



SURPRISE? LAU DROPS EXTRADITION BILL LAWSUIT
 Convicted by Macau courts, tycoon Joseph Lau dropped legal action against Hong Kong's controversial extradition bill

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ALEXIS TAM SEES VISITOR CAPACITY AS CHALLENGE
 Secretary Alexis Tam acknowledged that the continuous surge in visitor arrivals is posing a challenge for the city

P4 TOURISM



TOURISTS UBER DISSATISFIED WITH TAXIS

P5 UM STUDY



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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Fighting to maintain its access to major markets for next-generation communications, Chinese tech giant Huawei is challenging the constitutionality of a U.S. law that limits its sales of telecom equipment. [More on p11](#)

CHINA Veteran Chinese dissident Wang Dan urged Western nations to restore the link between human rights and trade with China in a speech yesterday just days ahead of the 30th anniversary of the 1989 crackdown on student pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square. [More on p10](#)

NEPAL commemorated the anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest yesterday amid a climbing season marred by the highest death toll in four years and a debate on whether the government should limit permits to prevent dangerous overcrowding on the world's highest peak.



INDIA's finance minister, who carried out Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic initiatives including tax and welfare reforms, has decided not to join Modi's new government to be sworn in today, citing health reasons.

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AP PHOTO

IFJ URGES MACAU TO HOLD BILL

Civil Protection Law a 'threat to press freedom'

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PJ HOLDS 'SERIOUS CRIME' DRILL

How to combat terror, gangs

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RENATO MARQUES



Areia Preta to build new solid waste collection facilities

THE government has planned to rebuild the automatic solid waste collection system in Areia Preta, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário told lawmakers at the Legislative Assembly (AL) earlier this week.

Due to a malfunction, the waste collection facility has been abandoned since October 2018.

The issue was raised by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, who requested that the SAR government explain its plan for Macau's automatic trash collection systems, which have been experimentally operated for 10 years.

In response to Ho, Rosário explained that the Areia Preta solid waste collection system had been in use for more than 10 years, and that "the whole system cannot be saved, a new one needs to be made."

According to Ho, the system was built at a cost of MOP120 million, and was originally estimated to have a 25-year service life span.

The secretary replied that he was unaware of the 25-year life



Raimundo Arrais do Rosário

span, and acknowledged that the system's damage was related to improper use by residents, such as throwing out garbage which should not have been left in the trash collector.

Rosário also showed no hesitation in predicting that similar problems would occur with future trash collection facilities.

In addition, the government

plans to install a pipeline garbage collection system in New Urban Zone area A. The pipe will be able to be barred into buildings' garbage rooms.

The government is open to conducting research to install the same system in other regions.

Lawmaker Agnes Lam proposed the government levy an environmental protection tax.

Rosário said that the government plans to start charging fees, first to landfill parties, before the policy is implemented in other sectors.

Rosário also remarked that Macau produces lots of trash on a daily basis and that the volume of waste per capita has not decreased. This is due to the fact that Macau hosts over 30 million tourists

each year, with part of the trash volume being produced by non-local workers and the large number of tourists.

In addition, the government will launch subsidy programs to help restaurants install waste disposal machines.

Meanwhile, Rosário claimed he would, if necessary, reduce the number of parking spaces on the streets. He believes that the low usage of public parking lots is related to residents' habits, not fares.

The secretary claimed he would consider expanding pedestrian routes, increasing traffic lanes and greening the environment near public parking lots.

In response to critics accusing the government of decreasing the number of parking spaces on roads, Rosário said that it is necessary to balance the benefits of the various stakeholders on public roads.

Agnes Lam said that Macau's roads cannot take more than 210,000 parked vehicles. According to the Transport Bureau, there are currently more than 231,700 parking spaces in Macau, plus 16 km of open parking sections at night, 138,000 private cars and 75,000 motorcycles.

DSAT Director Lam Hin San believes that the number of parking spaces is sufficient. **JZ**

VOLLEYBALL

China defeats Belgium 3-0 in second game

THE FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League Macao 2019 ushered in its second day of competition yesterday, with the Chinese women's volleyball team defeating Belgium 3-0 (25-16, 25-20, 25-14).

Gong Xiangyu, Zhang Changning and Li Yingying snatched high points to empower China to beat Belgium. The coach of the Chinese national team, Lang Ping, also sent young players to join the final round.

Earlier in the day, Thailand defeated South Korea 3-1 by 25-21, 19-25, 25-19 and 25-20.

In Tuesday's opening matches, Korea claimed the first victory, beating Belgium by an expressi-



The China team celebrate after scoring during the match against Belgium yesterday

ve 3-0 whitewash, while China went on to duplicate the success with a 3-0 victory over Thailand.

China will face South Korea today, while Bel-

gium are to take on the Thailand.

Last year, the FIVB replaced the FIVB World Grand Prix with the new FIVB Women's Volleyball

Nations League. A total of 16 teams, including 12 core teams and four challenger teams, will compete in the six-week tournament this year. **DB/Xinhua**

Restaurant workers see earnings rise 13.4%

MACAU'S hotel sector had 59,516 full-time employees at the end of the first quarter of 2019, up 4.3% year-on-year, according to the latest manpower needs and wages survey released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service. Meanwhile, earnings (excluding bonuses) of full-time employees in March rose by 1.5% year-on-year to MOP18,180.

The restaurants sector had 26,185 full-time employees, down by 2.3% year-on-year, with the average earnings rising 13.4% to MOP10,430.

At the end of the first quarter, the number of vacant posts in Res-

taurants (2,223) and Hotels (2,133) fell by 71 and 51 respectively year-on-year.

The employee recruitment rate (4.1%), the job vacancy rate (3.5%) and the employee turnover rate (4.3%) of the hotel sector fell by 1.7, 0.2 and 0.1 percentage points respectively year-on-year, indicating a slowdown in demand for manpower in the industry.

For restaurants, the employee recruitment rate (5.8%) and the employee turnover rate (6.9%) rose by 0.3 and 0.2 percentage points respectively, implying that the demand for manpower in the industry was relatively stable. **DB**

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PJ holds 'serious crime' drill with 50 officers

RENATO MARQUES



Renato Marques

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) conducted a drill yesterday morning to reinforce sub-units' capacity to respond in a multidisciplinary exercise, said Cheang Pou Seong, head of the Community Policing and Public Relations Division, to the media in a briefing before the drill.

Fifty PJ officers, including technical staff from various departments and divisions, participated in the drill. The exercise was held at two different locations in the Ilha Verde area.

Afterwards, Cheang noted that all the processes had run successfully and that notes taken during the exercises "will contribute to our continuous training and improvement."

The drill simulated a scenario in which a group of criminals were trying to steal a bag of gold and jewelry from two men.

The jewels in the scenario had been brought into Macau illegally after being stolen from another jurisdiction.

The initial part of the drill involved PJ officers stopping and detaining some members of the criminal group. In

the second part of the drill, police simulated the raid of an apartment where the remaining members of the group were hiding with firearms and bladed weapons.

The drill also allowed police to show the media what procedures are done after an operation in order to collect evidence and conduct a crime scene search and investigation, involving several teams and a variety of equipment.

In answer to media questions, Cheang noted that the force intends to continue performing these types of drills annually as part of officer training and operations.

The drill will take place every year during May and June.

The official added that "next month we are going to have another drill, this time focused on negotiation [of a hostage situation]."

When questioned on whether the scenarios chosen for drills were related to criminal trends or case types that are expected to occur more often, Cheang said, "Not exactly. The PJ does this kind of training constantly and independently if the cases [reported] justify it or not. We seek training in all possible scenarios."

Joseph Lau withdraws legal action against HK fugitive bill

BUSINESSMAN and real estate tycoon Joseph Lau, who was sentenced by Macau courts to five years imprisonment for corruption in a case related to former Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long, has dropped legal action against Hong Kong's controversial extradition bill, as reported by media from the region.

According to reports, Lau, who has been evading his jail term in Macau, has given up on the idea of challenging the controversial extradition bill which is being considered in Hong Kong. This was communicated in a letter to both the High Court and the Secretary for Justice, and the judicial review application Lau filed in early April was withdrawn.

According to his lawyers, "Lau has said he loves his country and Hong Kong," adding that the application was never intended to be opposition to "the country or the Hong Kong government."

The move represents the removal of obstacles to the bill, which aims to allow the transfer of fugitives to jurisdictions where Hong Kong has no agreement on extradition, such as Macau, mainland China and Taiwan. Extradition cases will be assessed on an individual basis.

Several figures in Hong Kong have voiced their many concerns regarding the topic, putting pressure on Carrie Lam's government to either withdraw from the enforcement of the bill or change it, adding articles that would guarantee that Hong Kong residents' rights will be safeguarded.

Lau's lawyers told media in Hong Kong that ending Lau's legal action aimed to remove him from exchanges or arguments over the bill, noting that he hopes "the city [will] maintain its harmony and stability."

"Mr. Lau has withdrawn the application in the hope that this action is conducive to reducing dispute in our society," his lawyers' said in a statement.

Although it is not clear if any communication was established between Lau and government officials who wanted the case to be dropped, high-ranking officials hinted on Tuesday that concessions could be made to the bill, including a proposal to revise it so that only people suspected of crimes punishable under the penal framework by jail sentences of seven years or more could be extradited.

This would be a significant change as currently the bill stipulates that extradition can occur for penalties of three years or more. **RM**

IFJ concerned about civil protection bill

Staff reporter

THE International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has expressed concerns about the proposed provision on "fake news" in the Civil Protection Bill in an article posted on its website. The bill is expected to undergo legislation soon.

In the statement, the

IFJ urged the Macau SAR government to start an extensive consultation before putting the bill through legislation, as the bill poses a "threat to press freedom."

The IFJ quoted an earlier statement issued by their affiliate in Macau, the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM). The associa-

tion stated: "When it comes to intent, the expression 'or due to any other reason that can disturb the end or the relief of the declared state (of prevention) or public tranquility' raises apprehension, since it can pave the way to arbitrariness of law interpretation and enforcement."

Article 25 of the bill references "biased,

unfounded and fake news," which both the IFJ and the AIPIM find vague, open to interpretation, inadequate and highly subjective.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak has said several times that he anticipates enacting the bill before typhoon season this year.

The bill had previous-

sly detailed the new crime of social alarm, but now describes it as "a crime against safety, order and public peace during sudden incidents of public nature."

The crime in the proposed bill could mean that, if passed, a penalty of two years imprisonment or a fine equivalent to 240 days may be applied. This may also be extended to three years imprisonment.

TOURISM

Secretary Tam acknowledges visitor capacity challenge

SECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, who ultimately oversees matters relating to tourism, has acknowledged that the continuous surge in visitor arrivals is posing a challenge for the city. Tam made the comment yesterday during a plenary meeting of the Tourism Development Committee (CDT), according to the government.

Noting the issue of Macau's maximum tourism carrying capacity, Secretary Tam said that the local government will work to safeguard the quality of life of residents.

The Macao Government Tourism office (MGTO), which falls under the purview of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, is currently studying the feasibility of imposing tourist tax and is keen to hear from the public on the matter. It is worth highlighting that tax imposition is just one of the various possible means and measures to tackle the issue of tourism carrying capacity, noted the MGTO in a statement yesterday.

Numerous CDT members expressed their feedback and perspectives on a tourist tax during yesterday's meeting. They expressed concerns about the objective and effectiveness of the policy, as well as its potential influence on the building of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.



Clockwise from top: Helena S. Fernandes, Alexis Tam, Angela Leong, Francis Lui, Linda Chen, and Wilfred Wong

Some members pointed out the close relevance between Macau's tourism carrying capacity and its border-crossing capacity, transportation system and crowd management measures at major tourist attractions. They suggested application of an appointment system for visits to tourist attractions for management of the daily volume of visitor admissions.

Meanwhile, another CDT member expressed the necessity of formulating short- and long-term

policies to tackle the issue of the tourism carrying capacity, and setting up interdepartmental task forces to put respective measures into practice in the long run.

MGTO Director Helena de Senna Fernandes called for industry operators, especially hotels, to refer to the respective guideline for enhancement of the accessibility of their facilities in the future. The Office has also rolled out training for awareness enhancement among industry operators.

CDT members also expressed their concerns about Greater Bay Area tourism development, particularly regarding island tourism. Some stated that discussions with Hengqin are underway about the development of island tour products.

In concluding the meeting, Tam stated that the city-wide summer art festival Art Macao, can contribute to fostering non-gaming elements in Macau and cultivating cultural attainment among the Macau youth. He also lauded the

launch of the study on accessible tourism facilities in Macau and called for the support of industry operators by putting accessible tourism into practice.

TASK FORCE COORDINATORS REPORT BACK

The coordinators of the four Task Forces under the tutelage of the Tourism Development Committee delivered their work reports during yesterday's meeting, the first plenary session of the CDT this year. This is what they reported on:

- The coordinator of the Task Force on Human Resources and Quality Management, Wilfred Wong, reported on human resources and employment of drivers.

- The coordinator of the Task Force on Tourism Policy, Planning and Regional Cooperation, Francis Lui, reported on CDT members' concerns about tourism carrying capacity and the feasibility of tourist tax imposition, transport connectivity for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, maritime tour and suggestions following the launch of the "Hengqin International Leisure Tourism Island Construction Scheme".

- The coordinator of the Task Force on Tourism Branding and Marketing, Linda Chen, reported the outcome of discussions on promotional initiatives for Art Macao and the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macau SAR, 144-hour simplified visa transit policy and multi-destination travel.

- The coordinator of the Task Force on Tourism Products and Events, Angela Leong, reported on Anim'Arte Nam Van, the Macao Grand Prix Museum and the Wine Museum. **DB**

TECHNOLOGY

AI still lacks the ability to imitate human translators

Lynzy Valles

DESPITE improved translation machines which enable people to translate text from one language to another, a scholar from Hong Kong has affirmed that human translators will not be replaced by translation machines any time soon.

Speaking at a French Macau Chamber of Commerce breakfast talk, Dr. Siu Sai Chong, Director of Deep Learning Research & Application Center at The Shang Seng University of Hong Kong, says that AI still lacks the ability to imitate how humans read documents.

Despite the popularity of AI translations – including Google transla-



Siu Sai Chong

te – the scholar said that AI-translated documents will still not be as concrete and informative as human translators.

"I do not think that the current AI has the ability to really think. AI, no matter if we're talking about symbolic AI or even deep learning, they just adopt different methods to ma-

nipulate data," Siu told the Times.

Deep learning is an AI function that imitates how human beings process data related to decision-making.

"A piece of an article is just like a string of numbers but they mean differently [to what] human translators find. [...] I

don't think even state-of-the-art deep learning engines have that kind of reasoning," the professor said.

Siu added that even if there were further improvements in AI translation in the next 10 years, these translation engines may still not be able to replace human translators – particularly in several aspects, including literature, TV commercials and government policy addresses.

The scholar argued that human translators could play a less important role in relatively straightforward translation tasks, including tasks that are highly repetitive.

"Yet for other types of translation activities, especially those related to lite-

rature translation, translation of poems [and] TV commercials, I think there is still a lot we need to do in order to achieve translation standards that are similar to human translation," he said.

"Humor, puns, and wordplay are very difficult to translate. [...] It is really challenging to have [that] kind of information that has high density within a few words and it's difficult for computers to capture the real meaning behind [them]," Siu added.

The researcher admitted that there is still certain information that is not available, even to deep learning engines, and thus it would be difficult for translation engines to always produce accurate translations.

He also noted that in Hong Kong, the government tends to rely on human translators, describing it as a "Hong Kong tradition," as they believe that translation engines are not always reliable.

Speaking about challenges the industry is facing, Siu admitted that a lack of human resources remains a problem – which he believes is a common problem even in the Greater Bay Area.

Such projects require talents that have had training in information technology and translation, as high language sensitivity and cultural sensitivity in the process of translation engine development is needed.

Tourists not satisfied with taxi service quality



A study conducted by a researcher at a Macau university has found that a large proportion of tourists were not satisfied with their taxi rides in the MSAR, with many of them being refused or overcharged.

The study, "The influence of taxi services' quality on visitor attitude and satisfaction in Macau," was conducted by a student researcher at the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) with the aim of discovering tourists' perceptions towards local taxi services.

It also assessed the correlation and influence of local taxi service quality on visitor attitudes and satisfaction, gathering some 118 respondents.

The respondents were mostly from mainland China (67.8%), Taiwan (12.7%) and the Philippines (9.3%), while the rest were from different regions.

The study – presented yesterday at the IFT's Tourism Education Student Summit by Sammie Lam – showed that 44.1% of the respondents were refused a ride, while 37.3% experienced overcharging by taxi drivers.

In Macau last year, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) issued 6,126 fines to taxi drivers, with 3,846 cases of overcharging.

Since taxi services in Macau are considered to be poor, Lam wondered if tourists were experiencing the same.

"Macau is a city positioned as a World Centre for Travel and Leisure, however the Macau taxi service has problems such as refusing passengers and overcharging," she said.

According to the study, 30.5% of the respondents waited between five and 10 minutes for a ride, while 28.8% waited longer.

The study also found that

44%

Were refused a ride

37%

Experienced overcharging

54.2% of the tourists paid fares between MOP51 to MOP100, 18.6% paid between MOP101 to MOP150, and 6.8% were charged between MOP151 to MOP250.

Two of the tourists were said to have paid more than MOP300.

The student researcher also found that majority of respondents described driver's skills, availability and service quality as poor when asked to compare their taxi experiences to other regions.

Last year, Macau Government Tourism Office director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes admitted that her office had received a large number of complaints about the city's taxis from residents and tourists alike over the past two years.

The tourism chief believes that there are rogue taxi drivers who overcharge or refuse to pick up passengers and jeopardize the regions' tourism image.

The Transport Bureau also admitted last year that penalties for taxi infractions in the SAR are relatively light.

However, with a new law set to be in place from June 3, fines of up to MOP9,000 may be charged for different infractions, and sound recording devices will be installed in taxis. LV



Melco's team of management executives are presented with course completion certificates from the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR Region and China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong.

MELCO EXECUTIVES JOIN STUDY TRIP TO SHANGHAI

Discovering the Splendors of China

Recognizing the importance of continuous learning and to promote a deeper understanding of mainland China, Melco Resorts and Entertainment's management team attended a National Education Executive Study Trip to Shanghai at China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong. A national institution in leadership training and development, CELAP was jointly approved by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and State Council. Since March 2005, it has attracted consistent attention from the Party and leaders. With the aim to serve as a base for educating revolutionary traditions and fundamental realities of China, it enhances leadership capacities of Chinese leaders, and acts as a platform for international exchange and cooperation.

With support from Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macau, Melco hosted an exclusive national education study trip for 20 of the company's executives as part of its "Splendors of China" learning program. The program provides a historical perspective on the wonders and growth of China, from its iconic and historic achievements to its modernization and path of becoming the world's second largest economy. In addition to providing insight about its largest customer segment, the company also hopes that the program will instill cultural pride in its employees.

"Splendors of China" is a Melco-developed learning program designed to help colleagues understand and deliver Melco's service promise to customers from Mainland China, who account for the majority of our clientele. We are grateful for the support from CELAP and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR Region, and we look forward to organizing future trips and learning opportunities for our colleagues," said Mr. Lawrence Ho, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco Resorts & Entertainment.

Arranged in collaboration with CELAP, the 5-day study excursion was attended by management representatives from Melco's various departments. Conducted through taught courses, seminars and site visits, the object of the

trip was to broaden participant knowledge of the Mainland's current national conditions, its history and culture, tourism development, security measures as well as diplomatic approaches. Course content included dialogue sessions on the development of the Greater Bay Area, and site inspections of signature tourism models and cultural preservation such as Zhujiajiao Village in Shanghai's Qingpu District.

"The excursion was packed with information and activities to keep colleagues up to date with the latest national developments as well as practical issues related to the tourism industry and the Greater Bay Area. As a result, my knowledge and awareness of China's cultural history, as well as my industry knowledge has been enhanced. I will be sure to recommend future 'Splendors of China' trips and related events to colleagues to in order broaden their horizons and strengthen national knowledge and identity," one of the trip's participants and class leader, Mr. Lawrence Li, Executive Director, Human Resources of Melco Resorts and Entertainment, commented.

Earlier this year, Melco hosted the "Splendors of China" leadership forum for 800 employees and community members in collaboration with the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, inviting eminent professor, Dr. Zhu Andong, from Tsinghua University to give a lecture on China's economic opportunities, challenges and future development trajectory.

This article is sponsored by Melco Resorts & Entertainment.



The trip itinerary included seminars and site inspections of signature tourism models and cultural preservation areas in Shanghai.

HONG KONG DYNASTIES

Property tycoons hand over \$109 billion in empires to heirs

Venus Feng & Blake Schmidt

THE last of Hong Kong's 'Big Four' property dynasties is handing over the reins to a younger generation, completing a flood of successions at family empires worth \$109 billion.

Lee Shau Kee, the city's second-richest man, announced his plans to step down as chairman of Henderson Land Development Co. Tuesday. He'll be succeeded by his two sons. Lee's retirement comes one year after Victor Li, son of Hong Kong's richest man Li Ka-shing, took over the chairmanship of CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. and CK Asset Holdings Ltd. from his father.

Lee, who will still advise his sons on major matters, said elder son Peter will focus on Henderson's mainland China business while younger son Martin will take care of the Hong Kong assets. The scions have been involved in the company since as early as the 1980s, which Lee said made him confident in passing on the baton.

"For years I have stayed behind the scene and let them run the show. They have done very well with full marks. I am confident to pass them the baton," the 91-year-old said in an exclusive interview with Bloomberg. "They have different personalities. Peter is flexible and Martin is practical."

Hong Kong's Cheng family of New World Development Co. had a similar transition in 2012. The Kwok family of Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. fame was forced to deal with succession issues early on after the passing of patriarch Kwok Tak-seng due to a heart attack in 1990. Afterwards, his three sons jointly managed the company, although that led to a falling out in which the eldest, Walter, was

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Lee Shau Kee (center) and his sons Martin Lee Ka Shing (left) and Peter Lee Ka Kit

ousted from the company and the second son, Thomas, ended up serving time in jail for corruption. Walter died in October, while Thomas was released from prison in March.

The Lee family has been planning its succession for decades and so the patriarch's retirement is likely to be followed by a smooth transition, said Jeff Yau, a Hong Kong-based analyst at DBS Group Holdings Ltd.

"They have a professional management team which has taken care of the business for over 30 years," Yau said. He added that Henderson has stable revenue

streams and said he expects the management team will keep on optimizing the portfolio.

FAMILY FORTUNES

Lee is known as a man who cherishes family connections and adheres to old-school Chinese traditions. In his interview with Bloomberg, the advice he shelled out varied based on gender.

"It is advisable for men not to choose a wrong profession," he said. Women, meanwhile, "need to be wise in choosing their husbands."

He was known to pay bonuses to Henderson employees to ce-

lebrate the births of some of his 11 grandchildren. In a controversial move, his unmarried son Peter made sure the patriarch had as many successors as possible - by having triplet boys through a U.S. surrogate mother in 2010.

CELEBRITY WEDDING

A devout Buddhist who never married, Peter stands in sharp contrast to Martin, whose partner is a former actress and model. He threw a lavish celebrity-studded wedding in Sydney in 2006.

"Lee Shau Kee is your typical Hong Kong oligarch," said Joe

Studwell, the author of 'Asian Godfathers: Money and Power in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia'. "Sold as a self-made entrepreneur, but in reality a man who came from wealth - his father was a successful banker and gold trader."

Lee Shau Kee, the son of a gold trader in Guangdong, immigrated to Hong Kong as a young man after World War II with only a few yuan to his name. He remembers the old days nostalgically, including starting a business as one of the "three musketeers" alongside Kwok Tak Seng and Fung King Hey. After the trio co-founded Sun Hung Kai - now the city's biggest developer - Lee left in 1973 to start Henderson Land.

CHARITY WORK

Henderson has grown from its listing in 1981 to a behemoth with a \$27.5 billion market capitalization. In his retirement, Lee said he looks forward to spending more time with his family life and on his charity work.

He was an outspoken critic of Hong Kong's 2014 occupy movement and once said the territory's debate over independence was "outrageous." Henderson has a significant portion of its land bank in mainland China, according to its 2018 annual report.

Having made a vast fortune from real estate - his net worth is around \$26.3 billion according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index - Lee in his later years expressed concern about Hong Kong's growing housing problem. He has helped to build modular housing and donated land for elderly care homes and youth hostels.

In his interview with Bloomberg, he even advised younger generations not to focus too much on acquiring property.

"There is no linear relationship between getting rich and buying property. Do not let a property limit your dream," he said.

It's safe to say his two sons, as they settle into their roles managing one of the world's biggest real estate empires, won't have to heed that advice. **Bloomberg**

AD



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Greater Bay project is coming and it will bring both opportunities and challenges to our little-big town. Macau Daily Times wants to hear your voice. We invite our readers to write in with Letters to the Editor on the topic of the Greater Bay Area.

Please email your letters to gba@macaudailytimes.com

US warns Hong Kong to avoid tanker in breach of Iran sanctions

THE U.S. warned Hong Kong that it could face penalties if it does business with an oil tanker headed for the city that allegedly violated sanctions on Iran.

Washington wants to put China and the autonomous city on notice that it will aggressively and consistently enforce its Iran sanctions, a senior U.S. official said on Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official said China would be informed that any entity doing business with the ship would expose it to U.S. sanctions.

The attention levied on this single vessel, the Pacific Bravo, underscores Washington's desire to stymie Iran's oil exports. Relations between the two sides have deteriorated sharply in recent weeks, following President Donald Trump's pledge to force Iran's vital oil exports down to zero and a revocation of key sanctions waivers.

The Pacific Bravo is owned by China's Bank of Kunlun, according to the senior U.S. official. Reuters reported in October that

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the bank - once Beijing's major channel for transactions with Iran - would stop handling such payments due to sanctions pressure.

While the U.S. official said the tanker is heading to Hong Kong, ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg shows a vessel called the Pacific Bravo off the coast of Sri Lanka and signaling Indone-

sia as its next stop.

The senior U.S. official said it was imperative that Hong Kong authorities prevent the vessel from docking or allowing local entities from providing services to ships that might misrepresent themselves in order to avoid exposing themselves to sanctions violations.

Washington wants to make clear that anyone doing business with Iran, won't be doing business with the U.S., the official said, adding that there would be more sanctions to come.

Hong Kong's Maritime Department referred an earlier request to the relevant bureau. An official with the Information Services

Department didn't have an immediate comment when contacted yesterday, and said they are looking into the matter.

Reuters reported on May 16 that a tanker in violation of U.S. sanctions had unloaded close to 130,000 tons of Iranian fuel oil into storage tanks near the eastern Chinese city of Zhoushan. It had earlier reported that a batch of Iranian fuel oil had sidestepped American sanctions on petroleum exports by using ship-to-ship transfers involving four vessels including that tanker - the Marshal Z.

Trump has increased pressure on Iran since taking office, exiting the landmark 2015 nuclear deal that gave the Islamic Republic sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its disputed nuclear program.

Senior Iranian officials have made recent tours of neighboring countries in an effort to boost support, after the U.S. announced it would increase troop deployments in the Middle East and sell weapons to some of Iran's rivals. **Bloomberg**

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Organizer



環境保護局
Direcção dos Serviços de Protecção Ambiental

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Time

15:30 - 18:00

Date

1/6/2019
Saturday

Venue

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HONG KONG

180 teams to partake in dragon boat carnival

THE 10th Hong Kong Dragon Boat Carnival will be held from June 14 to 16, inviting around 180 teams to compete at the Victoria Harbour, the Hong Kong Tourism Board announced at a press conference.

During the carnival, about 180 teams with close to 5,000 paddlers from 16 countries and regions are expected to take part in the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races, the agency said.

In addition, the "PRC 70th Anniversary CCB (Asia) Trophy" has been specially created this year to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, inviting dragon boat teams representing the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macau to compete.

Apart from dragon boat races, the carnival also includes local artisanal market and street food gala, man-made beach and water fight area for family, and onshore dragon boat races for charity.

The carnival was organized by Hong Kong Tourism board and the Hong Kong China Dragon Boat Association, sponsored by China Construction Bank (Asia).

The carnival will cost HKD17 million (USD2.2 million), and is estimated to attract 60,000 people to come and watch, said Mason Hung, the general manager of Event & Product Development of HKTb. **DB/Xinhua**

Greater Bay tourism far from sustainable, says professor

Julie Zhu

TOURISTS coming to the Greater Bay Area have not been evenly distributed across its 11 cities, said Xu Honggang, Dean of the School of Tourism Management at Sun Yat-sen University, during yesterday's Tourism Education Student Summit, organized by the Institute for Tourism Studies and held in Macau.

The Greater Bay was used as an example of the potential for sustainable tourism during the mainland professor's presentation. Xu acknowledged that the Greater Bay had great potential for sustainable tourism but remained concerned about its shortcomings, with one of its weaker points being the co-existence of overtourism and undertourism.

"We also have a lot of challenges we are not satisfied with and we may have a special issue," said Xu. "We see that tourists in this region are not evenly distributed. They [are] concentrated in small spaces, especially in city centers."

"We also observed that all cities and their tourism systems are facing a lot of external shocks, especially typhoons and economic shocks," said Xu.

Moreover, the tourism expert remarked that sustainable consumption and production measures have not been fully incorporated into the tourism industry, market, policies and behaviors in the Greater Bay.

"For instance, food and energy waste are quite easily seen in our daily behavior," Xu noted, adding that people are aware of the behaviors.

Another factor that has prevented the Greater Bay from becoming a sustainable tourism destination is that jobs in the tourism sector are not "competitive enough."

"In most [cities] of the region, jobs in the tourism [sector] are very low paid and [workers] work a lot," Xu stated. Therefore, "the jobs are not attractive to our graduate students."

The Greater Bay Area has an initiative aimed at freer movement of people and tourists between its 11 cities. However, Xu criticized Greater Bay tourism for not being inclusive enough.

"For instance, we don't have too [many services] for people with certain kinds of handicaps, like seniors or people with vision problems. It is not inclusive tourism. We only target people with a certain economic

power," Xu explained. "In this region, we also observe a lack of diversified quality products, especially for those marginalized people."

In addition, the urban sprawl of the nine Greater Bay cities in Guangdong and the partially incorporated sustainable tourism measures in most tourism programs are challenges standing in the way of sustainable tourism in the Greater Bay Area.

Challenges aside, the region is on its way to a sustainable tourism economy. Xu believes that the Greater Bay still has great opportunities, since it "has the best public infrastructure, offers the possibility to travel in the region, has very good quality higher education in tourism, has a very rich culture, has sustainable goals and is very innovative."

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50th annual World Series of Poker opens in Las Vegas

Regina Garcia Cano

THE annual World Series of Poker opened Tuesday in Las Vegas with dozens of scheduled card tournaments and a special event to celebrate the 50th run of a series known for minting millionaires each year.

The seven-week poker festival is expected to again draw tens of thousands of players seeking a piece of a projected combined prize pool of more than USD200 million. Buy-ins for the series' 89 championship events range from \$400 to \$100,000.

To celebrate the milestone, owner Caesars Interactive Entertainment has scheduled an awards ceremony and a \$500

buy-in, rake-free tournament with a guaranteed prize pool of \$5 million. The company is allowing fans and others to choose some of the players who will be recognized at the ceremony.

"It's absolutely a way to make them a part of it," tournament spokesman Seth Palansky said. "The 50th year was a good time to reflect back on sort of where we've come both in poker and the World Series of Poker, but we wanted the fans and the players to decide what moments from our 50 years stood out to them."

People can vote on seven categories, including fan favorite player, the series' "favorite bad boy" and the four most impor-

tant players in the tournament's history. A panel will also put together a list of the 50 greatest poker players.

Casino owner Benny Binion started the series in 1970 as an invitation-only event. Johnny Moss was declared the winner by the other men at the table and was given a trophy.

Poker's popularity in the U.S. erupted in 2003, when Tennessee accountant Chris Moneymaker entered a \$39 online poker satellite contest, won an entry to the series' famed no-limit Texas Hold 'em main event and emerged victorious, winning \$2.5 million and inspiring other amateur players.

The series this year will run through July 16 at the Rio All-

Suite Hotel and Casino, west of the Las Vegas Strip. Champions go home richer and with gold bracelets.

■ The seven-week poker festival is expected to draw thousands of players

The tournament saw a record 123,865 entrants in 2018. The prize pool of over \$266 million

was divided among 18,105 participants. Twenty-eight of them earned at least \$1 million.

Palansky said the tournament keeps going strong because organizers have been open to changes and feedback from players.

"Poker is a unique game. We are just the operator — we deal the cards, we provide the chips and the setup — but they play amongst each other. It's a peer-to-peer game," he said. "So, ultimately, the WSOP, we look at it as sort of in the trust of the players, and it's our job to just listen to their feedback and provide the schedule that meets their needs and demands."

The tournament's famed main event starts July 3 with players staking \$10,000 to buy in. ESPN and PokerGO will again provide live coverage.

Indianapolis resident John Cynn won the main event last year after playing more than 440 hands at the final table. His cut of the prize pool was \$8.8 million. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA, FUHONG SOCIETY ENJOY DAY OF DELICACIES



A group of around 30 Sands Cares Ambassadors spent time with about 65 members of the Fuhong Society of Macau on May 17, performing a service activity together before enjoying a buffet lunch at

Sands Macao.

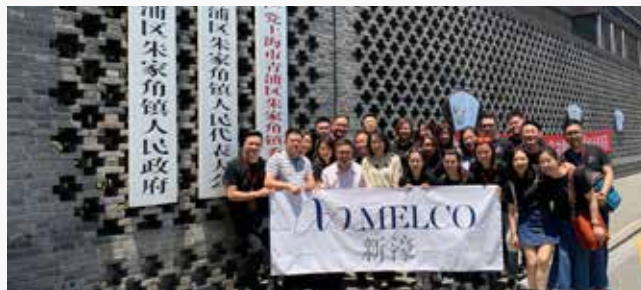
The outing was one in a year-long series of celebratory activities in the lead up to the 10th anniversary of the Sands Cares Ambassador programme in August

2019, with the theme "Spreading Love and Embracing Our Community."

The day began with Sands Cares Ambassadors making Vietnamese delicacies at Fuhong's Pou Choi Centre. They then shared the food with members of Fuhong's nearby Long Cheng Centre.

The entire group then travelled to Sands Macao for lunch together, ending their day at 888 Buffet. Over the years, Sands China has donated several items to the NGO, including a large-format A3 printing system, and industrial-size washers and dryers, to help the NGO stand on its own feet and make an income.

MELCO EXECUTIVES STUDY NATIONAL EDUCATION IN SHANGHAI



Melco Resorts & Entertainment recognizes the importance of continuous learning. With support from Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR Region, Melco hosted an exclusive national

education study trip for 20 of the company's executives as part of its "Splendors of China" learning program at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP).

Arranged in collaboration with

CELAP, the five-day excursion took place in Pudong, Shanghai, and was attended by management representatives from Melco's various departments.

Conducted through courses, seminars and site visits, the objective of the trip was to broaden knowledge of the mainland's current national conditions, its history and culture, tourism development, security measures, as well as diplomatic approaches.

The course content included dialogue sessions on the development of the Greater Bay Area, and site inspections of signature tourism models and cultural preservation areas such as Zhujiajiao Village in Shanghai's Qingpu District.



US does not brand China as currency manipulator

Martin Crutsinger, Washington

THE Trump administration has again decided not to label China or any other country as a currency manipulator. But in a report to Congress yesterday [local time], the administration is keeping China on a list of countries whose trade surpluses with the United States and other

indicators are closely tracked. The administration said that no country meets the criteria to be labeled as one seeking to gain unfair trade advantages over the United States by manipulating its currency. But the report said that nine nations — China, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam — are on the

monitoring list. Two nations — India and Switzerland — that had been on the previous watch list issued in October were removed. Under a 1988 law, the Treasury Department is required to report to Congress every six months on whether any countries are manipulating their currencies to gain trade advantages

over the United States. Such a finding could lead to trade sanctions. A 2016 law expanded the criteria Treasury was to use in making its assessment. No country has been named a currency manipulator since the Clinton administration slapped the label on China in 1994. During the 2016 campaign, Donald Trump vowed to brand China a currency manipulator as soon as he took office. But so far, the administration has passed up five opportunities to do so in the twice-yearly currency report. Officials contend that placing a country on the monitoring list allows the administration to bring pressure to bear through informal negotiations. “The Treasury Department is working vigorously to achieve stronger growth and to ensure that trade expands in a way that helps U.S. workers,” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement. “Treasury takes seriously any potentially unfair currency practices.” In the latest report, the department expanded the potential list of nations it reviewed from around a dozen to 21 by lowering the threshold for review in such areas as the size of the country’s trade surplus with the United States, the size of the trade surplus with the world and the number of times the country intervenes in currency markets. The previous currency report in October had listed six nations for special monitoring. While dropping India and Switzerland from the new watch list, the la-

test report kept four nations — China, Germany, Japan and South Korea — and added Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam. The United States and China are locked in a bitter, year-long trade dispute which has seen the Trump administration recently boost tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods after talks broke off earlier this month. The U.S. charges that China is stealing technology, unfairly subsidizing its own companies and forcing U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets if they want access to the Chinese market. **Trump has vowed to reduce America’s huge trade deficit with China, which he says has cost millions of American jobs** Trump has vowed to reduce America’s huge trade deficit with China, the largest with any nation, which he says has cost millions of American jobs. But the current trade war has prompted China to impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods including sales of agricultural products such as soybeans. **AP**

Veteran dissident urges linking of human rights, trade

VETERAN Chinese dissident Wang Dan urged Western nations to restore the link between human rights and trade with China in a speech yesterday just days ahead of the 30th anniversary of the 1989 crackdown on student pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing’s Tiananmen Square. China’s authoritarian government is spreading its influence to free societies everywhere, requiring foreign nations to take tougher action to curb its abuses, Wang told reporters in Tokyo. He said the overthrow of the one-party Communist government must be the ultimate goal of such a campaign. “China becomes a threat for the free world, and in my opinion, I think it is



time to relink trade and human rights issues. That might be the only way to deal with this problem,” Wang said. “I know a lot of Western countries don’t want to ruin their relationship with China, and don’t

want to see any regime change in China, but I have to say, if there’s no regime change, nothing can be resolved.” Wang said free trade should be conditional on China’s respect for freedoms, including labor ri-

ghts and an open internet. He said putting rights on the agenda could also help reduce the U.S.-China trade imbalance. “You don’t have to pass a bill, you can just use this way to link trade and human rights,” Wang said.

The last significant attempt at such an approach came during the 1980s and 1990s, when the United States made China’s most favored nation trading status conditional on an annual review of issues including human rights. Rights took an increasingly prominent place following the Chinese military’s bloody crackdown on the Tiananmen demonstrations on the night of June 3-4, 1989. However, under pressure from the business community, then-U.S. President Bill Clinton first changed the wording to “normal trade relations” in 1998, then ended the annual review by granting China “permanent normal trade relations” in 2000. That move, along with China’s entry into the World Trade Organization the following year, helped usher in an era of unprecedented economic growth for China, while vastly reducing the leverage and influence of human rights

advocates. Wang, then a freshman at Peking University, was a key leader of the student protests and ended up at the top of the government’s most-wanted list following the crackdown in which hundreds, possibly thousands are believed to have died. China has never given an accounting of the events, which remain among the most politically taboo topics in Chinese society today. Wang served two prison terms before being freed in 1998 and allowed to move abroad. Wang, who has taught at a university and now lives in the United States, remains committed to the cause of bringing democracy to China. “It is time for us now, for the whole democratic countries now, to re-recognize the true face of the [Communist Party of China] and try to learn some lessons from the Tiananmen massacre,” Wang said. **AP**

Huawei asks court to deem US security law unconstitutional

Yanan Wang, Shenzhen

FIGHTING to maintain its access to major markets for next-generation communications, Chinese tech giant Huawei is challenging the constitutionality of a U.S. law that limits its sales of telecom equipment.

Huawei's chief legal officer Song Liuping said at a press briefing yesterday that Huawei filed a motion for summary judgment asking the court in Plano, Texas, to rule on whether a U.S. military spending provision that bars the government and its contractors from using Huawei equipment is constitutional.

Huawei is the biggest global maker of network equipment and enjoys a lead in 5G, or fifth-generation, technology. It also is the No. 2 maker of smartphones. The Trump administration claims the company could use its equipment to spy on behalf of the Chinese government and is thus a threat to international cybersecurity.

"This decision threatens to harm our customers in over 170 countries, including more than 3 billion customers who use Huawei products and services around the world," Song said.

Huawei, whose U.S. headquarters is in Plano, launched a lawsuit in March against the U.S. national defense law, calling the provision a "bill of attainder" that selectively punishes Huawei and violates its due process by presuming its guilt without a fair trial. The summary judgment motion seeks to accelerate the legal process to give U.S. customers access to Huawei equipment sooner, according to a statement from Huawei.



Song said the "state-sanctioned campaign" against the company will not improve cybersecurity. "Politicians in the U.S. are using the strength of an entire nation to come after a private company," he said. "This is not normal."

Apart from the defense law provision, the U.S. Commerce Department recently placed Huawei on its "Entity List," effectively barring U.S. firms from selling their technology to it and other Chinese firms without government approval. Huawei relies heavily on U.S. components, including computer chips, and about one-third of its suppliers are American.

The moves against Huawei are part of a broader trade war between the world's two largest

economies that has both sides imposing billions of dollars of punitive tariffs against each other's products.

The dispute centers on China's huge longstanding trade surplus with the U.S. and complaints that Beijing and Chinese companies use unfair tactics to acquire advanced foreign technologies.

The most recent round of negotiations between Beijing and Washington ended earlier this month without an agreement

after Trump more than doubled duties on USD200 billion in Chinese imports. China responded by raising tariffs of 5% to 25% on \$60 billion worth of American goods.

The moves against Huawei have already affected the company's U.S. partnerships. Google said it would continue to support existing Huawei smartphones, but future devices won't carry its flagship apps and services, including maps, Gmail and search — a change that will likely make Huawei phones less appealing.

Song said the U.S. has not provided any evidence to show that Huawei is a security threat.

"There is no gun, no smoke, only speculation," he said, accusing the U.S. of setting a "dangerous precedent."

"Today it's telecoms and Huawei," he said. "Tomorrow it could be your industry, your company, your consumers."

Song said Huawei was asking FedEx about four packages containing paper work that were found to have been diverted to FedEx headquarters in the U.S. instead of being delivered to Huawei offices in Asia.

FedEx apologized and said the packages were misrouted accidentally. It said the company wasn't told by anyone to divert the packages.

Song said Huawei was aware of FedEx's apology over the incident. But the company has questioned if the diversions were purely accidental.

"I don't think it is right for any company to intercept or detain individual documents or information. If our rights were truly infringed upon, we have the legal rights to defend ourselves," he said. **AP**

Australian navy pilots struck by lasers in South China Sea

AUSTRALIAN navy helicopter pilots were hit by lasers while exercising in the South China Sea, forcing them to land as a precaution, a witness said, describing the latest incident in the disputed waters where China has stepped up the defense of its sweeping territorial claims.

Scholar Euan Graham, who was onboard the Royal Australian Navy flagship HMAS Canberra on a voyage from Vietnam to Singapore, said that the lasers had been pointed from passing fishing vessels while the Canberra was being trailed by a Chinese warship.

China maintains a ro-

bust maritime militia in the South China Sea composed of fishing vessels equipped to carry out missions just short of combat. China claims the strategic waterway virtually in its entirety and is sensitive to all foreign naval action in the area, especially by the U.S. and allies such as Australia.

"Was this startled fishermen reacting to the unexpected? Or was it the sort of coordinated harassment more suggestive of China's maritime militia? It's hard to say for sure, but similar incidents have occurred in the western Pacific," Euan Graham wrote on the website The Strategist run by the Aus-

tralian Strategic Policy Institute, an independent, non-partisan think tank based in Canberra. The account of the incident appeared Tuesday.

Similar incidents involving lasers and the Chinese military have also been reported as far away as Djibouti, where the U.S. and China have bases. Last year, the U.S. complained to China after lasers were directed at aircraft in the Horn of Africa nation that resulted in minor injuries to two American pilots.

China denied that its forces targeted the U.S. military aircraft.

Graham said that while bridge-to-bridge communications with the Chinese

during the voyage were courteous, the Chinese requested the Australian warships notify them in advance of any corrections to their course.

That was something the Australian navy was "not about to concede while exercising its high-seas freedoms," Graham wrote.

He wrote that the constant presence of Chinese vessels shadowing foreign ships appeared to indicate that the Chinese fleet had grown large enough to allow it to have vessels lying in wait for just such orders.

He said their trailing actions also appeared to show that China's over-



the-horizon surveillance capability was also maturing, supported by technology based at points such as Fiery Cross Reef in the contested Spratly island group where China has built military installations and an airstrip atop coral reefs.

Five other governments have claims in the South China Sea that overlap with China's, and the U.S. and its allies insist

on the right to sail and fly anywhere in the area is permitted under international law, despite China's differing interpretation of such guidelines.

Graham, who is executive director of La Trobe Asia at La Trobe University in Australia, was one of several academics invited to observe Australia's engagement exercise Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019. **AP**

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ELECTIONS

Challenge to Indonesia vote makes big claims, weak on proof

Stephen Wright
& Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

THE court challenge to Indonesia's presidential election from the losing candidate claims that the police, intelligence agency and other state institutions were biased in favor of the incumbent, but its evidence for "massive" fraud is mainly printouts of news articles.

Former General Prabowo Subianto has refused to accept the results of the April 17 election and instead declared himself the winner. Seven people died in what police say was orchestrated rioting in the capital last week after official election results confirmed President Joko Widodo had won a second term with 55.5% of the vote.

Subianto's legal challenge filed with the Constitutional Court on Friday, and reviewed by The Associated Press, alleges there was "structured, systematic and massive" fraud before, during and after the election in the world's third-largest democracy.

It repeats earlier assertions from the Subianto campaign that there were 17.5 million duplicated names on the voter list, a claim disputed by the independent Election Commission. The petitioners want the court to invalidate the election, declar-



re that Widodo committed election fraud and install Subianto as president. The court has to rule by June 28.

The divisive election campaign highlighted Muslim-majority Indonesia's religious divides. Subianto, who allied himself with groups that want Islamic law to replace secular government, won heavily in conservative provinces but was defeated nationally by Widodo's coalition of moderate and minority voters. It was Subianto's second

loss to Widodo and his fourth unsuccessful bid for the presidency.

Constitutional law expert Re-fly Harun said lawyers for Subianto need to prove all their allegations and also show that they collectively amounted to massive electoral fraud.

"If only reading their lawsuit documents, it's not strong enough. Because in their petition they only included evidence from news links, that could not stand alone," Harun said.

"But we should learn the degree of their evidence in the hearing. And it's not easy to convince the nine judges at the Constitutional Court," he said.

Citing a subsequently withdrawn statement from a former district police chief, the legal challenge says local police chiefs were ordered to boost support for Widodo. Further evidence of police bias will be presented during the court hearings, according to the legal documents.

To back up its claim of a biased

national intelligence agency, the legal case cites a June 2018 statement from former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono that some individuals in that agency and other security institutions were not neutral.

The complaint also alleges that government spending programs and increases to them were ploys by the Widodo campaign to buy votes using the state budget.

Several dozen news articles from online sites of varying credibility are provided as evidence of massive election fraud with headlines such as "Jokowi Gets Support When Attending the Village Chiefs National Gathering" and "Jokowi Admits Infrastructure Development in the Interest of the 2019 Election."

Votes in Indonesia's elections are counted publicly at hundreds of thousands of polling places, which are each limited to 300 voters. The vote tabulation forms from each polling place are available online and can be cross referenced against the results collated by the Election Commission.

Before the election, there were allegations of irregularities in the overseas vote after thousands of already marked voting papers were discovered in two locations in neighboring Malaysia. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Man jailed to 10 years over British backpacker rape

AN Australian man who kidnapped and repeatedly raped a British backpacker during a monthlong ordeal in the country's Outback has been jailed for 10 years.

Marcus Allyn Keith Martin, 25, had pleaded guilty in the District Court of Cairns, in the far north of Queensland state, to charges of rape and deprivation of liberty against the 22-year-old woman from Liverpool, England.

Prosecutors told the court the pair met in Cairns in January 2017 and had begun a relationship.

When the relationship soured, Martin subjected the woman to weeks of physical abuse while forcing her to drive him hundreds of miles south and then into the west

of the state.

Police intercepted the pair after the woman drove off from a gas station in the town of Mitchell, 380 miles west of Brisbane, without paying for fuel. They found Martin hiding in the back of their 4x4 vehicle.

The gas station's manager, Beverley Page, told reporters at the time that the woman was bruised and battered, and was crying and shaking, as she explained that she couldn't pay for fuel because her ex-boyfriend had her wallet.

The Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported that prosecutor Nathan Crane told the court Martin had tried to isolate the woman on their road trip, including by cut-

ting up her British passport.

"She feared she would be murdered," Crane said. "She tried to get the attention of other road users as they would drive along and also other service station customers, to no avail."

The court heard the woman suffered injuries including facial fractures, bruising, abrasions to her neck and cuts to her body, as well as psychological harm.

A defense lawyer for Martin had told the court his client had been taking drugs at the time, which made him "paranoid and psychotic."

In sentencing on Tuesday, Judge Dean Morzone said Martin would be required to serve at least 80% of his 10-year sentence. **AP**

MYANMAR

Court issues arrest warrant for nationalist Buddhist monk

A court in Myanmar has issued an arrest warrant for a Buddhist monk known for incendiary comments about the country's Muslim minority and for criticism of the government.

The warrant issued in Yangon charges Wirathu with sedition for remarks he made on May 5 about the government of leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Police said yesterday the warrant has been forwarded to Mandalay, where Wirathu's monastery is.

Wirathu came to prominence in 2012



after deadly riots broke out between Buddhists and Muslims in the western state of Rakhine. He founded a nationalist organization, since disbanded, that was blamed

for inciting violence against Muslims.

Under Myanmar law, Wirathu would have to be defrocked by Buddhist authorities before he could be arrested. **AP**

New Israeli government or election: Netanyahu faces deadline

Aron Heller, Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S raucous political world was on edge yesterday, counting down the hours to a midnight deadline to see whether a new government will be formed or whether, alternatively, there will be an unprecedented second national election this year.

Backchannel negotiations were continuing throughout the day to try and hammer out a compromise that would allow Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu faction to join Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing coalition. Without him, Netanyahu has no parliamentary majority and won't be able to form a government within the 42 days he was tasked to do so.

Netanyahu and his former top aide Lieberman, who have alternated between a close alliance and bitter rivalry over the past two decades, are now engaged in perhaps the most dramatic episode of their longtime political relationship — a high-stakes showdown in which neither side appears ready to blink first.



At stake is the makeup of the future Israeli government and perhaps Netanyahu's own perilous legal situation.

When Netanyahu's Likud party increased its power to 35 seats in parliament in last month's election and his traditional ultra-Orthodox and nationalist parties secured a solid 65-55 majority, it was assumed he would coast back into office comfortably. In no rush to sign agreements with the other fac-

tions, Netanyahu's allies in Likud had already begun drafting a contentious bill aimed at granting him immunity from the various corruption charges awaiting him.

Likud was also looking to push legislation limiting the power of Israel's Supreme Court and paving Netanyahu's path to many more years in office.

But no one seemed to take the mercurial Lieberman into consideration.

Though a staunch nationalist, Lieberman also champions a secular agenda aimed toward his core political base of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and has pledged to confront efforts of the ultra-Orthodox parties to impose their lifestyle on the country's secular majority.

In contrast to Netanyahu's deal-making pragmatism, Lieberman has earned a reputation as a maverick willing to break from his traditional ideological bloc.

The current crisis ostensibly boils down to Lieberman's demand that a current legislation, which mandates that young ultra-Orthodox men be drafted into the military, run its course. Years of widescale exemptions for them have generated widespread resentment among the rest of Jewish Israelis who serve.

He derided the so-called ultra-Orthodox counteroffers as "cosmetics for the taxidermic," and vowed to hold his ground.

"The conscription bill is not a caprice. It's not derived from ego or vengeance but is a fou-

ndation of our world view," he wrote.

The ultra-Orthodox parties consider conscription a taboo, fearing that military service will lead to immersion in secularism, and insist the exemptions stay in place. Netanyahu, dependent on their political support, says they have compromised enough and is refusing to press them further.

After trying to coerce a concession out of Lieberman, Netanyahu and his allies have turned to an all-out offensive. They have accused Lieberman of betraying his voters and dragging the country to an unnecessary and expensive election campaign out of personal spite and jealousy of Netanyahu. Likud has also vowed to campaign hard among Russian speakers in Israel to wipe Lieberman out politically.

According to Israeli law, Israel's largely ceremonial president is charged with choosing a candidate for prime minister with the best chance of putting together a stable majority coalition. The candidate then has 42 days to do so and if he fails, the president can turn to another candidate and give him 28 days to form an alternative coalition. Only after that fails are new elections called — something that has never happened in Israeli history. **AP**

AD



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EU divided over top jobs after polls redraw political map

Lorne Cook & Lori Hinnant, Brussels

EUROPEAN Union leaders stood divided Tuesday over who to name to the bloc's top jobs, after elections shredded comfortable old political alliances and raised troubling questions about the future of the European project.

At a summit in Brussels, major powers France, Germany and Spain all differed over who is best suited to lead the EU's powerful executive arm, the European Commission, for the next five years. Former Luxembourg Premier Jean-Claude Juncker heads the commission, which proposes EU laws and ensures they are respected, until Oct. 31.

After voters turned out for last week's European Parliament elections in numbers not seen in 20 years, the leaders want to show they can respond quickly to people's concerns. The aim is to name all four top jobs — the commission chief, a replacement for Donald Tusk as European Council president, a new foreign policy



chief and head of the European Central Bank — at a summit June 21-22.

Avoiding any mention of the differences or candidate names, Tusk said the leaders hope “we can provide clarity on all these posts already in June,” but he said that “this depends not only my good will but also on the good will of everyone involved.”

French President Emmanuel Macron, whose party is joining forces with a new pro-business liberal group in the EU parliament

for the first time, insisted the choices should represent the new political project that European voters are demanding.

“The new order means one thing: It's that we cannot just repeat the old habits,” Macron told reporters.

“It is important to me that these nominations have parity, that we have two men and two women. It is important for me to have the best profiles possible,” he said, noting that there must “be balance in terms of political leanings

and in terms of geography.”

Other leaders, too, said the aim is to have two women in top posts.

Last week's elections saw Europe's mainstream center-right and center-left parties lose seats in the European Parliament.

The conservative European People's party, which has been the largest group in the assembly, and the Socialists and Democrats have held a majority in the body for 40 years. But voters concerned about climate change, migration or security turned instead to the Greens, the pro-business ALDE group or far-right parties.

As a result, it is unclear what workable majority will emerge in the assembly, which sits in Brussels and Strasbourg, France, when lawmakers gather in July, especially as the leaders and party groups jockey for position.

Still, German Chancellor Angela Merkel described the summit as “good and harmonious,” even though Macron virtually ruled out the prospect of her favorite, Manfred Weber, replacing Juncker. He suggested that the former

Bavarian lawmaker lacked solid experience.

Weber has never served in government or at a major institution like the European Commission. He has led the European People's Party since 2014, but the group suffered major losses at the polls.

Macron said Denmark's Margrethe Vestager, who is now the EU's competition commissioner, would be a suitable replacement as would Michel Barnier, the Frenchman who has led the EU's Brexit negotiations with the United Kingdom. Getting Barnier to head the commission would mark a fillip for Macron following the strong showing of the French far-right in Sunday's elections.

Meanwhile, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez threw his political weight behind the Socialists' candidate, Frans Timmermans, who is a former Dutch foreign minister and currently Juncker's right hand man at the commission.

“We will support Frans,” Sanchez said. “He has the experience not only at the national level but also at the European level to lead the commission.”

After Tuesday's summit it appeared clear the process will take some time, amid signs of a power struggle between the EU Council, which represents national governments, and the parliament. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



FIVB WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL NATIONS LEAGUE - MACAU 2019
TIME: 4:30pm & 7:30pm
VENUE: Macau Forum
ADMISSION: MOP150 (one-day ticket); MOP315 (three-day ticket)
ORGANIZERS: Sports Bureau of Macau SAR; Volleyball Association of Macau, China
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2823 6363

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE DRAWINGS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM
TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 30, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

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

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

Offbeat

COURT CONFIRMS MAN'S CUSTODY OF DOG, DENIES EX-GIRLFRIEND



Maine's supreme court has upheld a ruling granting a man sole custody of his dog, denying his ex-girlfriend's bid to take the pet.

The Supreme Judicial Court this week affirmed that pets are property in confirming a district judge's decision that the Lab-boxer mix named Honey belongs to the man whose name appeared on adoption papers. His former girlfriend sued for custody.

The ruling was swift, and there was no written opinion. During arguments two weeks ago, Chief Justice Leigh Saufley questioned whether it's a good use of time for judges to analyze pet custody in cases involving unmarried couples.

Pets are considered property in all 50 states. Only three states — Alaska, Illinois and California — have specific laws that address pet custody when a marriage dissolves.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Agua de Mar
15:45	Zig Zag
16:20	Portugueses Sem Fronteiras
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionario
17:45	Moda Portugal Sr.3
18:15	Amor Maior (Repetição)
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
22:25	Amor Maior
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Europa 2018/2019
00:10	O Ocidente no Oriente - Macau e o Testamento de Robert Ho Tung
01:05	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:50	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

30 May



GODZILLA II: KING OF THE MONSTERS

ROOM 1
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
Director: Michael Dougherty
Starring: Kyle Chandler, Vera Farmiga, Millie Bobby Brown
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 131min



DOG'S JOURNEY

ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Gail Mancuso
Starring: Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Kathryn Prescott
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 109min



ALADDIN

ROOM 3
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
Director: Guy Ritchie
Starring: Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 109min

this day in history



2001 FRENCH EX-MINISTER JAILED OVER SLEAZE

Former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has been jailed for six months in the country's biggest sleaze scandal in recent history.

The 78-year-old judge and close confidant of the late President Francois Mitterrand was found guilty of illegally receiving funds from oil giant Elf Aquitaine between 1989 and 1992.

His ex-lover, Christine Deviers-Joncour, and two top Elf executives were also jailed for misusing funds in the embezzlement scandal.

Ms Deviers-Joncour sank into her chair, head in hands, as the sentence was announced - three-years' imprisonment, half of which is suspended.

Former company president Loik Le Floch-Prigent, 57, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison. Alfred Sirven, 74, his former second-in-command and controller of the company slush fund - got four years.

Both men were also ordered to pay fines of two million French francs (\$270,000). Mr Dumas must pay one million francs.

The trial that has gripped the nation focused on allegations of corruption arising from the \$9m which Elf is said to have paid to Ms Deviers-Joncour for her work as a consultant and lobbyist in support of the firm's world-wide sales effort.

Mr Dumas has said he played a part, for the sake of France, in what he called "a subtle game of shadows and light", but denied that he made any personal gain.

The trial produced more headline-grabbing details about the lavish lifestyles of the accused, and the many gifts allegedly given to Mr Dumas by his lover in an attempt to influence government decisions.

And in a major dramatic twist Sirven, on trial in his absence, was captured in the Philippines after four years on the run. He was brought back amid fevered expectation of what he might reveal about the affair, as the former controller of the Elf purse-strings. But in the end he refused to testify.

The ripples from the case have spread across the border into Germany, where Elf embarked on controversial expansion projects in Helmut Kohl's era as Chancellor.


Both Dumas and his former lover will remain free while their appeals are heard - which could take years.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Roland Dumas was cleared in January 2003. His initial trial and sentence were widely regarded in France as a sign the French government was ready to rid itself of corruption. But subsequent attempts to prosecute politicians collapsed. In October 2001 President Jacques Chirac won his right to maintain immunity from prosecution on allegations of misappropriating public funds. In the same month prosecutors dropped their case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn - the popular former finance minister in Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's cabinet - for forgery and misappropriation of funds. In February 2002 French magistrates published a report ending an eight-year investigation led by magistrate Eva Joly into corruption involving French politicians and the once state-owned company Elf Aquitaine. In 2003 37 people, including three senior Elf executives, were sentenced to spend up to five years in prison for their part in the corruption scandal.

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[Taipa] *Nice Court* 3 2

1,600 ft² **\$8,980,000** (ref: 19045002)

[Taipa] *Manhattan Carpark*

\$1,580,000 (ref: 19045003)

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[Taipa] *Nova Park* 2 2

1,134 ft² **\$16,400/mth** (ref: 17020638)

[Taipa] *Nova Grand* 2 1

986 ft² **\$16,000/mth** (ref: 19055007RT)

[Macau] *Nam Long* 1 1

720 ft² **\$12,300/mth** (ref: 17110658)



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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Transfer, play right away? Don't bank on it, NCAA cases show

Ralph D. Russo

A string of recent high-profile transfers gave the college football world the impression it was getting easier for players to switch schools and compete right away.

The reality is much different, with the percentage of waiver approvals dropping during 2018-2019 — even as the NCAA changed rules to give athletes a better shot at transferring without needing to sit out a year.

Shea Patterson to Michigan, Justin Fields to Ohio State and Tate Martell to Miami seemed to usher in a new era of free agency, but waiver approvals are still far from a sure thing. That is prompting athletes, coaches and others to complain about a process that can be somewhat mysterious.

Through May 24, the NCAA committee for legislative relief had approved 66% of transfer waiver requests across all sports for the 2018-19 academic year, down from 73% in the four previous years combined, according to the NCAA. In football, the transfer waiver approval rate for 2018-19 was 68%, down 2 percentage points compared with the previous four academic years.

Players frustrated by denials vent on social networks, while coaches question the NCAA's consistency. Their complaints, along with those from fans, illustrate how a dearth of public information muddles comparisons



Michigan quarterback Shea Patterson

and leads onlookers to draw conclusions without knowing the full story behind each case.

"If we're going to have an ambiguous waiver system let's just either have a one-time transfer, everybody can play (immediately) and its only one time or you can transfer and you got to sit and you can get (the year of eligibility) back," Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "One way or the other it eliminates this ambiguity that's in this waiver process."

The NCAA Division I council plans to review the rules next month.

Guidelines haven't changed for what justifies a waiver. The shift in April 2018 simply put immediate eligibility back in play for all cases. Previously, the option was tightly restricted to only instances of egregious behavior by the

school the player wanted to leave.

Generally, athletes must sit out a year of competition after transferring. In many sports, a one-time exception can be used for an athlete to play right away, but not in high-profile sports such as football and basketball.

Immediate eligibility for transfers was effectively taken off the table after the 2014-15 academic year, though from 2015-18 athletes could attempt to restore a year of eligibility after switching schools. Waiver requests dipped during those three years, then bounced back in 2018-19 after the NCAA softened its rules.

The requests fall into several categories, each with specific guidelines but governed by the same basic principle: Schools have to show the transfer is because of "circumstances outside of the stu-

dent-athlete's control and directly impacts the health, safety or well-being of the student-athlete," according to NCAA bylaws.

The most common waiver requests are for:

- Injury or illness to a family member
- Being pushed out of the program by a coach at the original school
- Egregious behavior by the original school
- Mental health.

Waiver requests are judged individually and subjectivity bakes into the process — which can make results seem ambiguous.

"If you get lawyers you're going to get it, but if you can't afford the lawyers, you're not," Fitzgerald said. "If somebody's sick you will, but if somebody's better you won't. If you say the coach ran you off, but he really didn't, is the coach going to come back and fight?"

Attorney Tom Mars, who has assisted Fields, Patterson and others with successful waiver requests, said ire at the NCAA over rulings might be misdirected, as individual schools are responsible for applying and presenting their cases.

"Whatever real or apparent inconsistencies there are in these waiver decisions are driven, in large part, by the varying levels of effort, resources, and quality of the advocacy that go into the preparation," Mars said. "The compliance personnel who work for the AD at those schools own the whole process."

Illinois tight end Luke Ford (from Georgia), Cincinnati offensive lineman James Hudson (from Michigan) and Virginia Tech offensive lineman Brock Hoffman (Coastal Carolina) all garnered headlines recently when the NCAA denied their waiver requests. All three new schools are currently asking for reconsideration of the ruling or appealing.

Hoffman said he was transferring to be closer to his ailing mother and the denial was based on Virginia Tech's location more than 100 miles away from his home and his mother's improving condition. Hudson said mental health issues prompted his transfer but because he did not reveal them at Michigan his request was denied.

"You can find general themes in the cases that are successful. But I also think that I understand the confusion that people are seeing out there," said attorney Travis Leach, who worked on Martell's case. "Because some cases do look similar, but when you delve into the facts and circumstances there are some nuances that make them different."

The NCAA does not comment on specific waiver cases and rarely do schools, even when an athlete waives protection under federal privacy laws.

"When appropriate, we do weigh in to educate about the process and give details we can, but we will not compromise personal information for the sake of a better headline for us," NCAA spokeswoman Emily James said. **AP**

TENNIS

Nadal, Muguruza post straight-set wins at French Open

ANOTHER German qualifier named Yannick, another easy win for Rafael Nadal.

Chasing a record-extending 12th title at the French Open, Nadal posted a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 win over Yannick Maden yesterday to reach the third round of the clay-court Grand Slam.

Nadal lost only six games in the first round against Yannick Hanfmann. He was on the verge of doing even better yesterday but lost focus briefly in the third set and dropped his serve twice.

"That's just about con-

centration," Nadal said. "Because the feeling on the match has been positive. Positive thing is, every time that I [made] the mistake, then I had the break again, and that's the good news."

In the next round, Nadal will be up against 27th-seeded David Goffin.

Sixth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas also advanced, making it to the third round at Roland Garros for the first time. The Greek player overcame a slow start to beat Hugo Dellien of Bolivia 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 7-5.

Also, seventh-seeded Kei

Nishikori rallied to beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

In the women's draw, former champion Garbine Muguruza and last year's runner-up Sloane Stephens both posted straight-set wins to progress to the third round.

On a sunny morning in the French capital, Muguruza beat Johanna Larsson 6-4, 6-1 on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Seeded 19th this year, Muguruza won the title at Roland Garros in 2016 when she upset Serena Williams in the final. The Spanish player is expected

to face tougher opposition in her next match against ninth-seeded Elina Svitolina, who progressed to the third round without hitting a shot.

Svitolina was set to play 67th-ranked Kateryna Kozlova but organizers said the Ukrainian player withdrew with a virus.

Stephens, who lost to Simona Halep in last year's final, needed a bit more time to defeat gritty but error-prone Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-1, 7-6 (3).

In a match that featured 11 breaks of serve, Stephens could not hold on to a 3-0 lead in the second



Spain's Garbine Muguruza

set and Sorribes Tormo twice had the opportunity to level at 1-set apiece on her serve. A turning point came in the 11th game when the 22-year-old Spaniard hit two consecutive double-faults to drop serve.

The seventh-seeded Stephens hit a series of winners in the tiebreaker and

sealed the match with a backhand down the line.

"Just decided to keep it exciting, to play a bit longer on that court," Stephens joked. "I missed it from last year."

Later, Roger Federer was facing 144th-ranked Oscar Otte. Federer is playing at Roland Garros after a four-year absence. **AP**

opinion

Tenpence
Daniel Beitler



WE DESERVE A GOOD SHOW

This August will stage my first Chief Executive election, having arrived in Macau four years ago. Of course, like most of you, I am just an observer. All of the candidates have already been decided and I am not one of the 400-few to wield a vote. But if we are all just observers, don't we at least deserve a good show?

In February, with a nod and a wink, incumbent Legislative Assembly President Ho Iat Seng said he was giving great consideration to his possible candidacy. After consulting with his friends and peers – who, as it turned out, were all equally enthusiastic about the idea of him becoming the next Chief Executive – Ho confirmed his bid in April with a vague livelihood manifesto and a promise of more to come soon.

For a while, it seemed Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong would submit his own candidacy and disrupt a pattern of unchecked nominees. He compared favorably with his peers; more approachable than Rosário and Chan, but less jovial than Tam.

As a viable contender, Leong held the potential to kickstart the first real race in Macau electoral history, even if it would still be confined to the narrow pro-establishment spectrum.

The two candidates presented a choice between aristocracy and meritocracy. They had long been touted as favorites to succeed Chui Sai On, whose second term in office seems destined to fizzle out without anyone much noticing or caring.

The race could have been a nod to the so-called system of elite democracy, where the trusted few are permitted to choose their representative from a tightly-controlled candidate pool. It would have been a small step forward for democracy in Macau, bringing manifestos, campaign pledges, accountability – and choice! – for the first time in a generation.

But then Leong withdrew, conceding the next five years (or more) to his opponent.

What to make of Ho, our only remaining candidate? His critics say he lacks the executive experience to be competent in the role, one of the four official requirements. But it is worth remembering that administrative competence is no guarantee that resources won't be squandered, nor that critical public services can be managed well. It is also no guarantee that the interests of Macau and the country will be served above that of the individual. And Ho's lack of executive experience probably won't matter all that much if he is to be sandwiched, above and below, by those who do have the necessary experience and will be happy to lend a hand. As one political commentator recently remarked, in Macau, "it is better to know people than know how to read and write."

Far more interesting than Ho opting in is Leong deciding to pull out, and specifically what it reveals about the political machinations of the Macau SAR. Had he known the Macau interests would shift so decisively in favor of Ho, it is unlikely Leong would have put his name forward in the first place. So where did his confidence come from – inside or out?

Thinking about the Ho versus Leong showdown these past few weeks, for some reason I can't help but invoke Brad Pitt's Achilles in the 2004 historical epic Troy, who after defeating his opponent mockingly calls out, "is there no one else?". Wouldn't it be something to say that this election invoked Tyler Durden of Fight Club instead – "how much can you know about yourself if you've never been in a fight?"

In the end, the fight was cancelled and the show substituted for the same old joke: 400 electors thinking very carefully about who should get their vote.

THE BORIS JOHNSON TO FACE COURT
BUZZ QUESTIONS ABOUT BREXIT CLAIMS

A British judge ruled yesterday that former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson will be summoned to court over allegations that he lied and misled the public during the Brexit referendum campaign in 2016.

District Judge Margot Coleman said Johnson will answer questions about his possible misconduct in public office, when he claimed Britain contributed 350 million pounds (USD442 million) to the European Union each week.

Johnson was a key figure in the "leave" campaign advocating a break with the EU. The campaign emblazoned a bus with a promise that voting for Brexit would mean that instead of sending substantial money to the EU, the cash could be used to fund Britain's National Health Service.

Britain's statistics regulator has said Johnson's claim about the 350 million pounds was misleading and a "gross misuse of official statistics."



Louvre reopens after one-day closure due to overcrowding

THE Louvre museum in Paris reopened to the public after being shut down for a day when workers complained about overcrowding and walked out Monday.

Union representatives met yesterday to discuss plans from the museum's management on how to ease the traffic flow at the world's most visited museum.

They say the current dispute is linked to renovation work around the "Mona Lisa," the museum's most famous painting, which has caused organizational problems, huge queues and the harassment of staff by frustrated tourists.

Unions decided to reopen the museum at 11 a.m., some two hours after its regular start time, after management agreed to bring in 30 more employees on a temporary basis over summer.

"Satisfied is not the word. It's a short-term band-aid dressing to the problems of overcrowding," said Christian Ga-

lani of the CGT Culture union.

"Thirty extra temporary workers will be hired in June. But what we want are permanent civil servant positions to solve the problem once and for all," he added.

Unions note that staff numbers have dropped over the past decade even though the number of visitors to the Louvre has risen 20%.

Hundreds of frustrated tourists, some who had been waiting several hours in line Wednesday, expressed relief that they would be allowed into the venerable institution.

Lauren Berry, a 24-year-old tourist from Oxford, Mississippi, said that she and her family had already been turned away from the Louvre on Monday but came back on Wednesday in hopes that it would reopen. The museum is closed on Tuesdays.

"We had planned our entire trip around coming to the Louvre because we are huge art lovers," Berry said.

The gallery in which the "Mona Lisa" is exhibited is undergoing a months-long renovation.

Because the Leonardo Da Vinci masterpiece is so valuable, it cannot be moved during the building works like all the other paintings in that gallery. It is currently the only painting remaining in the Salle des Etats room, and tourists are cramming together just to get a glimpse of it for a few seconds.

Pierre Zinenberg, a Louvre employee and union representative, told The Associated Press that the staff can't work under these conditions.

"Tourists are being aggressive to employees near the 'Mona Lisa' because they are being squeezed" into a small space, he said.

A new security window for the masterpiece, which will enable the painting to be temporarily moved to a more practical location further away from the renovations, is expected to be installed as early as July. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	45-65 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

PAKISTAN An international organization that advocates for the rights of journalists has urged Pakistan to immediately release a reporter who was arrested for his coverage of this week's violent clash between minority Pashtuns and troops in a northwestern region near the Afghan border.



AUSTRALIA The teenager who cracked an egg on the head of a politician for his remarks about the New Zealand mosque massacre has donated almost USD70,000 to people affected by the killings.

CANADA Authorities say eight people are facing charges following a police raid on a Toronto-area mall that U.S. officials have called a "notorious market" for counterfeit luxury goods.



USA Special counsel Robert Mueller (pictured) said yesterday he was legally barred from charging President Donald Trump with a crime but pointedly emphasized that his Russia report did not exonerate the president. If he could have cleared Trump of obstruction of justice he "would have said so," Mueller said.



USA A vicious storm tore through the Kansas City area, spawning tornadoes that downed trees and power lines, damaged homes and injured at least a dozen people in the latest barrage of severe weather that saw tornado warnings as far east as New York City.