venues is now open and "all local arts and cultural associations, programme curators, producers, individual art practitioners and those who are interested in artistic creation are invited to submit proposals." In addition, the Fringe also invites the general public to participate in it as venue provider. The deadline for applications is 5pm on 21 June 2019. The regulations, application form and the Fringe venue registration form can be downloaded on IC's website.

## US universities retract mainland student intake

Following the restriction by the US State Department of visas issued to Mainland Chinese students who are seeking to study aviation, robotics, and other advanced technologies, some US universities have ceased taking in students from China, as reported by local Chinese media outlet Macao Daily News. The paper claims that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has not taken in any Mainland Chinese students as part of its early admission, while Stanford University has canceled its interview points in Mainland China. The University of California at Berkeley has changed its policy which now requires students to finish their high school education in the US to be considered local students; which has also been implemented by Harvard and Cornell.

## 5G-assisted buses tested in Guangzhou

Guangzhou is testing its first batch of public buses with 5G mobile networks in the hopes of achieving safer and easier public transport. In the future, public bus fares may be collected by a face scanner. The bus route is 30.9km long with 41 stops. As 5G is expected to be 10 times faster in transmission speed than 4G, real-time high-definition video streaming between the bus and the control center may be feasible. Offsite repairing may also be conducted in the future if the bus breaks down en route. Any emergency situations can also be dealt with remotely.

# Rainwater infiltration 'might' have caused Guia landslide

RENATO MARQUES



Renato Marques

**T**HE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said the cause of the landslide last Friday at the Guia Hill area which led to the fall of the protection wall and interruption of all traffic on Estrada de Cacilhas "might have been caused by the rainwater infiltration in the soil on that area."

This information came in a reply to the Times, although it was noted that the Civil Engineering Laboratory of Macau has already been commissioned to undertake a further investigation to ascertain the exact causes.

In the meantime, the IAM said that the entity's responsibility over the issue at the moment is only to collaborate with the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DS-SOPT) in the removal of the soil and debris in order to reestablish the circulation of traffic as soon as possible.

According to information also obtained by the Times from the IAM, the "temporary repair work being performed in order to reopen the road to traffic, should take from three

days to a week."

The reopening would ultimately be the decision of the Transport Bureau, when it considers that the safety conditions are sufficient to do so. It is expected that in the first phase, the road will reopen only on one traffic lane that will have to be shared by traffic in both directions.

The full completion of the works in order to reestablish all hillside and regular circulation of Estrada de Cacilhas "is expected to take at least two months, but this will depend on the conditions and the evolution of the works on site," IAM said.

### THE IDES OF MARCH

The IAM said they already knew that the slope in the Guia area had structural problems and, in fact, the works being done at the time of the incident were part of the measures to tackle the issue that had been detected in a late March report from the Slope Safety Information Network task force.

The report indicates that the group, which is a part of the DSSOPT, detected a total of

223 cases of slopes at risk of landslide.

However, in none of the cases was the risk considered high, with 69 of the cases deemed medium risk and 154 low risk.

Within the category of medium risk of landslide, there were 28 cases reported in the Peninsula, 25 in Taipa Island and another 16 in Coloane, allegedly. According to IAM, the Guia case was one of those categorized as medium risk which is why construction works were being held at the site as part of the restoration of that slope.

Meanwhile, preventive measures have been enforced on site in order to guarantee a reinforcement of the part of the wall that did not collapse, making use of large dimension concrete blocks.

Contacted by the Times regarding the case, a local based civil engineer who preferred not to be identified hypothesized that, during the excavation work performed by the IAM, "there might have been vibration transmitted to the wall or even touched [with drillers] in the wall and it eventually fell." He further noted it is possib-

le to see that there are other areas of the wall that remain in place in which lumps are visible, affirming, "it is not a good omen. They should demolish the rest of the wall, make one in concrete from behind and then place the original stonewall in front of that concrete wall just to decorate." However, he pointed out that this is only one of the possible solutions.

Regardless of the solution chosen, the engineer said, "They must rush to do this because the Grand Prix is not that far [away]," noting that any of the possible solutions would take some time to finish.

This is a concern that seemed to be endorsed by IAM's president José Tavares during his comments to the media over the weekend. "We will open a [public] tender and hope to do a total repair within two months. But the restoration project needs to be coordinated with the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) because the outer wall is in the area of world heritage sites - we will need to discuss the repair plan with the IC," he said.

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# Melco offers half million for pit managers to resign as part of new program

Lynzy Valles

**M**ELCO Resorts and Entertainment is offering pit managers working in its properties up to MOP500,000 to leave their jobs, as part of its newly launched program.

Several reports noted that other incentives were also offered to these team members, including taking unpaid leave of at least a month or up to a year, and opportunities to work in non-gaming departments.

The gaming operator was said to be offering support for study and vocational courses prior to the transfers.

These incentives are applicable to pit managers at Altira, City of Dreams and Studio City.

Brokerage predicted earlier this year that VIP revenue would shrink by 2% this year, and the city's gaming industry has been seeing a drop in VIP gaming since last year.

However, a representative of the gaming operator clarified that the newly-launched program was not due to the slowdown of the city's VIP sector.



The representative explained that the new program is similar to its current Whole Person Development Programme, which aims to promote learning as a "lifelong goal to help employees build a better foundation."

"The newly-launched programs are 100% voluntary, and are designed according to findings via focus groups and other colleague-HR communication channels [aiming] to enable and provide employees with options to explore life plans, transition to non-gaming roles, and to provide assistance and support for colleagues to reach their personal and professional objectives," the

gaming operator said in a written reply to the Times.

It noted that the purpose of the new program "was never [about] providing incentives for employees to resign."

"Since the announcement, numerous pit manager colleagues have expressed their excitement about the openings and possibilities on offer," it added.

The monthly salary of pit managers and directors ranges from MOP35,000 to MOP40,000 and the roles are considered mid-level management positions.

Reports noted that the proposed amount of MOP500,000 stands in a bid to assist employees in

starting their own business, and that they are encouraged to tender their startup proposals to provide goods and services to the gaming operator.

According to company figures released last week, the gaming operator's operating income dropped to MOP1.5 billion, while its net income fell to about MOP940 million.

Moreover, a recent report issued by the Talent Development Committee said that the gaming industry would need some 7,525 additional gaming employees of primarily high-ranking positions as well as mid-level managers by 2020.

## Chui meets Rebelo de Sousa in Lisbon to continue talk started in Macau



**P**ORTUGUESE President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa yesterday [Macau time] met with Chief Executive Chui Sai On. Both sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in various fields.

The meeting is a continuation of the talks started in Macau when the Portuguese President visited the city for a day on May 1, a note from the Government Information Bureau stated.

During the meeting in the Presidential Residence of the Belem Palace, the Portuguese president said that the relations between Portugal and China as well as between Portugal and Macau are at their best times, noting that China thinks highly of the Macau's role of bridge between China and Portugal and other Portuguese-speaking countries.

Macau "is developing well, especially in the field of economic diversification," he said, noting that progress has been made in business investments, science and technology, and the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries in Macau has played an important role.

He explained that the sustainable development of the Portuguese language in Macau will enhance the connection and cooperation in the fields of culture, society, economy and trade, science and technology and tourism with the Portuguese-speaking countries.

The president's remarks were echoed by Chui, who said that his government will make the Chinese-Portuguese platform better.

Chui, who is on his official visit to Portugal starting Sunday, said that thanks to the traditional friendship and historic connections between Macau and Portugal, bilateral cooperation has made rapid progress with joint efforts from both sides.

He expressed confidence that there will be great potential for cooperation between the two sides under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area.

Chui reiterated that Macau will continue to protect the Portuguese community and promote the development of the Portuguese culture and the Portuguese language in Macau.

Also yesterday, Chui attended the Macau SAR's reception and a photo exhibition in Lisbon, which is to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau SAR. **RM/Agencies**

MGM

## Central Provident fund plans in place, Bowie says

Staff reporter

**M**GM China CEO Grant Bowie said yesterday the company had already presented the Central Provident Fund to its employees. Bowie predicted that in the future, local employees of the company would be joining this government-managed pension plan.

Bowie stated that at the end of the month all employees will have chosen either to stay with the existing fund, or transfer to the Provident Central Fund. Introductory sessions were also held over the past few months to familiarize employees with the new fund, and to inform them that they have the right to choo-



se between the old and new ones.

Despite months of falling gambling revenue, which some have attributed to the trade conflict between

China and the US, Bowie stated he has been confident in Macau. He said the trade conflict is "something that we don't want to be confused about." It was

more important to work hard and focus on the local community, he said on the sidelines of a traditional dragon boat ceremony.

### FOR SAFETY AND VICTORY

MGM yesterday held a dragon boat blessing ceremony to pray for safety and victory for its dragon boat team.

The team of 60 athletes, 90% of whom are local, will compete in four categories in two sub-teams, a male and a female team, in the Macao International Dragon Boat Races 2019 to be held in early June.

Traditional rituals were observed by the athletes, the coach, and the top management of the company.

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### COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE

# Scott Chiang found guilty again, files appeal

**PRO**-democracy activist Scott Chiang was found guilty yesterday by the Court of First Instance (TJB) in a retrial for the crime of illegal assembly. Chiang was fined MOP24,000.

Chiang's case was first heard last year by the lower court, along with co-defendant lawmaker Sulu Sou, who was at the time suspended from the Legislative Assembly (AL) pending the trial. Both were found guilty and fined.

Although Sou didn't appeal the sentence so as to resume his work at the AL, Chiang, who was sentenced with a MOP27,000 fine, went on to contest the TJB's ruling with the Court of Second Instance (TSI).

The second court ruled



for the retrial because the TJB changed the initial charge of civil disobedience and instead trialled the defendants for illegal assembly.

Chiang decided to appeal the sentence again, as confirmed by defence lawyers

Jorge Menezes and Pedro Leal.

Beforehand, the defence also lodged an appeal against the decision "not to allow a real trial," Menezes said in an interview to the Times published on back page. **PC**

# Police officers frequenting SARs raises concerns in Taiwan

Staff reporter

**INVESTIGATIONS** Into two police officers in Taiwan who had visited Hong Kong and Macau a multitude of times were initiated by the Taiwanese authority on suspicions of spying or undercover activities, the Taiwanese media has reported.

A 41-year-old police officer surnamed Chang, based in the southern city of Kaohsiung, is being investigated by the authority due to his frequent visitation to Macau and Hong Kong. Between March 2017 and December 2018, he visited Macau and Hong Kong a total of 33 times, all without giving prior notice to his station.

The investigation into Chang is still underway. Even though he was not found guilty of any breach of work, the investigation was extended because he visited Macau twice during his sick leave. The authority said if a fraudulent claim was found, Chang would be punished accordingly.

Chang defended himself by saying that he needed to process the emotion caused by the deaths of his two grandmothers. His visits to the SARs were due to this reason, he claimed. He claimed he did not gamble in Macau, and only drank occasionally. He says he did not want to disclose his emotional condition, so prior reports were not made to his station.

Chang was once the head of a Kaohsiung police station, but was punished for patronizing establishments inappropriate for police officers.

A similar case involved an officer surnamed Hou of the same age, also based in Kaohsiung, who visited the SARs around 20 times between last year and February this year, the Liberty Times reported this week.

With these visits made also without prior notice to the station, he was punished by receiving a first-level demerit and a demotion.

Chang's case was unear-

thed accidentally in the course of investigating Hou. The Kaohsiung Police Department had initiated a large-scale action after realizing Hou's frequent visitation to Macau and Hong Kong. The police department, however, did not find any connection between the two cases.

The police department in Taiwan has implemented measures to prevent undercover activities within the department, which is common in many jurisdictions. Also common in many places is the special travel procedure during holidays on law enforcement officials.

The Times has contacted the Public Security Police Force for comment on the cases, as well as the Judiciary Police regarding the visits of the Taiwanese officers to Macau. Both bureaus were also asked about the existence of such a policy requiring their own officers to give prior notice before leaving Macau on holidays. A response was not received by press time.

## 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 3: Food, shopping, and accommodation – and family-friendly fun

Missed Parts 1 and 2? Read them online at [macaudailytimes.com.mo](http://macaudailytimes.com.mo)

**A**S Macao's largest operator of integrated resorts, Sands China Ltd. has built a diversified portfolio of business and leisure attractions that includes nearly 13,000 hotel rooms, more than 850 shops and over 150 food outlets. In fact, the company continuously introduces new offerings across an ever-widening range to appeal to both local residents and tourists. The Venetian Macao alone occupies a land area that can fit 98 jumbo jets wingtip to wingtip – so there's plenty of room for a broad variety of offerings.

Sands Macao established several food-and-beverage (F&B) outlets following its opening in 2004. When The Venetian Macao opened in 2007, it added a wide range of F&B outlets, 3,000 hotel suites, and hundreds of shops to the Sands brand. Indeed, The Venetian Macao not only introduced an integrated resort the scale of which had never been seen in Macau, but it also created the largest regular hotel room footprint in Macau and unique experiences like shopping alongside street performers and serenading gondoliers – who navigate indoor canals under a ceiling painted so convincingly like the sky that visitors often do a double take. It also offers diners Macau's first (and only) Michelin-starred Indian restaurant, the Golden Peacock. For those with specific dietary needs, Sands China has

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 third in a five-part look at Sands Macao and Sands China Ltd. Today we look at how the company brought to Macao a new variety of food, shopping and accommodation options, and family-focused experiences.

launched an initiative that has introduced vegetarian menus and vegan meat substitutes at 14 of its self-operated F&B outlets across its properties.

With Sands Cotai Central, comprising four towers and hotel brands within one single resort, it too introduced something never before seen in Macau: the rainforest theme and three-storey-tall indoor waterfall of its shopping mall. Then, opening in September 2016 was The Parisian Macao, adding to the scope of offerings an authentic half-scale replica of the Eiffel Tower and the shopping experience of browsing the latest in fashion and couture in a setting reminiscent of famous Parisian streets like the Champs-Élysées. Dr Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. says the company has the courage "to be a pioneer in all areas."

Sands China began to do business with the Rainbow Group – another pioneering company – in 2007. The Rainbow Group is the holder of retail rights for over 20 globally renowned luxury brands in Macau, in addition to operating 12 boutiques across all Sands China properties. Prior to working with Sands China, they

had established themselves as one of the first companies – if not the first – to bring international fashion brands to the MSAR.

A Macau-born entrepreneur, Terry Sio Un I, is the founder and president of the Group, and the president of the Macao International Brand Enterprise Commercial Association (MIBA). She described her company's initial move to do business with Sands China following the construction of The Venetian Macao as not "an easy decision," as "it took a lot of daring bravery to decide to operate in a large shopping mall like The Venetian." She said that even though Rainbow Group had years of experience running fine boutiques in Macau, "doing business in malls so large was an unknown."

However, they were in fact among the first retail companies to enter into business with The Venetian, and Ms. Sio is proud of her company's bold move, which proved very fruitful for the Group: "We saw the opportunity coming, and we had confidence in Sands China."

And although Macao is geographically small, it has become internationally renowned through the determined promotional efforts

by tourism and leisure enterprises and the Macau government. Ms. Sio attributes the development of the retail sector in large part to Sands China, "because they attracted many global brands, which helped the development of the retail industry and made a great contribution to the city."

Sands China has been a driving force not only for the retail sector in Macau, but in other areas, too. Andy Wu Keng Kuong, chairman of the Travel Industry Council of Macau, expressed his positive feelings about the presence of Sands China, as "the opening of Sands Macao drove new tides of tourists. The Las Vegas style of entertainment injected new attractiveness." Mr. Wu explained that 2003 was a relative trough for the MSAR's tourism industry, with only 11.88 million people visiting the city that year. This figure was somewhat improved by a measure from the Central People's Government which implemented the individual travel scheme, removing the requirement for mainland residents to travel to Macau on tour packages; as such, the percentage of tourists from mainland China has gone from 48% to approximately 70% today. However, the

massive upswing in tourist numbers can also be attributed to the new tourist attractions which Sands China opened across the intervening years. Indeed, Mr. Wu specifically attributed "the addition of world-class MICE facilities and room keys [as what] helped attract more tourists."

Mr. Wu projects that family tourism will be at the core of Macau's tourist identity in the future, and he expressed the belief that more indoor family entertainment facilities should be created to cater to this market segment. Sands China is at the forefront of these offerings; The Venetian Macao boasts Macau's first 18-hole mini golf course, and Sands China's specialised entertainment facility for children, QUBE, is at all three Cotai integrated resorts. Moreover, The Parisian Macao is home to Aqua World, which encompasses a wading pool, water guns, and waterslides, and Sands Cotai Central has Macau's first and only "Thomas Friendship Party with the Little Big Club ALL STARS" afternoon event which features interactive games, themed activities, and snacks.

As Sands China looks forward to the future, the company says it will continue to invest in Macao wherever there is opportunity, with an eye to continue appealing to a wide variety of tourists who visit the MSAR as the city furthers its development as a world centre of tourism and leisure.

Don't miss Part 4 in our series in tomorrow's paper



Terry Sio Un I



Andy Wu Keng Kuong



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# Graft watchdog further explains CPTTM case

Staff reporter

**T**HE Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) was notified by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) last year that there had been misconduct in terms of employment.

Some disagreed with the CCAC findings. The Commission has just finished a supplementary investigation, of which the report was published yesterday. The Commission clarified certain misconceptions in the report, and added further comments about the case.

In the CCAC's Annual Report published last year, the Commission claimed it had found irregularities and a lack of transparency concerning the recruitment and promotion of workers at CPTTM, in addition to the employment of a too high ratio of related employees, which would

inevitably give rise to public doubts about nepotism. As of April 2017, 16 among the 101 CPTTM workers were in some ways related.

Afterwards, there was an article in the media somehow defending CPTTM, stating the existence of discrepancies between the reality, the CCAC's comments, and public imagination.

Also disagreeing with the CCAC report was the Centre's Director-General Shuen Ka Hung, who told the media that the Centre had conducted a review on all its employment records dated back to 1996. Shuen said 14 workers had been found related, but failed to identify if they overlap the 16 stated in the CCAC report.

The article emphasized that even though some staff members of CPTTM had filial and/or spousal relationship, it did not necessarily make the employment a breach or violation. CCAC explained in yesterday's

report that they had never "come to a conclusion [...] that the employment of the related staff definitely contravened the regulations due to lack of objective information."

Nonetheless, during the supplementary investigation, CCAC found documents proving an employee's participation in recruiting his family member.

After all, the Commission recommended supervision be enhanced, while rules and regulations be improved.

On the other hand, the administration body of the WorldSkills International Competition has appointed two Macau residents as technical directors, the first time such a position has been offered to residents.

Vice Director-General Victoria Kuan and Manager Thomas Mak of CPTTM have recently been assigned to the positions, with the former overseeing fashion techniques and the latter website techniques.



## Mario Ho proposes to girlfriend with 99,999 roses

**S**ON of gaming tycoon Stanley Ho and lawmaker Angela Leong, Mario Ho, has proposed to his girlfriend of two years in a mall in Shanghai owned by his mother.

Ho reportedly booked three levels of Shanghai's L'Avenue Mall and decorated the premises with 99,999 roses for his proposal to US-based Chinese model Ming Xi.

"Remember when we were in Macau and I asked you if there was a possibility we could be together? Today, the question has turned into, 'Little Ming, you think we can be together forever?' Ming Xi, marry me?" Ho asked, as cited in reports.

On Weibo, the question "Is Ming Xi pregnant?" started trending, as some photos taken by reporters showed the 30-year-old model with an alleged baby bump, although Ho denied the rumor last month.

Ho also revealed details on Weibo of the preparations for his proposal, noting that they began on Sunday and lasted until 5 a.m. on Monday.

In an Instagram post, the 24-year-old said, "I can't believe I'm actually [marrying] the girl I said I was going to marry when I was younger. Girl of my dreams is now going to be my wife, how fairytale can life get for me?"

AD

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# Macau among top choices for employment in GBA, survey finds

**T**HE annual Hong Kong Employment Trends Survey and Salary Outlook of KPMG has shown that 53% of respondents would consider working in Greater Bay Area cities, with Macau included in the top three choices.

The third edition of the survey showed that aside from Macau, Shenzhen and Guangdong are also amongst the top choices due to higher pay, better career and industry prospects, broader work exposure and travel convenience.

The top four industries in which respondents thought the GBA development would create more jobs were innovation and technology, financial services, professional services and trade and logistics, as cited in a press release.

“The GBA is well-positioned to become a major economy and mega-metropolis, which will create significant opportunities for businesses across all sectors in particular in finance,



trade and professional services, for which Hong Kong is renowned,” said Felix Lee, head of KPMG Executive Search and Recruitment Services.

“The free flow of talent should improve existing synergies and create greater opportunities,” he added.

The survey also showed that global economic uncertainty is having a limited impact on

the city’s employment market, which is buoyed by the development of the GBA, government incentives for innovation and technology, and the completion of key infrastructure projects.

37% of respondents working in financial services and 45% in innovation and technology said they would increase the existing headcount.

“The dip in prospective headcount increases in the financial services sector may relate to accelerating digital transformation and the application of artificial intelligence in engaging customers and dealing with risk management,” said Lee.

Respondents believed that the most attractive sectors in which to join a start-up were financial technology and e-commerce, yet

respondents at C-level appear much more risk-averse than those working at other levels.

Respondents at C-level were more likely to opt for organizations in the charity/social wellbeing or healthcare and life sciences sectors.

“A number of initiatives by the Hong Kong government should go some way to alleviating concerns people have in establishing or joining a start-up,” Lee said. “And beyond Hong Kong, the GBA is an ideal stepping stone for these businesses to expand across the region,” he added.

Overall, salary and compensation was by far the top incentive when looking for a new job, followed by career progression and promotion and work flexibility and work-life balance.

Meanwhile, recent KPMG analysis found tax incentives to be instrumental in facilitating the free movement of people within the GBA, especially for high-income individuals working within the region.

Earlier this year, various exemptions from China’s new personal income tax were introduced, allaying Hong Kong residents’ concerns over a reduction in post-tax income when working on the mainland. **LV**

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 to 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.

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08:00 Breakfast  
08:15 Presentation  
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## APPS COST TOO MUCH?

# Court allows suit adding to Apple's woes

Mark Sherman  
& Michael Liedtke, Washington

**C**ONSUMERS can pursue a lawsuit complaining that iPhone apps cost too much, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday [Macau time], adding to Apple's woes that already include falling iPhone sales and a European investigation.

The lawsuit could have major implications for the tech giant's handling of the more than 2 million apps in Apple's App Store, where users get much of the software for their smartphones. While most of those apps are free to download, some impose fees for people to use the software and subscribe to the services.

In those cases, Apple charges a commission of 30%, a practice that the lawsuit contends unfairly drives up the price for the apps. Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote the majority opinion that agreed the antitrust lawsuit can move forward in a lower court.

The court's four liberal justices joined Kavanaugh, one of President Donald Trump's two high court appointees, to reject a plea from Apple to end the lawsuit at this early stage. The decision did not involve the merits of the suit.

Apple argues it's merely a pipeline between app developers and consumers, and that iPhone users have no claims against Apple under antitrust law and a 1977 Supreme Court decision. Tens of thousands of developers create the software and set the price, Apple says.

"We're confident we will prevail when the facts are presented and that the App Store is not a monopoly by any metric," Apple said in statement issued in response



to yesterday's ruling. The lawsuit could take years to wind to its conclusion.

But Kavanaugh stressed in his opinion that Apple's commissions also may affect consumers, as well as app developers.

"The iPhone owners purchase apps directly from the retailer Apple," he said, describing a relationship sufficient to allow the lawsuit to go forward.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, Trump's other high court pick, wrote a dissent for four conservative justices, saying that the consumers' complaint against Apple is the kind of case that a 42-year-old decision, in *Illinois Brick Co. v. Illinois*, was intended to prevent. The court in that case "held that an antitrust plaintiff can't sue a defendant for overcharging so-

meone else who might (or might not) have passed on all (or some) of the overcharge to him," Gorsuch wrote. "Yet today the court lets a pass-on case proceed."

The ruling threatens to throw another monkey wrench in Apple's efforts to increase the revenue generated from its app store at a time that its iPhone sales have plunged into their deepest slump since that revolutionary product hit the market 12 years ago.

To counter the iPhone sales drop, Apple is trying to make more money from selling services such as its music subscription service, as well as a forthcoming Netflix-like video service while also taking a cut from the subscriptions and other transactions done on apps downloaded on

iPhones and iPads.

The effort has been largely successful, helping to transform the Apple services division that includes the app store into the fastest growing part of the company. Apple's most recent quarter highlight the ongoing transformation as its services division revenue surged 16 percent from the previous year to USD11.5 billion while iPhone sales plunged 17% to \$31 billion.

Meanwhile, Apple is under scrutiny in Europe because of claims of unfair business practices. The Dutch anti-trust agency opened an investigation in April into allegations by companies including the Sweden-based online music service Spotify over commissions and other issues.

The Financial Times reported

this month that the European Commission planned to begin a formal probe based on a separate complaint from Spotify.

Even before Spotify filed its complaint in Europe, Netflix magnified the attention on the issue late last year when it decided to stop accepting new subscribers through Apple's app store.

Now the Supreme Court decision raises the specter of the legal dominoes falling in a way that could require Apple to slash its commissions or even abandon them.

The commissions are unlikely to disappear completely because it's reasonable for apps to pay a fee for distributing their software just as manufacturers pay brick-and-mortar retailers to get the products on store shelves, said Danielle Levitas, executive vice president of market insights for App Annie, a firm that tracks the app market.

But even a reduction in the commission rate could deliver a financial blow that would even damage a company as profitable as Apple.

If Apple can maintain the current commissions in its app store at its recent rate of growth, it will produce revenue of about \$17 billion in 2020, estimates Macquarie Securities analyst Ben Schachter. But if the average commission rate were to fall to 12 percent, the projected revenue from the app store would shrivel to \$7.6 billion next year, Schachter predicts.

That possibility rattled investors already jittery about how the escalating trade war with China might make it even more difficult for Apple to sell more iPhones **AP**

**A**rally in the yuan proved fleeting, with the currency once again inching closer to the 7 level against the greenback.

The offshore yuan slipped 0.04% to 6.9147 per dollar after rising as much as 0.35%. Traders had attributed the earlier gains to comments by President Donald Trump that talks are "going to be very successful" and a surge in the currency's interbank borrowing costs in Hong Kong.

"The rally in the yuan didn't last because it wasn't built on a solid foundation, such as progress made on the trade talks, but was based on a few comments made by Trump," said Gao Qi, a currency strategist at Sco-

## Yuan rallies on Trump's trade comments

tiabank in Singapore. "So now traders are selling the currency in case there's any negative news on the negotiations overnight."

The offshore yuan weakened past 6.9 on Monday for the first time this year amid the China-U.S. trade tensions. The currency has tumbled 2.6 percent this month as the worst performer in Asia. The People's Bank of China will want to keep the currency stronger than 7 per dollar as a break may lead to a "vicious cycle" of capital outflows and sharper depreciation, according to Macquarie Se-

curities Ltd.

Gao said the PBOC "may send verbal warnings, set stronger fixings and boost offshore funding costs to stabilize the yuan. The PBOC's bill sale in Hong Kong [today] can help drain liquidity, thus supporting the exchange rate."

Demand for the yuan may tighten further today, as traders seek funding to buy 20 billion yuan (\$2.9 billion) of bills that the PBOC plans to sell in Hong Kong.

"If the offshore yuan clearly breaches above 6.9, there will be new sell-off as markets need



to massively unwind the option trades that were generally betting it wou-

ld remain range-trading between 6.6 and 6.9," said Hao Zhou, a senior

emerging markets economist at Commerzbank AG. **Bloomberg**

Joes McDonald, Beijing

U.S. officials listed USD300 billion more of Chinese goods for possible tariff hikes while Beijing vowed yesterday to “fight to the finish” in an escalating trade battle that is fueling fears about damage to global economic growth.

The U.S. Trade Representative’s Office issued its target list after Beijing announced tariff hikes Monday on \$60 billion of American goods in their spiraling dispute over Chinese technology ambitions and other irritants. Chinese authorities were reacting to President Donald Trump’s surprise decision last week to impose punitive duties on \$200 billion of imports from China.

“China will fight to the finish,” said a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang.

“We have the determination and capacity to safeguard our interests,” Geng said. “China’s countermeasures have shown our determination to safeguard the multilateral trade system.”

The latest U.S. list of 3,805 product categories is a step toward carrying out Trump’s May 5 threat to extend punitive 25% duties to all Chinese imports, the USTR said. It said a June 17 hearing would be held before Washington decides how to proceed.

The list “covers essentially all products” not already affected by punitive tariffs, the USTR said.

It includes laptop computers,

# US targets \$300b of Chinese goods

saw blades, turbine parts, tuna and garlic. The USTR noted it excludes pharmaceuticals and rare earths minerals used in electronics and batteries.

“The risk of further escalation is far from over,” said Timme Spakman of ING in a report.

■ The latest US list of 3,805 product categories is a step toward extend punitive 25% duties to all Chinese imports

Also Tuesday, China’s tightly controlled social media were filled with comments lambasting Washington following weeks of little online discussion of the dispute. That suggested official censors might have blocked earlier comments but started allowing those that favor Beijing to deflect potential criticism of President Xi Jinping’s government.

The United States is “sucking the blood of the Chinese,” said a comment left on the “Strong Country” blog of the ruling Com-



munist Party’s newspaper People’s Daily. Another comment on the site said, “Why are Chinese people bullied? Because our

hearts are too soft!”

Trump started raising tariffs last July over complaints China steals or pressures foreign com-

panies to hand over technology and unfairly subsidizes businesses Beijing is trying to build into global leaders in robotics and

## Ships steam to China with US cargoes as tensions escalate

As the U.S.-China trade war escalates, speculation is swirling over whether the Asian nation will honor purchases of American products including soybeans and cotton that are yet to be delivered.

At least 10 bulk carrier cargoes are in transit, while at least one vessel managed to offload its U.S. cargo on the weekend as tensions between Washington and Beijing flared.

Bulk carrier Fiji arrived in Dalian Sunday, waiting a week before congestion cleared to enter port. The cargo originated from Export Grain Terminal Longview in the Pacific Northwest with 67,113 metric tons of soybeans, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture and IHS shipping data analyzed by Bloomberg. China has bought about 7.4 million tons of U.S. soybeans that haven’t been shipped yet, USDA data show.

Another 468,000 tons of American corn, 103,000



tons of pork and 704,000 running bales of cotton also have been sold but not yet shipped to China, according to the USDA.

“The shipments of the sales on the books have been slow-walked recently,” said St. Louis-based independent analyst Ken Morrison. “The risk of possible cancellations

just got higher.”

There is similar anxiety for U.S. cotton orders. “What we’ve sold to them, people are concerned they are not going to take that,” said Jody Campiche, vice president of economics and policy analysis for the National Cotton Council of America.

China announced higher tariffs on dozens of products, including soy-based biodiesel even though China has imported virtually none of the fuel from the U.S. this year. The increased levies are set to go into effect June 1.

“While the Chinese market is only a small,

emerging one for U.S. biodiesel producers right now, the proposed tariffs add to the headwinds for our industry and U.S. soybean farmers,” Kurt Kovarik, vice president of federal affairs at the National Biodiesel Board, a trade group, said yesterday [Macau time] in an emailed statement.

In the energy sector, a tanker of liquefied natural gas -- which has also been targeted with tariffs -- is also en route. The Iberica Knutsen left Cheniere Energy Inc.’s Sabine Pass terminal April 10 and is now headed for Taizhou, according to Genscape data. Kpler SAS, which tracks commodity shipments, said in an email that it interprets the vessel’s signal to show it’s actually heading to Taiwan, which would make more economic sense given the existing tariffs.

Supertanker Alsace is also steaming for China’s northeastern port of Qingdao, after loading up U.S. crude oil in the Caribbean. The ship received part of its West Texas Intermediate crude cargo while in the U.S. Virgin Islands and more off of Aruba. The tanker, which is carrying about 2 million barrels of oil, is set to reach its final destination May 21. **Bloomberg**

# ds for new tariff hikes

other fields.

A stumbling block has been U.S. insistence on an enforcement mechanism with penalties to ensure Beijing carries out its commitments.

Odds of a settlement "remain high," said Mark Zandi of Moody's Analytics in a report. "But suddenly a number of other scenarios seem possible, even one in which the U.S., China and the global economy suffer a recession."

Asian stock markets fell Tuesday as the fight, with no negotiated settlement in sight, fed investor anxiety about the impact on global economic growth.

China main market index lost 0.7 percent while Tokyo's benchmark declined 0.6%. Hong Kong, Australia and Taiwan fell.

On Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 2.4% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq lost 3.4% for its biggest drop of the year.

That came after China's Finance Ministry announced duties of 5% to 25% on

about 5,200 American products, including batteries, spinach and coffee.

Trump said he still was considering whether to go ahead with penalties on the additional \$300 billion of Chinese goods. He told reporters, "I have not made that decision yet."

Trump warned Xi on Twitter that China "will be hurt very badly" if it doesn't agree to a trade deal. Trump wrote that Beijing "had a great deal, almost completed, & you backed out!"

The last round of negotiations ended Friday in Washington with no word of progress. Both governments indicated more talks are likely but set no date.

Trump said yesterday he would meet Xi during the Group of 20 meeting of major economies six weeks from now on June 28 and 29 in Osaka, Japan.

The time before then will be "highly volatile" for financial markets, said Macquarie Bank analysts in a report.

"Both sides have the in-

centive to act half-crazy and unpredictable before that in order to cut a better deal," they said.

The two governments have given themselves a few more days to make peace before their latest tariff hikes hit.

Chinese tariffs announced Monday don't take effect until June 1, 2 1/2 weeks from now. The U.S. increases apply to Chinese goods shipped starting Friday, which will take about three weeks to cross the Pacific and arrive at U.S. ports.

Tariff increases already in place have disrupted trade in American soybeans and Chinese medical equipment. That has sent shockwaves through other Asian economies that supply Chinese factories.

Beijing is running out of U.S. imports to penalize because of their lopsided trade balance. Chinese regulators have instead targeted American companies in China by slowing down the clearing of shipments through customs and the processing of business licenses. AP

# Auto sales fall 17.7% in April, extending slump

CHINA'S auto sales sank 17.7% in April from a year earlier, the 10th straight month of decline amid trade tension with Washington and an economic slowdown.

Drivers in the industry's biggest global market bought 1.6 million sedans, SUVs and minivans, according to an industry group, the China Association of Auto Manufacturers. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, fell 14.6% to 2 million.

Jittery consumers are less willing to make big purchases amid a tariff war with Washington and unease about China's economic outlook. Growth in the second-largest global economy held steady in the latest quarter but that was supported by government stimulus spending and higher bank lending.

The downturn is squeezing Chinese and global automakers that are pouring money into meeting government targets to develop electric vehicles.

Auto sales for the first four months of the year are off 14.7% from a year earlier at 6.8 million, according to CAAM.

Sales by Chinese brands in April plunged 27.9% from a year earlier to 585,000. Their market share contracted by 5.2 percentage points to 37.1%.

Purchases of electric and gasoline-electric hybrid SUVs and sedans rose



18.1% to 97,000. That was a bright spot for the industry but well below growth rates of as much as 100% in previous months.

Beijing has promoted electrics with billions of dollars in research grants and buyer subsidies. But subsidies are due to end next year and regulators are shifting the burden to automakers by imposing mandatory sales targets for electrics.

So automakers need to develop electrics that can compete with gasoline-powered vehicles.

Sales of SUVs fell 15.8%, CAAM said, without giving a total.

Last year's auto sales suffered their first decline in nearly three decades, falling 4.1% from 2017 to 23.7 million.

The downturn has prompted suggestions Beijing will cut sales taxes or offer other incentives. AP



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## PHILIPPINES

# Unofficial tally shows Duterte allies winning big in polls

Jim Gomez, Manila

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte's allies appeared to have overwhelming leads in elections for the Philippine Senate, one of the opposition's last bulwarks against a brash populist leader accused of massive human rights violations.

Preliminary results comprising 94 percent of returns from Monday's midterm elections showed at least eight candidates endorsed by Duterte were leading the races for 12 seats in the 24-member Senate. Official Commission on Election results are expected to be declared in about a week.

Those leading include Duterte's former national police chief Ronald dela Rosa, who enforced the president's crackdown on illegal drugs, a campaign that's left thousands of suspects dead and drawn international condemnation.

The vote is seen as a gauge of public support for Duterte, who is midway through the single six-year term Philippine presidents are allowed under the constitution. His deadly anti-drug crackdown, unorthodox leadership style, combative and sexist joke-laden outbursts, and contentious embrace of China have been the hallmarks of his presidency.

Duterte's three children were also expected to win the races for mayor, vice mayor and a congressional seat representing their southern home region of Davao city. The 74-year-old maverick leader first carved a reputation as an extra-tough mayor, who hunted drug addicts and



criminals on a Harley Davidson motorcycle and carried the nickname, Duterte Harry, after the gunslinging Clint Eastwood film character.

"Undoubtedly, the Duterte magic spelled the difference," presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a news conference.

"The overwhelming majority of the electorate have responded to the call of the president to support those whom he said would help pass laws supportive of his goal to uplift the masses of our people and give them comfortable lives."

Manila-based analyst Ronald Holmes, however, said that except for dela Rosa and Duterte's longtime aide, Bong Go, who entered politics for the first time without their own established bases of support, other leading administration senatorial contenders earned votes based on

their own political track records.

The flipside of Duterte's perceived endorsement strength was the weakness of the opposition ticket and its campaign, said Holmes, who heads Pulse Asia, an independent pollster that predicted the dominance of Duterte's senatorial bets.

## ■ Duterte's three children were also expected to win the races for mayor, vice mayor and a congressional seat

Another analyst, Richard Heydarian, said many Filipinos seem more open to authoritarianism due to failures of past liberal leaders from long-established political clans. Such a mindset has helped the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos make a political comeback, the latest through the senatorial bid of one of his daughters, Imee Marcos, who was endorsed by Duterte and whose vote tally in the unofficial results indicated a victory.

Duterte, who has shown little tolerance for critics specially those who question his anti-drug campaign, aimed for stronger leverage in the traditionally more independent Senate to bolster his legislative agenda.

That includes the return of the death penalty, lowering the age for criminal liability below the current 15 years old, 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.

Last year, opposition senators moved to block proposed bills they feared would undermine civil liberties.

The handful of incumbent opposition senators whose seats were not up for election could potentially get backing from leading independent aspirants to veto Duterte's emerging majority in the upper chamber. At least seven senators are needed to block any proposal by Duterte's camp to revise the country's constitution, which was passed with anti-dictatorial safeguards in 1987, a year after Marcos was ousted by an army-backed "people power" revolt.

"While we expect dissent to continue, we hope that that same be demonstrated with fairness and within the bounds of the law, as well as with deference to the leaders duly chosen by the electorate," Panelo said.

Aside from the drug killings, Duterte's gutter language and what nationalists say is a policy of appeasement toward China that may undermine Philippine territorial claims in the South China Sea have also been the cause of protests and criticism.

Opposition aspirants consider the Senate the last bastion of checks and balances given the solid dominance of Duterte's loyalists in the lower House of Representatives.

Voters in Monday's elections made their choices for 18,000 congressional and local posts, including 81 governors, 1,634 mayors and more than 13,500 city and town councilors in 81 provinces. The elections were relatively untroubled, despite pockets of violence in southern Mindanao region, which is under martial law as government forces hunt down Islamic State group-linked militants and communist insurgents. **AP**

**T**HE leaders of both of Australia's major political parties agreed yesterday that gays don't go to hell because of their sexual orientation, as Christian beliefs rose to extraordinary prominence in the final days of an election campaign.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison opposed gay marriage while opposition leader Bill Shorten argued for marriage equality ahead of a national vote in 2017 that led to Australia legally recognizing same-sex unions.

Morrison, a Pentecostal Christian, accused Shorten, a Catholic before converting to his second wife's Anglican faith, of a "desperate,

## AUSTRALIA

# Political leaders agree gays don't go to hell

cheap shot" ahead of elections on Saturday by challenging the prime minister to say whether he believed gays went to hell.

Morrison said he did not believe gays went to hell, after failing to directly answer the same question from a journalist a day earlier.

"I'm not running for pope, I'm running for prime minister," Morrison told reporters. "So ... theological questions, you can leave at the door."

Australian political leaders' religious views

are rarely raised in election campaigns, which have long been regarded as a strictly secular argument over who should govern.

But nine prominent Christian church leaders wrote to both leaders this week demanding protections for religious beliefs and freedom of speech after Australian rugby union team star Israel Folau, the son of a Pentecostal preacher, was found guilty by the sport's administration last week of breaching the sport's code of conduct when

he using social media to say gays were doomed to hell.

While Morrison is a centrist, his opposition to gay marriage was out of step with the 62% of voters who supported gay marriage.

Shorten attacked Morrison for failing to address the theological fate of homosexuals when questioned on Monday.

"I cannot believe that the prime minister has not immediately said that gay people will not go to hell," he told reporters. **AP**



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his wife Jenny walk along the Cam River at Somerset

A United Nations fact-finding mission urged Tuesday that countries cut off all business with Myanmar's military as part of efforts to hold the army accountable for human rights abuses.

The independent investigators, working under a mandate from the U.N. Human Rights Council, said in a statement that there has been no progress toward resolving the crisis over Myanmar's mostly Muslim Rohingya minority, more than 1 million of whom have fled military "clearance operations" in the northwest Rakhine region.

"The situation is at a total standstill," said Marzuki Darusman, chairman of the Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar.

Myanmar authorities have razed deserted Rohingya villages and members of the minority remaining in the country live in displacement camps and in fear of further military reprisals.

"Due to the gravity of the past and continuing violations, attention must be given to the political, economic and financial ties of the Myanmar military — to identify who and what should be targeted so we can cut off the money supply as a means of increasing the pressure and reducing the violence," Christopher Sidoti, a member of the mission, said in the statement.

The mission found that the military has committed atrocities

MYANMAR

# UN mission urges financial isolation of military

ties against many ethnic groups living within Myanmar. It also faulted armed ethnic groups for committing human rights abuses.

## ■ The mission found that the military committed atrocities against many ethnic groups living within Myanmar

Myanmar denies allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine, saying its security forces have not targeted civilians and have taken action only in response to attacks by Rohingya militants.

U.N. officials and others have likened the actions to ethnic cleansing, or even genocide.



Rohingya refugees look out from their camp near a fence during a government-organized media tour to a no-man's land between Myanmar and Bangladesh

The Fact-Finding Mission is to hand its findings to a new group of the Human Right Council, the Independent Investigative Mechanism on Myanmar, in September. That organization was set up to handle criminal prosecution of violations of international law.

The crisis in Rakhine has soured Myanmar's relations with the United States, which had rolled back economic sanctions over

the past decade to support political change in the country as it transitioned toward democracy.

The U.S. Treasury has imposed sanctions on Myanmar security forces and Washington has barred Myanmar military officials involved in the Rakhine operations from U.S. assistance.

Britain has also cut some support. The U.N. and independent rights advocates want governments to do more to hold the

military accountable.

No major Western powers make sales or provide aid directly to Myanmar's military. But the military has holding companies in several major civilian economic sectors, and in some cases, Western countries allow business to be done with companies in which the army holds a stake, contributing to its revenues.

Any effort to stop the flow of money to the country's military is likely to fall short because of Myanmar's close relationship with China, which maintains no sanctions and as its top trade partner accounts for about one-third of all imports and exports, in addition to being a leading investor.

China is also by far the top supplier of arms to Myanmar, according to statistics published by the Swedish International Peace Research Institute. Russia and Belarus, also without sanctions against Myanmar, were the second and third biggest suppliers of arms from 2014 to 2018, according to the institute. AP

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## ALASKA

# NTSB to investigate after deadly midair collision

Rachel D'oro  
& Mark Thiessen, Anchorage

A team of federal accident investigators is expected to arrive in Alaska today to try to piece together what caused a deadly midair collision between two sightseeing planes.

Four people were killed after the floatplanes carrying cruise ship tourists collided yesterday [local time] near the southeast Alaska town of Ketchikan, the Coast Guard said. Two others were missing, said Petty Officer Jon-Paul Rios, a Coast Guard spokesman.

The Washington, D.C.-based investigative team from the National Transportation Safety Board is expected to arrive

in Ketchikan today, agency spokesman Peter Knudson said. He said board member Jennifer Homendy also is traveling with the so-called "Go Team," which investigates major accidents.

The floatplanes collided under unknown circumstances, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said in an email to The Associated Press. Floatplanes have pontoons mounted under the fuselage so they can land on water.

The passengers were from the cruise ship Royal Princess and were on sightseeing flights, one of which was operated by flightseeing company Taquan Air.

Eleven people were inside Taquan's single-engine de Havilland Otter DHC-3 when it

went down as it returned from Misty Fjords National Monument, which is part of the Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest. Ten people were taken to a Ketchikan hospital.

All patients were in fair or good condition, according to Marty West, a spokeswoman for PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center.

Three people who died were among five people aboard the second plane, a single-engine de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver, according to Coast Guard Lt. Brian Dykens. It's unclear which plane carried the fourth victim, whose body was recovered during a search, Rios said.

Local emergency responders worked with state and federal

agencies and good Samaritan vessels to help rescue and recover victims.

"It's been a long day and the crews have been working really hard to rescue people and recover the deceased," Deanna Thomas, a spokeswoman for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the local government, said Monday evening.

A spokeswoman for Taquan Air, operator of the Otter, said the company had suspended operations while federal authorities investigate the deadly crash.

"We are devastated by [yesterday's] incident and our hearts go out to our passengers and their families," Taquan said in a statement.

Cindy Cicchetti, a passenger on the Royal Princess cruise ship told the AP that the ship captain announced that two planes were in an accident yesterday. She said the ship is not leaving as scheduled and there weren't any details as to how the accident will affect the rest of the trip.

The ship left Vancouver, British Columbia, on May 11 and is scheduled to arrive in Anchorage on Saturday.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their lives and the families of those impacted by today's accident. Princess Cruises is extending its full support to traveling companions of the guests involved," Princess Cruises said in a statement.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

Weather conditions in the area included high overcast skies with 9 mph southeast winds.

It's not the first time a major plane crash has occurred near Ketchikan, a popular tourist destination.

In June 2015, a pilot and eight passengers died when a de Havilland DHC-3 Otter operated by Promech Air Inc. crashed into mountainous terrain about 24 miles from Ketchikan. The NTSB later determined that pilot error and lack of a formal safety program were behind the crash. **AP**

AD



## MAKE-UP

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# Poland vows firm penalties for sex abuse amid church crisis

**P**OLAND'S prime minister yesterday vowed tougher punishments for those who sexually abuse minors after a new film spurred the country into grappling with the problem of abuse by priests.

The documentary "Tell No One" has triggered soul searching in the deeply Catholic country since it was released on Saturday on YouTube.

It contains harrowing testimony by men and women of being molested and raped as young children and teenagers by priests, trauma that ruined their childhoods. One attempted suicide, another became anorexic. A 39-year-old woman who was abused at the age of 7 describes having nightmares to this day and confronts her abuser, now an elderly man, who is captured with a hidden camera admitted his wrongdoing.

Shock over the allegations of



the abuse and cover-up are a challenge to Poland's right-wing government, which is close to the Roman Catholic church. Only recently the head of the ruling party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, spoke of an "attack" on the church over previous efforts to take on the church for its culture of secrecy and impunity.

The party, Law and Justice, has also been seeking to present the LGBT rights movement as a threat to young people.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki held a news conference in Warsaw with Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro to announce that the government has prepared legislation to more severely punish the abuse of minors.

Under the new legislation, which must still be approved by the parliament, the maximum sentence for such abuse will rise from 25 to 30 years.

"Every degenerate, disgusting, cruel, bestial crime, especially pedophilia, will be

even more stigmatized than it is now," Morawiecki told reporters.

In other fallout from the film, church authorities covered up a statue of the late Pope John Paul II and a priest who according to the documentary allegedly committed abuse.

The statue in Lichen, a town in central Poland, depicts the Rev. Eugeniusz Makulski on his knees holding a model of a church that he had built, presenting it to John Paul.

After the film's release, his Marian order issued a statement saying Makulski has been relieved of performing any pastoral activities and evidence of wrongdoing had been sent to the Vatican.

"The suffering of victims of pedophilia committed by the people of the Church fills us with deep pain. Nothing can compensate them for this harm," the order said in a statement. **AP**

# Kremlin: Arms control, Iran on agenda at meeting with Pompeo

**U**.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday arrived in Russia for talks that are expected to focus on an array of issues including arms control and Iran.

Pompeo landed in the Black Sea resort of Sochi for his first visit to Russia at a time relations between the two countries are at a post-Cold War low.

Pompeo will be sitting down for talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov before he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Pompeo said in a tweet before setting off for Russia that Moscow and Washington agree on some issues and disagree on others but added that it is "our responsibility to find a way forward."

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters on that he expects the meeting to focus on arms control, Iran, Syria, Venezuela and North Korea's nuclear program.

Before hosting Pompeo, Putin is expected to visit a military facility in the south that manufactures some of Russia's most modern fighter jets. Asked whether it was deliberately timed to coincide with Pompeo's visit, Peskov argued this was a routine visit and not a "message" to anyone.

On Monday, Putin toured another military aviation factory and chaired a meeting on the military industrial complex. **AP**

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## what's ON



## MIXING THIS MATCHING THAT

TIME: 9am-10pm

UNTIL: June 2, 2019

VENUE: Team Building, IFT Main Campus

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

STROLLING AND FEELING: WATERCOLOUR  
PAINTINGS OF LAI IENGTIME: 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 IITIME: 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-ITIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm,  
closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

## Offbeat

'DESPERATE' HUFFMAN PLEADS  
GUILTY IN COLLEGE SCHEME

Actress Felicity Huffman arrives with her brother Moore Huffman Jr., at federal court in Boston

"Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman has pleaded guilty to participating in the college admissions cheating scheme.

The 56-year-old actress entered the plea yesterday [Macau time] to a charge of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud.

Huffman stood with her hands clasped in front of her and responded, "Yes, your honor," when asked whether she understood the charges. Her brother watched from the front row. Her husband, actor William H. Macy, didn't attend.

Sentencing is set for Sept. 13. Prosecutors said they would recommend four months in prison.

She was arrested in March along with dozens of other prominent parents, athletic coaches and others implicated in the scandal. She was charged with paying \$15,000 to have a proctor boost her older daughter's SAT score.

## 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 Millionario
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



## CINETEATRO

09 - 15 May



## 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

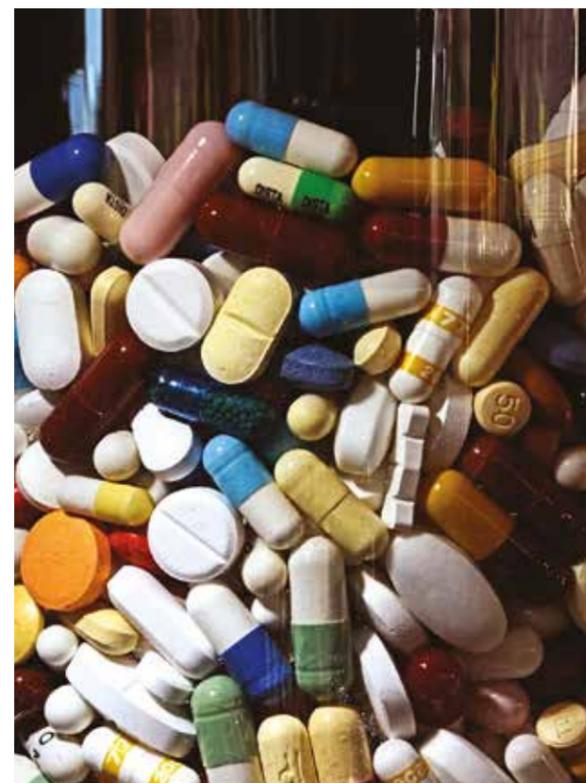
Director: Chris Addison

Starring: Anne Hathaway, Rebel Wilson, Tim Blake Nelson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 94min

## this day in history

2001 UK SUPERMARKETS SLASH  
PRICE OF DRUGS

British consumers are already reaping the benefits of cheaper over-the-counter medicine after a court ruling today put an end to the drug industry's price-fixing policy.

The major supermarkets are cutting the price of popular brands by over a half.

Tesco supermarket chain has said it will slash up to 40% from the price of some medicines from Wednesday, including painkillers Calpol and Nurofen. Asda and Sainsbury have also announced similar cuts.

Last October, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) challenged the so-called resale price maintenance (RPM) in the Restrictive Practices Court arguing that it allowed drug companies to keep the price of branded over-the-counter products artificially high.

John Vickers, director general of the OFT, was delighted by the outcome. "This is excellent news for consumers who will now benefit from lower and more competitive prices for common household medicines," he said.

The Community Pharmacy Action Group (CPAG) had campaigned to keep RPM, claiming its abolition would lead to the closure of 12,000 local pharmacies forced out of business if the supermarkets launch a price-cutting war.

But the court found there was insufficient evidence that a significant number of pharmacies would be shut and ruled RPM was against the public interest.

The news has been condemned as a "devastating blow" to Britain's pharmacies by CPAG's chairman and community chemist, David Sharpe.

"Many pharmacists will simply not be able to survive given the buying power and aggressive pricing tactics of the supermarkets," Mr Sharpe said.

A spokesman for Boots said he was "disappointed" with the court's decision and estimated the move will knock £15m off full year profits. Shares in Boots, the biggest chain of pharmacies in the UK, fell 4.5% on the news.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A month later, the Chancellor Gordon Brown said the Labour government would crack down hard on any attempts at price-fixing as part of its policy to encourage competition and do away with what Trade and Industry Secretary Stephen Byers had called "rip-off Britain".

In March 2000 Mr Byers had increased the powers of the OFT and created the Competition Commission from the old Monopolies and Mergers Commission charged with investigating anti-competitive practices.

As a result of a medicines price war with the supermarkets, Boots spent £170m on revamping its health and beauty ranges and cut costs by selling off the Halfords car accessory chain in June 2002.

In November 2001, the European Union imposed record fines on eight drug companies for fixing the price of vitamins.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Cell phones, emails - they're old hat by now. But that doesn't mean you should forget to think before you speak. Things could change in the time it takes you to say what you wish you could take back.

Taurus April 20-May 20 The temptation of a single purchase has your thoughts racing. Is it really as exciting as all that? Best to put off any decisions around finances, at least until you have a chance to catch up with yourself.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Cross discussion is always risky. You're either flirting with disaster, or tempting the next big idea. Here's a simple rule of thumb: don't be the one to initiate it, but do jump right in once it starts.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're not the only one caught up in internal chatter. If everyone misses the point, who's going to be the voice of authority, let alone reason? Pay attention, even when others aren't.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Just like in college, life is one lecture after another. Or is it one party after another? It's a bit of both, today. Those all-or-nothing days are long gone, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the office fraternity.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The sun will be shining, the birds singing - or clouds will be forming and lightening cracking. It's a toss up. Even doing your best doesn't guarantee the outcome, but do it anyway.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Talking with coworkers is part of office life, but the last thing you should be doing is sharing your innermost self. When you get the urge, stop yourself, unless you've mastered putting the toothpaste back in the tube.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 When you assume you make a you-know-what-of-you-and-well-you. You know just where the unusual minor detail is always hidden - in the fine print. Read it, today, even if it means using a magnifying glass.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You've been working in overdrive for a while, now. If you're all talk and no action, it may be because you're exhausted! Wouldn't it be so much easier to simply sleep at night, instead of working all the time?

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to clarify your thoughts. Make a list of the major issues and go from there. Be as Zen as possible about it, today, and block out all the extra, mindless chatter.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Loving your work is all well and good, but you're going overboard. If you feel like you're carrying on a sizzling affair every day simply because of a certain project, it's time to enjoy it, a little.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Only act from a position of strength. If you're feeling overwhelmed, it's the wrong time to make your move. Be vague, prevaricate, do whatever it takes to put off any further action.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Letters, e.g.; 5- Ginger cookies; 10- Indonesian holiday resort; 14- extra cost; 15- Reef buildup; 16- AAA recommendations; 17- Rooter; 18- Oldsmobile model; 19- Tabloid couple; 20- Unsuitable; 23- Japanese computer giant; 24- Zeno's home; 25- Previous to; 29- Maestro Toscanini; 31- Write; 32- Promise; 33- Do more than duty requires; 37- Gaming cubes; 40- "Silent" prez; 41- Some are pale; 42- Heedlessness; 47- Orch. section; 48- de Cologne; 49- Rubs out; 53- Metallic element; 55- Jacob's twin; 57- Parisian article; 58- Permanent; 61- Actress Lollobrigida; 64- Actress Graff; 65- Love letters; 66- Mediterranean port; 67- Dratl!; 68- Shoestring; 69- Jason's ship; 70- Reach; 71- Watchful one; DOWN: 1- Boat basin; 2- Yom Kippur observer; 3- Whole; 4- Stunt plane maneuver; 5- Bivalve mollusk; 6- I swear!; 7- Betel palm; 8- Chute opener?; 9- Drool; 10- Lasting a short time; 11- Court fig.; 12- Levi's rival; 13- Doctrine; 21- Andean country; 22- Letterman rival; 26- Racetrack shape; 27- Learning method; 28- Farm females; 30- Played for a sucker; 31- Soccer great; 34- Hosiery hue; 35- Stool pigeon; 36- Earth goddess; 37- Kind of jockey; 38- Avid about; 39- Complain; 43- Zig or zag; 44- Jewelry typically worn by women; 45- Most proximate; 46- Leg unit between tarsus and femur; 50- Underground electric railroad; 51- Intertwine; 52- One on a quest; 54- Device with 88 keys; 55- Tennis champ Chris; 56- Actress Berger; 59- Robt. \_\_\_; 60- Part of an archipelago; 61- \_\_\_ long way; 62- Discount rack abbr.; 63- Badger;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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FOR RENT: THE MANHATTAN. 1,366 ft² 3 B 2 L \$24,800/mth

FOR SALE: [Taipa] The Buckingham 2 B 2 L 1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)

FOR RENT: [Macau] Macau CBD Office 1,813 ft² \$21,000/mth (ref: 19010699)

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# Gymnastics: Local technical level continues to evolve



Head judge Fernando Sena Santos (second from left), and the other three judges



The annual event of the Trampoline Gymnastics Competition, organized by the Trampoline and Acrobatic Sports Association of Macau (ATDAM), with the support of The International School of Macao, was held last Saturday. The event saw the participation of a total of 70 gymnasts representing three clubs or schools: the Gymnastics Club Macau (GCB), the Macau Portuguese School (EPM) and the Macau Anglican College. The ATDAM is the only local entity promoting the sport of Trampoline Gymnastics. As on previous occasions, the competition was split into two sections, morning and afternoon, with the first session dedicated to the Tumbling competition and the second to the Mini-trampoline competition. The GCB was the club or school that stood out, achieving gold at all levels (both Individually and Teams) at the Tumbling and Mini-trampoline, in both female and male sections. The only exception to the supremacy of the GCB was imposed by the EPM on the 9-10-year-old Tumbling competition where the school won both individual and team competitions. Despite the supremacy displayed by the GCB, the ATDAM representative told the Times that the competition was very well contested, which shows that the technical level of trampoline gymnastics in Macau continues to evolve in a very positive way. As on previous occasions, the competitions were evaluated by a panel of four judges from the Gymnastics Association of Hong Kong, headed by International Judge Fernando Sena Santos, who is the local association president. In previous years, the competition also counted the participation of several clubs or schools from the neighboring region of Hong Kong, something that was not possible this year. The president of ATDAM told the Times, "The agenda is always a very complex matter to manage. To find a weekend where everyone could join is [virtually] impossible." He further noted, "In Hong Kong there will be a competition this weekend and coming to Macau would complicate the preparation of the gymnasts for that important competition as, [in Hong Kong] they mostly practice different categories within the sport." RM



## NBA

# Brown's hot seat actually quite cool as 76ers stand pat

Dan Gelston, Philadelphia

**J**OSH Harris is a billionaire and he if he wants to shuttle between New York and the Philadelphia 76ers headquarters in New Jersey on a helicopter, the team owner can do it with ease. If Harris wants to pay USD45 million for his luxury home, he can spend pocket change on a new pad, too. And he if he really wanted to silence speculation that Brett Brown was coaching for his Sixers career during the playoffs, well, all Harris had to say was that he had his guy.

Harris instead settled for a milquetoast endorsement before the Brooklyn series, saying Brown was a "great coach" but offering no assurance he would return for another season if the Sixers failed to make a deep run in the playoffs.

"We think he's the right leader to take us where we need to go in the playoffs," Harris said. "I'm focused on the Brooklyn Nets."

Harris let Brown twist through the Brooklyn and Toronto series, the sixth-year coach's fate seemingly hinging on the outcome of four bounces of Kawhi Leonard's jumper that finally plopped through the net at the Game 7 horn, ushering the Sixers into the offseason.

So, would Brown return?

It turned out Brown's hot seat was actually as cool as the hockey ice under the hardwood at



Philadelphia 76ers general manager Elton Brand (left) and club owner Josh Harris

Wells Fargo Center.

"Brett's job was never in jeopardy," Harris said yesterday in Camden, New Jersey.

Oh.

The sourced reports, tweets, whispers, and bold headlines that Brown would not survive turned out to have all the accuracy of a Ben Simmons jumper.

And if Harris is to be taken at his word, Brown's fate was never in doubt.

"Brett knew through the Toronto series that his job was not in jeopardy," Harris said.

Brown, 178-314 (.362) in six seasons, said he knew from multiple conversations with Harris

that his job was safe no matter if the season ended in the second round or a championship parade.

Harris and Brown both said it wouldn't have been fair to respond to each report about the future when the focus was firmly on the postseason. But had Harris simply said what he said a month ago, the reports would have all but vanished. Of course, maybe the Sixers didn't feel it was necessary before the Brooklyn series to squelch unfounded rumors.

"Once the playoffs ended, it made sense to put it all to rest and move on," Harris said.

Brown held exit interviews with the entire roster Monday before he headed to New York for dinner with the ownership group and general manager Elton Brand. The Sixers players then mostly had to defend Brown at the season-ending session with reporters, with All-Star center Joel Embiid using an expletive to answer a question on whether his coach was on the way out. Again, questions that wouldn't have been wasted had a decision on Brown been announced. The Sixers used a late-night news dump to say Brown — who led the Sixers from the painful undertaking of the Process to consecutive 50-win seasons —

would be retained for another season. Brown had agreed last year to a three-year contract extension through the 2021-22 season.

"We have everything that we need to move this program forward," Brown said.

The Sixers are willing to give Brown everything he needs to keep the Sixers in the hunt for their first NBA championship since 1983. The Sixers surrendered key assets in two trades this season for Jimmy Butler and Tobias Harris that signaled they were all-in for a championship. Butler and Harris are free agents who can command max contracts on the open market — money the Sixers have and are willing to spend.

"We're committed to do what it takes to bring a championship to Philly, including spending into the luxury tax," Harris said.

Embiid, Simmons, Butler and Harris are an All-Star caliber lineup that should easily keep the Sixers at the 50-win threshold. But Simmons and Embiid both have major holes in their game that could keep the Sixers from becoming a true championship contender. Embiid can't stay healthy — and the Sixers failed to field a reliable backup when he's out of the lineup — and Simmons can't make a basic 15-footer (much less a 3-pointer).

Brand starts his first summer as GM after he was thrust into the position in the wake of the Bryan Colangelo Twitter fiasco.

"I look forward to being the GM for the first time in free agency to address certain needs like a backup center or depth or certain pieces that need to be in place," Brand said. "Last year, I wasn't afforded that opportunity. I had a voice in it, and I didn't speak up loud enough I guess." **AP**

## TENNIS

# Crafty Kyrgios leaves Medvedev slamming his racket

Andrew Dampf, Rome

**N**ICK Kyrgios took full advantage of his crafty game to eliminate Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the first round of the Italian Open yesterday.

For his first win on clay this year, Kyrgios was full of smiles as he fired aces and passing shots seemingly at will.

Kyrgios set the tone by serving underhand to start the match, catching Medvedev off guard. There were also a bevy of drop shots and even a successful through-the-legs effort.

"I was trying to throw him off his game because I knew he loves rhythm. He's a great player," Kyrgios



Nick Kyrgios of Australia

gios said. "Today was a lot of fun. I thought the crowd was a lot of fun. It's very important to go out there and put on a bit of a show."

Medvedev played bet-

ter after getting his lower back massaged after the first set but had no answer for Kyrgios' wide array of shots in the third, prompting the frustrated Russian to break his racket by

slamming it on the dirt.

Kyrgios won the final game at love by serving four straight aces. He had 15 aces in all.

Meanwhile, Serena Williams withdrew ahead of her second-round match against sister Venus because of a previously injured left knee.

Also, Joao Sousa saved four match points before beating Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4) to set up a meeting with Roger Federer, who made a late decision to play in Rome because he wants more matches.

Italian wild and Rome resident Matteo Berrettini reached the third round by upsetting 2017 Rome champion Alexander Zve-

rev 7-5, 7-5 amid a raucous soccer-like atmosphere on Campo Centrale; while David Goffin rallied past Stan Wawrinka 4-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Others advancing included Karen Khachanov, Marin Cilic, American qualifier Taylor Fritz, Radu Albot, Jeremy Chardy and Diego Schwartzman.

Former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki retired due to a left leg injury after losing a first-set tiebreaker to American opponent Danielle Collins.

Wozniacki took a medical timeout when trailing 5-2 to get treatment then came back to force the tiebreaker but she quickly retired after losing the set.

Wozniacki also retired from her opening match at the Madrid Open last week.

The 30th-ranked Collins notched her fourth victory over a top-20 player this season, with the other three coming during her breakthrough semifinal run at the Australian Open.

"I'm comfortable on this surface, and making improvements within my game, and doing a little bit better than I did last year," Collins said.

French qualifier Alize Cornet beat Aryna Sabalenka 6-1, 6-4.

Ashleigh Barty, Maria Sakkari, Carla Suarez Navarro and Kristina Mladenovic also advanced. **AP**

opinion

**World Views**

Daniel Moss, Bloomberg

**GROUND ZERO FOR THE US-CHINA RIVALRY**

The impasse in trade talks between the world's two largest economies has roiled markets and spurred all sorts of dire predictions, from increasing the odds of a recession to an economic cold war. Less attention has been devoted to what won't change in Asia.

Even before levies on some Chinese goods rose to 25% from 10%, the broad contours of economic competition between Beijing and Washington were set. China's footprint is expanding throughout Asia, regardless of the region's historical allegiances with the U.S. Chinese money is everywhere.

Despite this, the U.S. has a trump card: the power of the dollar; its use a benchmark for the relative value of Asian currencies; and the enormous clout the Federal Reserve is able to exercise in global monetary conditions. The People's Bank of China isn't even close to approaching that, let alone overhauling it.

These competing spheres of influence were on display during a visit to Manila last week. A former American colony and Cold War client, the Philippines had long been in America's orbit, not just strategically but culturally and economically. Now, there's a distinct tack toward China, according to executives and officials I met with.

Evidence of Chinese investment is showing up in all corners of the Philippines' economy, including fintech, mobile, tourism, gaming and real estate. The country's archipelago with its 107 million people is underbanked in terms of bricks and mortar, making it a playground for financial innovation. Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. has teamed up with Globe Telecom Inc., the country's largest phone company, on a fintech venture. Tencent Holdings Ltd., together with KKR & Co., poured money into a project with PLDT Inc., Globe's domestic rival. China Telecom Corp. was part of a consortium that was awarded the Philippines' third telecom license late last year.

Meanwhile, Chinese tourists are reshaping the leisure scene. Their arrivals surged last quarter, making China the second-biggest source of travelers after South Korea. The U.S. was third. Lured by myriad offshore gambling companies — known as Pogos — that cater to the Chinese, downtown Manila has drawn tens of thousands of mainland migrants. These new residents are snapping up apartments and driving real-estate development in the already bursting capital.

This pattern is driven by China's growing wealth, technological prowess, gross domestic product and proximity. While the U.S. is powerful in Asia, its center of influence is distant.

But that hasn't changed the status of the dollar and the clout of the Federal Reserve. The Philippine central bank, one of the most aggressive in hiking last year, delivered on a foreshadowed interest-rate cut last week. The reason for its moves both directions? The Fed.

"The world is dollarized," Governor Benjamin Diokno told me in his office after announcing a quarter-point cut in the main rate to 4.5%. "They were on a normalization path and all of a sudden they stopped," he said referring to the American central bank.

Emerging markets tend to struggle when the Fed lifts borrowing costs, as it did through 2017 and 2018. The central bank's abrupt dovish tilt, dating to January, has given other central banks in the region room to maneuver. "The strength of the U.S. economy is in affecting financial flows," Diokno explained. Until China's financial markets truly open and the yuan becomes an international currency, it'll be tough for Beijing to replicate that.

Not that China isn't doing great things. Diokno urged me to visit Clark, site of a former U.S. air base, which is now being developed into an industrial park with the help of Chinese companies. This is happening under the auspices of President Rodrigo Duterte's "Build, Build, Build" campaign, and echoes with President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative to bolster development — and strategic links.

Beijing is on the hunt in the U.S.'s onetime Pacific backyard. But is it game, set and match for China? Hardly. Its sway will keep growing, regardless of trade wars.

Tariffs, undesirable as they are, didn't create the current trend and won't undo it.

**THE BUZZ** **DIPLOMATS VISIT CANADIAN THINK TANK EXPERT IN CHINA CUSTODY**

Diplomats have visited a Canadian think tank expert whose detention in China is believed to be an attempt to pressure Canada to release Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou.

Canadian consular officials visited with Michael Kovrig, the country's diplomatic service said in an emailed message. No details were given in keeping with privacy rules.

Chinese official media have accused Kovrig, a former diplomat and Asia expert at the International Crisis Group, of acting with Canadian bu-

sinessman Michael Spavor to steal state secrets.

Both were arrested on Dec. 10 after Meng was arrested in Vancouver on Dec. 1 at the request of U.S. authorities who want her extradited to face fraud charges.

In its statement, Global Affairs Canada said it was concerned about the men's "arbitrary" detentions and called for their immediate release.

Meng is accused of lying to banks about the company's dealings with Iran in violation of U.S. trade sanctions.

4 QUESTIONS TO... JORGE MENEZES

**'This sentence turns the whole purpose of the law upside down'**



Paulo Coutinho

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – The Court of First Instance yesterday found Scott Chiang guilty as charged but reduced the fine penalty. How do you read this?**

**Jorge Menezes (JM) -** The court found Scott Chiang guilty again. The penalty was slightly reduced, but that was not a judgment about his alleged guilt, but a consequence of his family situation. Therefore, it is not significant. What is of relevance is the fact that, in a region that should follow

the constitutional principle of the rule of law, someone was found guilty of a criminal offence for exercising a fundamental right for [the] purposes of protecting the public interest. This turns the whole purpose of the law upside down. One wonders whether fundamental rights are becoming fundamental obligations...

**MDT - You have appealed to TSI against the one-session re-trial, why? In which terms?**

**JM -** We lodged an appeal against the decision not to

allow a real trial. The Court of Second Instance determined that the defence for one type of crime does not count as defence for another type of crime and, therefore, it clarified, that the defence could make "any request as ... it wishes to make". The lower court, however, denied such a right, including the right to submit evidence and discuss matters of fact. Even barring the defendant from his right to be deposed in trial. It was not a trial in its legal sense, but a hearing between lawyer, prosecutor and judge.

**MDT – Are you going to appeal the sentence as well?**

**JM -** Yes, Scott Chiang confirmed that we are going to appeal, so we will appeal against the sentence. It is important for Chiang and it is important for the integrity of the legal system and the rule of law.

**MDT – So, two separate appeals?**

**JM –** Yes. Hence, the Court of Second Instance will be called to decide on two appeals, one centred on procedural rights of fair trial, the other on more substantive issues of justice and legality.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



Extradition law. Pro-Beijing lawmakers are surrounded by reporters and photographers during a controversial amendments meeting at Legislative Council in Hong Kong yesterday.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**GERMANY** The European Union's top court ruled yesterday that EU countries must make employers set up a system to measure the time worked every day by each worker to ensure that labor laws are complied with.



**GERMANY** Google opened a privacy focused engineering center in Munich yesterday - its latest move to beef up its data protection credentials as tech companies' face growing scrutiny of their data collection practices.



**USA** Spyware crafted by a sophisticated group of hackers-for-hire took advantage of a flaw in the popular WhatsApp communications program to remotely hijack dozens of phones, the company said yesterday.



**USA** Attorney General William Barr has appointed a U.S. attorney to examine the origins of the Russia investigation and determine if intelligence collection involving the Trump campaign was "lawful and appropriate," according to a person familiar with the issue.

**ALASKA** A team of federal accident investigators is expected to arrive in Alaska today to try to piece together what caused a deadly midair collision between two sightseeing planes.

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