



CHUI HONORED IN PORTO
Macau's Chief Executive was presented with a symbolic 'Key to the City' at a ceremony in the northern Portuguese city

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LEGEND OF ARCHITECTURE
I.M. Pei, the globe-trotting architect who revived the Louvre, captured the spirit of rebellion and left a Macau footprint, has died at age 102

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BENFICA BACK, PORTUGUESE CHAMPIONS

▲ P18 FOOTBALL



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WORLD BRIEFS



TAIWAN Gay couples in Taiwan plan a mass wedding registration after lawmakers voted to legalize same-sex marriage, a first in Asia and a boost for LGBT rights activists who had championed the cause for two decades. [More on p11](#)



INDONESIA Poor weather conditions have forced seven French navy fighter jets taking part in a training exercise to make emergency landings in northern Indonesia, an Indonesian air force official said yesterday.



NEPAL Rescuers yesterday recovered the bodies of two Indian climbers who died on the world's third-tallest peak this past week and flew them to Nepal's capital.



AUSTRALIA A jubilant Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison vowed yesterday to get straight back to work after a shock election victory by his conservative government that has left bewildered voters wondering how they were taken by surprise. [More on p13](#)

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PRESS FREEDOM

Wong's lesson on Greater Bay journalism

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Wynn mulling Boston sale to MGM after regulator spares license

▲ P3 GAMING



DSSOPT halts three illegal construction projects

THREE clandestine constructions in Rua do Monte and Calçada do Botelho were demolished following an inspection conducted by an interdepartmental working group of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT).

Two adjacent sites were on a terrace of Rua do Monte and were composed of brick walls, glass windows and metal roofs, the bureau explained in a statement.

The unit also had an internal staircase to access the fifth floor.

The other illegal construction site which was shut down was on the terrace of a low-rise building in Calçada do Botelho, following a complaint filed with the DSSOPT.

While one unit was being monitored by the DSSOPT, it was sold. As a result, the bureau has informed residents who wish to buy a property to ensure that they properly ask about the premises' registration and check whether it is approved by the DSSOPT, otherwise the new owner will be responsible for the demolition of the building.

The bureau pledged to continue inspections and efforts to combat illegal works, and that it will prioritize addressing the most recent illegal works.

The bureau warns that violators will have to bear all demolition expenses and assume legal responsibility. **LV**

Real estate transactions plunge

THE value of purchases of building unit and parking space purchases in the first quarter of 2019 was MOP10.55 billion, down by 20.3% for building units and 25.5% for parking spaces quarter-to-quarter.

According to data issued by the Statistics and Census Service, a total of 1,850 building units and parking spaces were purchased and sold from January to March as per the stamp duty record.

The purchase and sale of residential units decreased by 377 quarter-to-quarter to 1,379 units, and the total value fell

by 26.5% to MOP8.32 billion. During the same period, the number of existing residential units transacted dropped by 277 to 1,186, amounting to MOP6.44 billion, a 22.3% decrease.

The transaction volume of pre-sale residential units declined by 100 to 193 units quarter-to-quarter, and the transaction value reduced by 38.1% to MOP1.88 billion.

Meanwhile, the average price per square meter of usable area and the overall average price of residential units, decreased by 4.8% quarter-to-quarter to MOP102,576, with the aver-

age prices of those in the Macau Peninsula (MOP98,693), Taipa (MOP105,065) and Coloane (MOP126,822) falling by 1.2%, 8.4%, and 8% respectively.

Earlier this year, real estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) predicted that local properties would face pressure in 2019 due to slower economic growth, noting that the capital values of mass to medium residential could drop by 5%. Centaline Property (Macau) forecasted that the number of transactions concerning first-hand house purchases would decrease to approximately 8,000.

In the first quarter of 2019 there were 1,799 real estate purchases and sale contracts signed, and the number of properties involved (1,886) represented a fall of 34.4% quarter-to-quarter.

During the first quarter of the year, 1,979 mortgage contracts were signed and the number of properties involved (3,085) dropped by 9.5%.

Regarding construction in the private sector, there were 14,572 residential units in the design stage, 7,394 under construction, and 258 under inspection at the end of the first quarter. **LV**

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



DIET TIPS FOR GERIATRIC DOGS

Geriatric dogs need special consideration when preparing a diet and exercise regimen. Health and joint problems may require different tactics than those used for younger obese dogs.

Geriatric dog diet

Before changing your senior dog's diet, consult your veterinarian for advice. If your dog has health problems, he may not be able to eat the same diet as a younger dog. However, some foods recommended by veterinarians are high in corn, wheat and other cheap fillers, which are bad for your older dog.

Though senior dogs need less protein than younger dogs, don't sacrifice the quality of your dog's food. Many senior diets are filled with wheat, corn and meat byproducts, which provide no nutritional value. Look for high-quality senior diets that rely on protein and

high-quality grain for their top three ingredients.

Senior diets often utilise lower fat proteins such as poultry and fish, rather than beef and lamb. They also utilize more high-quality grains such as barley, brown rice and oatmeal. Another option is cutting back the amount of food and adding your own dietary enticements, such as replacing 25 percent of the food with ground vegetables. Since dogs can't digest the nutrients in whole vegetables, grind them in your blender and add them to his food. Good vegetable sources are green beans, squash, broccoli and celery.

Since older dogs are also prone to constipation, replace a portion of the protein with healthy grains, such as wheat bran or oatmeal. One or two spoonfuls of canned pumpkin adds fiber while reducing calories.

Adding this to a bland diet of boiled chicken

and rice is another way to reduce your dog's calories without causing stomach upset from a rich protein-based food.

Don't free-feed your senior dog, even if he isn't interested in eating. Try adding a sodium-free broth or wet food to your dog's food to entice him to eat. Leaving food out all day prevents you from monitoring exactly how much he's eating and may cause you to feed him more than necessary.

Geriatric dog exercise

Though they may not have the energy of their youth, senior dogs still need physical and mental stimulation. Provide your dog with daily, steady exercise. Don't push your dog. Instead, slowly build his energy level back up with short, daily exercise. Be consistent. Don't exercise a lot one day to make up for not exercising the previous day.

Get him excited about games that he used to enjoy such as tug and ball, just play them more slowly and for less time.

Another exercise option is making him work for his food. Instead of feeding it in a bowl, toss

it across the floor so he can search for it. Hide it in toys or in little piles around the house so he must search for it. Place it in a ball that spits out kibble when he rolls it across the floor or wet it down, stuff it in a hollow bone or toy and freeze it. If he has never used one of these toys, first teach him how to use it.

Geriatric dogs are prone to obesity because they consume the same amount of calories, even though their activity level is reduced. To keep your senior dog at a healthy weight, reduce his calories and keep him exercising, even if walks are slower than they used to be.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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In this Jan. 2, 2019, file photo, construction continues on the Encore Boston Harbor luxury resort and casino in Everett, Mass.

GAMING | MASSACHUSETTS

Wynn and MGM in talks about sale of Encore Boston casino

WYNN Resorts Ltd. is in talks with MGM Resorts International to sell its nearly finished casino outside Boston - a startling turn after the company won a battle to keep its casino license in the state. "Over the past several weeks, we have engaged in conversations around the potential sale of Encore Boston Harbor," Wynn and MGM said Friday in a joint statement. "They are very preliminary

and of the nature that publicly traded corporations like ours often engage in." "Our conversations will not impact the jobs at our facilities and will not impact the opening of Encore Boston Harbor," the companies added. "Regardless of where this leads us, we will ensure that our commitments will be met, and that those who welcomed us into their communities will not be disappointed." The acquisition of a marquee

property in Boston would bolster MGM's growing presence on the East Coast. In recent years, the company has expanded with new properties, bought a racetrack casino near New York City and acquired full control of the Borgata in Atlantic City, New Jersey. MGM operates a casino in Springfield, Massachusetts, about a two-hour drive from Boston. The 2011 state law that authorized up to three resort casinos in Massachusetts prohibits companies

from holding more than one casino license, so MGM would not be permitted to operate both the Springfield and Boston Harbor facilities. It would likely have to sell the \$960 million Springfield resort that opened only last year. The law does contemplate the possibility of a license transfer and provides guidance for how one might occur, but such a process would likely be complicated and perhaps lengthy, according to gambling regulators. As host

communities for the casinos, Springfield and Everett would also likely have a say in any negotiations surrounding new licensees for the casino.

Wynn recently engaged in merger discussions with Australia's Crown Resorts Ltd. The company embarked on the Boston property as part of a strategy by its former CEO to bring back grand hotels in major cities. But the Las Vegas-based casino operator has been more focused on international markets such as Macau and Japan, where it's pursuing a casino license.

Concerns over a U.S.-China trade war have hurt shares of casino companies with big investments in Macau. Wynn shares fell as much 4.5% to \$121.61 in New York. MGM, which has two Macau properties, was down as much as 2.4%.

State gambling regulators last month levied a \$35 million fine on Wynn Resorts but let Wynn keep its casino license after finding executives failed to disclose allegations of sexual misconduct against company founder Steve Wynn. It also levied another \$500,000 fine on new CEO Matthew Maddox.

In its investigation, Massachusetts Gaming Commission focused on how long Wynn officials were aware of the allegations against Steve Wynn and how they responded, rather than the truth behind the claims. Steve Wynn, who resigned as CEO last year, has denied the allegations.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission had no immediate comment on the talks between the two companies. Elaine Driscoll, a spokeswoman for the agency, said in a statement the agency said its written decision following the Wynn investigation stands.

"The deadline for fine payment and notice of appeal is May 31. The MGC continues to focus its efforts on the significant amount of regulatory preparations required before Encore's opening," Driscoll said in the emailed statement. **MDT/Agencies**

MGM might pay \$800 million in Las Vegas shooting settlement

Ken Ritter, Las Vegas

CASINO giant MGM Resorts told federal regulators Thursday it might pay up to USD800 million to settle liability lawsuits stemming from the 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas — the deadliest in modern U.S. history. "The company believes it is reasonably possible that a settlement will be reached" by next May, it told the Securities and Exchange Commission in a quar-

terly report. MGM Resorts also said it has \$751 million in insurance to pay toward a settlement. However, a lawyer handling mediation talks for plaintiffs called it premature for the corporate owner of Mandalay Bay resort to report a possible settlement range between \$735 million and \$800 million. "We're not even close to resolving all the terms and issues before we have a se-

ttlement," attorney Robert Eglet said. He said he represents about 4,200 claimants, including those who have sued in Nevada, California and other states, and people who have not formally filed for damages. "It's true that a settlement is possible," Eglet said. "But I will tell you it's not probable. Nothing is signed. We have a long way to go before we have an agreement." Eglet said talks are on-

going with MGM Resorts attorneys, and that he was aware the company would make its report to the SEC. Eglet said he reviewed the SEC document and agreed that a settlement should be reached within a year. Company spokeswoman Debra DeShong said progress has been made after multiple mediation sessions over several months. The goal is "to resolve these matters so that all impacted can move forward in their healing process,"

she said.

MGM Resorts has defended itself against liability claims, outraging victims last summer when it filed lawsuits against more than 1,900 people in a bid to consolidate claims in one federal court.

The plaintiffs are seeking compensation for a range of physical and psychological harm after a shooter rained gunfire from a Mandalay Bay suite into an open-air concert crowd, killing 58 people and injuring more than 800.

They accuse MGM Resorts, which owns the high-rise hotel and owned the concert venue across Las Vegas Boulevard, of failing to adequately pro-

tect the 22,000 people attending the Route 91 Harvest Festival.

They point to findings that the shooter, Stephen Paddock, spent several days amassing an arsenal of assault-style weapons and ammunition in the two-room suite. Paddock was a 64-year-old retired accountant and high-stakes video poker player.

Police and the FBI say he acted alone, firing out the windows with guns equipped with rapid-fire bump stocks then killing himself before officers reached his room. Paddock didn't leave a note or a manifesto, and authorities closed investigations saying they didn't identify a motive. **AP**

Av. Colonel Mesquita crash leaves 90-year-old injured

A 90-year-old man was injured in a traffic accident on Avenida do Colonel Mesquita yesterday. The accident occurred on the zebra crossing next to the Dom Bosco Soccer Field. The Public Security Police Force suspects that the accident was caused by a motorcyclist who did not stop to let the senior cross. Bandages were left at the scene after paramedics departed. The man, who was slipping in and out of consciousness, was taken to the government hospital to treat wounds on the back of his head, both his arms and his left leg.

Mainland TV station may have illegally broadcast drawing

A mainland television show recently broadcast Mario Ho, son of local tycoon Stanley Ho, had drawn on a wall opposite the Cinematheque Passion on Travessa do Paixão. It has stirred a debate as to whether the broadcast was legal. Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), said it was within the Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) authority if it involved a cultural heritage building, adding that approval to shoot in Macau is monitored by either the IC or the Municipal Affairs Bureau. Cleanliness of public places is governed by the General Regulations Governing Public Places.

RMB250,000 scammed from university students

A scam recently reported to the Judiciary Police (PJ) involved a mainland university student currently studying in Macau. Initially, she received a call from a so-called courier company. The caller told her illegal goods were found in a parcel addressed to her. After denying that she had ordered these items, she was connected to a supposed police officer in Shanghai who requested her personal data, including her Wechat account. Later, she submitted her ID image, date of birth and residential address on Wechat, before being asked to apply for online banking services. In total the victim said she transferred a total of RMB250,000 to the scammer.

Lawyers host celebratory day in preparation for upcoming Congress



Renato Marques

THE Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) once again organized Lawyer's Day, involving activities covering entertainment, sports and free legal counseling sessions across three days from Friday until yesterday evening.

Several performances were held in Senado Square yesterday afternoon, inviting passersby to sit and watch.

For the first time, this year's event included the option for the public to try mediation as a form of conflict resolution. President

of the AAM, Jorge Neto Valente, said last week that this aims to give people the opportunity to know how this process works to avoid some of the hassles of the courts in cases where there are alternatives.

Neto Valente said, "the mediation and conciliation sessions will help citizens to learn more about the new system, presented as an alternative to common court cases in certain situations."

To recall, the AAM started a Mediation and Conciliation Centre late last year.

According to the extensive program of celebrations, the three

days also provided meeting places and spaces for several contacts and informal meetings between lawyers and other professionals within the sector, such as Public Prosecutions Office staff members and other legal staff from the courts. Macau's lawyers engaged in several friendly sports matches against professionals from other sectors over the second day, competing in basketball, badminton and table tennis at the University of Macau campus in Hengqin Island.

The main stage of the event, held at the Senado Square, hosted a large number of artists,

from singers and dancers to magicians who entertained the general public.

As announced during the press conference that kicked off this year's Lawyer's Day celebrations, the association is getting ready to host the first-ever Congress of Macau Lawyers in September, which will be attended by over 400 local lawyers in addition to over 120 interns.

The Congress has been a long-held ambition of the association, Neto Valente said, and is now justifiable due to the current number of professionals in the sector.

Four men assaulted, one killed in Cotai

Staff reporter

FOUR men from the mainland were assaulted on Saturday evening, with one killed. The Judiciary Police (PJ) is investigating the case and looking to press the charge of murder.

The incident took place near the Four Seasons

Hotel under the footbridge connecting it to the Sands Cotai Central. It was accidentally discovered by a Public Security Police Force (PSP) officer who was on patrol.

The officer saw a man surnamed Wei, 40 years old, lying on the ground with wounds to his chest and waist. Wei was sent

to Kiang Wu Hospital in Taipa, where the other three men, who also sustained stab wounds, were found by the police officer.

Wei died in hospital later that night. The cause of his death will be determined post-mortem.

After a preliminary investigation, the four men

were found to be connected to the same incident.

The PSP and the PJ deployed a large number of officers and investigators to the spot where Wei was discovered to collect evidence. The weapon is still missing and there is no confirmed suspect.

The three injured men hold Chinese identifica-

tion documents and are aged between 29 and 39. All three were conscious when the PSP officer arrived at the hospital, while one of them later underwent an operation.

The Times submitted a request to the PJ for information related to the case, but a reply was not received by press time.

Wong says media should 'embrace' the GBA initiative

Renato Marques

THE media should embrace the opportunities offered by the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and actively participate in its promotion, according to the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, who voiced this directive during a speech at the opening of the First Media Summit of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area held in Guangzhou yesterday. The Secretary was attending the event to represent the Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, who was still on an official visit to Portugal (more on p6-7). According to a statement from the Government Information Bureau, Wong said, "the media, especially of the main ones, should take advantage of this historic opportunity that marks the process the development [of the GBA], being broadcasters, participants and promoters of this initiative."

Wong presented two ways for the media to embrace the initia-



tive. The first, "[through] highlighting the elements of this era and promoting a good dissemination of the history of this bay." Wong said this could be achieved using, "a number of news materials for the media, including the country's innovative develop-

ment models, ideas for modernizing governance, Greater Bay policies and measures, and important projects and their results." According to the official, the priority "should be the orientation and commitment of the media to the Greater Bay [project]."

As for the second way, Wong suggested that a good area of focus for the media should be examining the strengthening of cooperation in innovation and joint presentation of ideas, and the way in which this can be a lever for the development and

construction of the GBA.

Concluding his speech, Wong reaffirmed that the "main media" in the three territories should be focused on boosting and promoting the construction of the GBA, bearing in mind the motto "unity is strength," taking advantage of new ways to propagate the news, and to "promote the vitality and wonderful history of the bay, allowing the whole world to witness its development, listen to the voice of China and feel the Chinese vitality."

In response to the apparent directive, José Carlos Matias, President of the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association, told Radio Macau it would be better for journalists to decide for themselves how best to cover the development of the Greater Bay Area.

Speakers at the inauguration ceremony of the conference, aside from Wong, included the secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Li Xi, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Carrie Lam, the directors of the Liaison Offices of both Hong Kong and Macau, and Head of Propaganda Department of the Central Committee, Huang Kunming.

The main theme of the inaugural summit was "First-class Bay, the responsibility of the media."

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FORUM

Chui given 'Key to the City' in Porto visit

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On and the Mayor of Porto, Rui Moreira, signed a memorandum of understanding on Friday with the aim of promoting friendly relations between the two cities, specifically in the areas of trade and finance.

Chui, accompanied by a delegation from the Macau government, travelled from Portugal's capital Lisbon to Porto as part of his visit. In addition to the signing of the memorandum of understanding, the Mayor of Porto presented Chui with a symbolic "Key to the City".

Speaking during Friday's ceremony, Chui expressed his appreciation for the honor of being granted a Key to the City. He said it symbolized not only a privilege granted to him personally, but also a gesture of esteem directed at Macau as a whole.

The granting of the 'Key' would symbolically open the door



Mayor of Porto Rui Moreira (right) and Chui Sai On

to bolstering friendly contacts between the two sides, he said, and for the expansion of exchange and cooperation in various fields. These fields include trade,

tourism, traditional Chinese medicine, and cultural heritage preservation.

Such ties would consolidate the foundation of cooperation and

friendship between the two cities, the Macau Chief Executive added.

Noting that 2019 marked the 22nd anniversary of town

twinning between Porto and Macau, the Porto Mayor stated that the signing of a memorandum of understanding illustrated a strong commitment to promoting exchange and cooperation.

Moreira further stated that Porto would help Macau in its effort to develop as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, in order to promote internationally Porto's financial services and tourism industry.

Later, on Friday afternoon, the MSAR government delegation visited a Macau-based company's project in Porto, which covers media activities and services for start-ups. Chui said that the company was an example of Macau's envisioned role within the Belt and Road initiative framework.

The Chief Executive and the rest of the delegation start their journey home on Saturday. **DB**

opinion

VICTOR LI TRIES ON HIS SUPERMAN SUIT IN SHANGHAI

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg Opinion

Billionaire Li Ka-shing built his fortune and legendary reputation by displaying an uncanny ability to time asset markets. Investors in Shanghai real estate need to ask whether his son has the same touch.

Victor Li's CK Asset Holdings Ltd. is considering selling its 60% stake in a commercial building that's valued at almost USD3 billion, Bloomberg News reported this week, citing people familiar with the matter. The 54-year-old elder son of Hong Kong's richest man took over as chairman of CK Asset and group flagship CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. upon his father's retirement last year.

The mixed-use development is CK's single-biggest Shanghai project, so a decision to sell could be seen as a significant call on the city's office market. It arrives as overseas investors such as Blackstone Group LP and Brookfield Asset Management Inc. have been piling into Shanghai. Foreigners accounted for about half the 53 billion yuan (\$7.8 billion) in commercial property deals in the first quarter, a more than fourfold jump from what they spent a year earlier, according to figures from real estate broker CBRE Group Inc.

To get an idea of the CK group's market-timing prowess, consider The Center. CK Asset sold the Hong Kong skyscraper for HKD40.2 billion (\$5.2 billion) in November 2017, when the elder Li was still at the helm. The price was a global record for an office building, according to a Dealogic analysis cited in the Financial Times.

A year and a half later, it looks like CK may have picked the top of the market. Hong Kong's office capital values fell 0.3% in the six months through March, according to Denis

Ma, head of research at Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. Ma estimates they could drop between 5% and 10% this year as Hong Kong borrowing costs rise and economic headwinds build. Grade A rental yields are 2.7%, versus around 4% in 2010, according to JLL.

Shanghai office values have a similarly topy look, having plateaued since the first quarter of 2017. China's economic growth has slowed and a trade war with the U.S. is picking up steam, both factors that are likely to damp demand from companies to lease space in the city's office buildings.

Added to this, domestic real estate investors have been struggling to get access to funding while there's already evidence of serious oversupply in the commercial market. Shanghai's office vacancy rate will climb to a record 17.2 percent this year, from 15.2 percent in 2018, CBRE forecasts.

Granted, CK's development may not be a bellwether for Shanghai in the same way that The Center was for Hong Kong. The project, Upper West Shanghai, is outside the city's downtown area in the northwestern district of Putuo. Moreover, a sale — should one happen — may not signify any view on the market. The Li family has been reducing its exposure to China for years.

At the same time, it would be rash to dismiss the signal that such an exit would send. Investors have been waiting for clues that Victor Li has inherited the investing savvy of his 90-year-old father, whose well-timed bets and \$30 billion fortune have earned him the nickname Superman in local media.

A near-term dip in Shanghai property prices might suggest some of the master's flair has rubbed off on his scion.

Liaison Office weighs in on extradition law

HONG Kong deputies for China's top legislative body met with officials from the Liaison Office on Friday, reported The Standard. They met to discuss the city's controversial fugitive law amendment bill that critics say is being tailored for the mainland.

The move comes after the government announced its intent to bypass the bills committee by putting the fugitive law amendment bill to the full Legislative Council (LegCo) to resume a second

reading.

According to the Hong Kong-based news outlet, the Liaison Office issued "important instructions" to the deputies in firm support of Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

For her part, Lam said it was reasonable for Beijing to express its stance, backing the position held by her government.

The bill amendment has garnered resistance from the opposition pan-democrat camp on a scale not seen since the Occupy Central

movement in 2014. Aside from taking to the streets in a protest which gathered tens of thousands last month, democrats in the LegCo have used tactics to stall the amendment from being passed.

The pan-democrats say they do not approve of the Liaison Office's interference in the legislative matter. One LegCo member criticized the move, saying that "Hong Kong is not ruled by the Liaison Office," according to The Standard. **DB**

Hong Kong's Carrie Lam continues Greater Bay tour

HONG Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam, accompanied by Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Patrick Nip, continued her visit to the mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area this weekend, visiting Jiangmen on Saturday.

During their visit to Jiangmen, Lam and Nip visited China International Marine Containers (CIMC) to learn about the operations of its subsidiary, CIMC Modular Building Systems, which supplies construction components for the Construction Industry Council's Modular In-

tegrated Construction (MiC) Display Centre in Kowloon Bay.

The Hong Kong officials also visited Xinhui Tangerine Peel Village to find out the development of the trade. The production of aged tangerine peels in the city has a history hundreds of years old, and they are known across the country for their quality. Following years of development, it has become an industry with an annual production worth billions of dollars.

Later, Lam and Nip departed for Panyu, Guangzhou, to visit Clifford Hospital, which

was founded by a Hong Kong merchant. Opened in 2001, Clifford Hospital was the first hospital in China to be accredited by Joint Commission International and provides medical services for many Hong Kong people living nearby.

Since she assumed office, Hong Kong's Chief Executive has visited Macau and the nine mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. According to a statement from the SAR government in Hong Kong, these visits have helped to inform her of the characteristics and economic advantages of each city. **DB**



Hong Kong corruption police files fraud charges against Cho

Benjamin Robertson & Sheridan Prasso

ONE of Hong Kong's biggest financial regulatory investigations saw its first charges filed late last week.

Cho Kwai-chee, founder of the city's largest private health-care group, was charged with conspiracy to defraud Hong Kong's stock exchange and a listed firm where he was director, anti-corruption police said in a statement. Cho benefited financially when he caused Convoy Global Holdings Ltd. to buy an investment company he owned for more than HKD89 million (USD11.3 million), the Independent Commission Against Corruption alleged.

"He is innocent of the charge," Cho's lawyer Wong Ching said after Cho appeared before a judge Thursday, dressed in a dark suit and held in a metal pen. He was released on HKD700,000 bail.

Cho, the 55-year-old doctor-turned-financier, was at the center of a "sophisticated scheme" to misuse an invest-

ment into Convoy, according to details in two lawsuits filed by Convoy management in late 2017 and early 2018. Several companies that were part of a web of cross-shareholdings identified and named the "Enigma Network" by activist investor David Webb were involved, the filings said.

Insurance and securities brokerage Convoy was used by Cho to make margin loans to other businesses connected to him, and he directed confidants at the firm through a secret email account even though he didn't own a controlling stake, according to the lawsuits filed by Convoy's new management.

Firms connected to Cho, which included businesses as diverse as finance, LED lighting and education, allegedly bought and sold each other's shares to artificially pump up prices while diverting millions of dollars of investors' money into their own pockets, the Convoy lawsuits said.

The judge on Thursday granted Cho permission to visit Australia in late May. Cho and his family are applying to im-

migrate to the country under an investment migration program and he must appeal in person a previous rejection of his application, Cho's lawyer told the court.

Prosecutors argued that if

Cho left the city, he might not return because Cho had previously disappeared for 10 months from late 2017. Cho secretly owned more than half of Convoy's shares, the prosecution said. **Bloomberg**

JPMorgan banker charged over bribery

HONG Kong's anti-corruption office filed bribery charges against Catherine Leung, a former managing director at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Leung, 51, was charged with bribing the chairman of a logistics company by promising to employ his son with the bank if the firm favored JPMorgan while choosing bankers for its initial public offering, the Independent Commission Against Corruption said in a statement on Thursday. She will appear in court on Monday.

Leung is the latest to be embroiled in the fallout of a hiring strategy that JPMorgan eventually ended in 2013. The program - which allowed senior staff to refer external candidates for junior positions at the firm - was used to curry favor with foreign officials and clients, the U.S. Federal Reserve said in 2017.

JPMorgan settled the case in 2016 and has also strengthened its compliance procedures around hiring and conduct, the firm said in a separate statement. Leung had left JPMorgan in 2015. A call to her mobile was unanswered. **Bloomberg**

Corruption agencies discuss Greater Bay cooperation

Macau's Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision held a joint meeting in Guangzhou last week, where the three parties discussed "integrity building" in the Greater Bay Area, according to a statement published yesterday by the CCAC. The three parties agreed that they would strive to develop a corruption-free Greater Bay Area. They agreed to strengthen exchanges in education and publicity initiatives on probity culture and pledged to dedicate themselves to "establishing a clean, healthy, open and transparent government-business relationship", increasing exchange visits and staff trainings and stepping up efforts in combating cross-border corruption.

Shenzhen, Edinburgh cement city friendship ties

The city of Shenzhen in Guangdong Province cemented friendship city ties with Edinburgh in Great Britain last week. The mayors of the two cities signed the agreement in Shenzhen at the 2019 Shenzhen Smart City Forum with International Friendship Cities, planning to cooperate on smart city building. Shenzhen will hold discussions with its friendship cities to take advantage of breakthroughs in science and technology and industry reform and find a way forward in the cities' future development, said Wang Weizhong, the city's Party secretary. Shenzhen has solidified friendship city ties with 87 provinces, districts and cities in 56 countries since it first started to create friendship city ties in 1986.

Insurance company helps to fight African swine fever

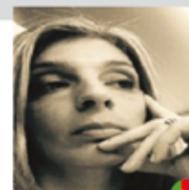
A major insurance company in Guangdong Province has joined the battle against African swine fever (ASF). The insurance company has allocated materials worth more than 1.4 million yuan (USD200,000) to local companies to help lower the risks associated with raising animals. The materials include disinfectants and vermifuge. Training sessions have been held in Guangdong to increase farmers' knowledge of ASF and enhance their abilities to defend against the virus. Earlier this month, China asked pork processors and hog dealers to secure certificates to prove that their products are free from African swine fever.



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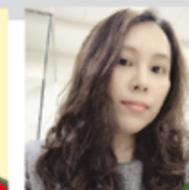
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Property of the Week



THE BUCKINGHAM, TAIPA
 1,439 ft² 2 2 **HK\$11,770,000**

Fully furnished 2 Bedroom high floor apartment in The Buckingham, Taipa. Beautifully decorated with a large terrace and great views. 2 Bathrooms, 1 en-suite, and an open-plan kitchen. Convenient location in Taipa with quick access to restaurants, supermarkets and the Cotai Strip. Club Facility available, pool and gym, dining room, garden. High quality development and finish, currently leased out with excellent tenants.



Property Hotlist



NAM LONG, TAIPA
\$8,680,000
 1,408 ft²
 4
 2



KINGLIGHT GARDEN LOFT, TAIPA
\$7,880,000
 800 ft²
 1
 1



HELLENE GARDEN, COLOANE
\$7,950,000
 1,663 ft²
 3
 2



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Nice Court 3 2 1,600 ft² **\$8,980,000** (ref: 19045002)
- [Taipa] Nova City 4 2 2,503 ft² **\$17,800,000** (ref: 19015574)
- [Taipa] Wa Bao 2 2 1,020 ft² **\$8,500,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Macau] Lakeview 3 3 3,430 ft² **\$25,000,000** (ref: 18105565)
- [Taipa] Choi Long Meng Chui 3 3 3,398 ft² **\$17,800,000** (ref: 18045555)

For Rent

- [Taipa] The Manhattan 3 2 1,626 ft² **\$23,800/mth** (ref: 19030002)
- [Taipa] Nova Park 2 2 1,134 ft² **\$16,400/mth** (ref: 17020638)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)
- [Macau] Macau CBD Office 1,813 ft² **\$21,000/mth** (ref: 19010699)
- [Taipa] 4 storey Commercial Building 4,003 ft² **\$168,000/mth** (ref: 17040646)

Recent Movements

- Sold** The Manhattan, Taipa
4 bed, 2,305 ft² (ref: 18045551)
- Sold** Jou Fai Kuo, Macau
627 ft² (ref: 18050678)
- Rented** Vila, Taipa
2 bed, 800 ft² (ref: 19010698)

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AP PHOTO



MONEY LAUNDERING

Vancouver's dirty figures: the smoking gun that wasn't

Natalie Obiko Pearson & Natalie Wong

WHEN British Columbia released its bombshell findings last week that more than CAD7 billion (MOP42 billion) was laundered in a single year through the Canadian province - mostly through real estate - it trumpeted that "thousands" of properties might be involved.

It appeared to be conclusive evidence of what many in the city suspected: the 60% surge in Vancouver housing prices in the five years through 2017 was fueled in part by dirty cash, a big chunk flowing from Asia.

But the government's case may be less conclusive than it appeared. A closer reading of the studies underlying the announcement shows there's little hard evidence of actual money laundering, and even then, the amounts could be much smaller. And while one report said much of the suspect money is coming from China, the other pointed to the U.S.

"It's very difficult for us to really accurately estimate the volume of flows of money laundering," said Vanessa Iafolla, who researches money laundering at the University of Waterloo in Ontario. "It's hard to measure something that you can't see."

Canada's third-largest city and its most expensive housing market is increasingly divided over what caused the cost of a typical home to surpass a million dollars in mid-2017. Premier John Horgan's government, which has pledged to make housing more affordable, is under pressure to deliver answers. He announced Wednesday a formal inquiry into money laundering.

The province is planning to set up a public registry of beneficial property owners by next year - the single most important step in peeling back the anonymity that enables dirty money, many experts agree. In the meantime, it's working with educated guesstimates.

The study gauged that CAD7.4 billion was laundered through B.C. last year. By far the biggest source of dirty cash into Canada was the U.S. at CAD4.9 billion, six times more than from East Asia, including China. The second study, led by a former police chief, said it identified thousands of suspect properties - none of which were used to arrive at the CAD7 billion figure - and declared that "China figures prominently" in the flow of suspicious money.

GRAVITY MODEL

The methodology in the first study, known as the gravity model, seeks to determine how much dirty money is floating

around the world, what portion needs to be laundered, and how much each region is likely to attract. Launderers are expected to gravitate to safe havens and rich economies where it's easier to hide ill-gotten gains. It assumes that criminals, like most people, channel most of their financial assets into real estate. Geographical and cultural proximity, including a history of migration, are thrown into the mix.

"There's no way of proving it," but it beats the impossible task of trying to tally up transactions you don't know about, says John Walker, a former researcher with the Australian Institute of Criminology who first developed the model, said by phone.

The government trumpeted that CAD5 billion of the CAD7 billion washed in the province last year went into real estate - the study's highest possible estimate. It may be as low as CAD800 million depending on how criminals save versus invest, according to the report. The study also indicates billions more are being laundered in oil-rich Alberta and Ontario, home to the financial capital Toronto.

'TREMENDOUS OVERSIMPLIFICATION'

Finance Minister Carole James says dirty money was responsible for raising housing prices about 5% in the province last

year. The report said its best estimate was a range of 3.7% to 7.5% but noted "considerable uncertainty" about the figures.

"It's a tremendous oversimplification," says Matthew McGuire, a forensic accountant who previously worked for Canada's financial intelligence unit. "There is money being laundered through real estate, yes, but the factors that influence the change in prices of real estate are far more complex and far greater than just criminality."

On Wednesday, a government news release said the impact on Metro Vancouver prices may have been "upwards of 20%" - the kind of geographic granularity that's impossible to calculate with current data, the report's chair Maureen Maloney had said earlier this week. The offices of Horgan, James and Attorney General David Eby didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Vancouver has for years been riveted by stories of rich Asians moving cash into the region: students and homemakers declaring no income but owning multi-million-dollar homes, Chinese high rollers showing up at casinos with hockey bags brimming with cash, and most recently, a thriving grey market in Vancouver-to-China luxury car exports that sent millions of dollars in sales-tax refunds to overseas buyers.

ELECTRONIC LAUNDERING

That's fed the perception that Vancouver's money-laundering problem is in large part an Asian one.

But rich economies generate the most dirty money and from crimes related to the financial sector that can move billions at the push of a button, according to Brigitte Unger, a professor at Utrecht University who modeled the Canadian study. She says the Netherlands, considered to be at the forefront in tackling dirty money, had earlier made the same mistake that "money laundering only took place in Chinese restaurants and casinos."

"The big money, I'm still convinced, doesn't come from China," said Unger by phone from Vienna. "The big money comes from the U.S. and from Europe because these are the rich countries, which use Canada as a wide-open door because it has much lower restrictions on where to place your money and how to stay anonymous."

The study assumes that criminals, like most people, channel most of their financial assets into real estate

CASH GIFTS

The second report had featured a luxury car dealer describing how foreign students come in 10 times a month with no credit and no income and get auto financing based on wire transfers as "unequivocally money laundering."

Flamboyant displays of wealth by students may be unpalatable but not necessarily criminal. An international student who returns home periodically typically isn't required to report or pay taxes on income from abroad, while cash gifts from family members aren't taxable under Canadian rules.

The second study sifted through more than a million land titles looking for red flags such as overseas buyers, properties bought without financing, opaque addresses and unusual mortgage terms. More than 2,000 properties were classified high risk for simply having mailing addresses in China or Hong Kong.

Ultimately, it concluded the approach had limitations.

"The 'suspicious properties' analysis suggests that a scoring system may not be an effective way to detect properties linked to money laundering," the study said. **Bloomberg**

Gov't ban on scrap imports a boon to US recycling plants

Mary Esch, Albany

THE halt on China's imports of wastepaper and plastic that has disrupted U.S. recycling programs has also spurred investment in American plants that process recyclables.

U.S. paper mills are expanding capacity to take advantage of a glut of cheap scrap. Some facilities that previously exported plastic or metal to China have retooled so they can process it themselves.

And in a twist, the investors include Chinese companies that are still interested in having access to wastepaper or flattened bottles as raw material for manufacturing.

"It's a very good moment for recycling in the United States," said Neil Seldman, co-founder of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a Washington-based organization that helps cities improve recycling programs.

China, which had long been the world's largest destination for paper, plastic and other recyclables, phased in import restrictions in January 2018.

Global scrap prices plummeted, prompting waste-hauling companies to pass the cost of sorting and baling recyclables on to municipalities. With no market for the wastepaper and plastic in their blue bins, some communities scaled back or suspended curbside recycling programs.

New domestic markets offer a glimmer of hope.



About USD1 billion in investment in U.S. paper processing plants has been announced in the past six months, according to Dylan de Thomas, a vice president at The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that tracks and works with the industry.

Hong Kong-based Nine Dragons, one of the world's largest producers of cardboard boxes, has invested \$500 million over

the past year to buy and expand or restart production at paper mills in Maine, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

In addition to making paper from wood fiber, the mills will add production lines turning more than a million tons of scrap into pulp to make boxes, said Brian Boland, vice president of government affairs and corporate initiatives for ND Paper, Nine Dragons' U.S. affiliate.

"The paper industry has been in contraction since the early 2000s," Boland said. "To see this kind of change is frankly amazing. Even though it's a Chinese-owned company, it's creating U.S. jobs and revitalizing communities like Old Town, Maine, where the old mill was shuttered."

The Northeast Recycling Council said in a report last fall that 17 North American paper mills

had announced increased capacity to handle recyclable paper since the Chinese cutoff.

Another Chinese company, Global Win Wickliffe, is reopening a shuttered paper mill in Kentucky. Georgia-based Pratt Industries is constructing a mill in Wapakoneta, Ohio that will turn 425,000 tons of recycled paper per year into shipping boxes.

Plastics also has a lot of capacity coming online, de Thomas said, noting new or expanded plants in Texas, Pennsylvania, California and North Carolina that turn recycled plastic bottles into new bottles.

Chinese companies are investing in plastic and scrap metal recycling plants in Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina to make feedstocks for manufacturers in China, he said.

In New Brunswick, New Jersey, the recycling company GDB International exported bales of scrap plastic film such as pallet wrap and grocery bags for years. But when China started restricting imports, company president Sunil Bagaria installed new machinery to process it into pellets he sells profitably to manufacturers of garbage bags and plastic pipe.

He said the imports cutoff that China calls "National Sword" was a much-needed wake-up call to his industry.

"The export of plastic scrap played a big role in facilitating recycling in our country," Bagaria said. "The downside is that infrastructure to do our own domestic recycling didn't develop."

Now that is changing, though he said far more domestic processing capacity will be needed as a growing number of countries restrict scrap imports. **AP**

Beijing officials, Iran foreign ministers meet amid Middle East tensions

IRAN'S foreign minister praised his country's relations with China during talks with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing amid heightened tensions and efforts by Tehran to keep its world markets open following the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal.

Mohammad Javad Zarif met Friday with Wang Yi, whose country has been a major customer for Iranian oil, at the Diaoyutai state guesthouse.

"We consider [China] one of our closest partners in the world," Zarif said in opening remarks at the start of the meeting.

Iran wishes to cooperate with China "bilaterally



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

and multilaterally, in order to preserve the interests of our two peoples [...] for peace and security," Zarif said.

Wang told Zarif during the meeting that China hopes the Iran nuclear

deal can be "fully implemented."

"China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions and the so-called 'long-arm' jurisdiction imposed by the United States on Iran," Wang said, according to

China's Xinhua state news agency.

The Chinese foreign minister pledged to maintain the nuclear deal and work with Iran to eliminate "complicated disturbing factors," Xinhua said.

Along with ratcheting-up pressure on the Islamic Republic, Washington is engaged in an increasingly bitter tariff battle with China.

Wang's comments were inaudible, but China has accused the U.S. of raising tensions in the Middle East with its more assertive approach to Iran, as well as upsetting energy markets and the global economy.

The talks came after Sau-

di Arabia accused Iran of being behind a drone attack that shut down a key oil pipeline in the kingdom. A local newspaper linked to the Al Saud royal family called Thursday for America to launch "surgical strikes" on Tehran.

The U.S. has also dispatched warships and bombers to the region to counter an alleged threat from Iran that has seen America order nonessential diplomatic staff out of Iraq.

President Donald Trump decided last year to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers and imposed wide-reaching sanctions that have crippled

Iran's economy.

Zarif arrived following a visit to Japan — like China, a major importer of crude oil from the Persian Gulf — as part of intense diplomatic efforts to salvage Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers at the center of a crisis unfolding between Iran and the U.S.

Zarif was quoted by Iran's official IRNA news agency as chastising the international community, saying in Beijing that it has "mainly made statements, instead of saving the deal."

After Trump pulled America out of the deal, other signatories — the European Union, France, Britain, China, Russia and Germany — have been trying to salvage it.

Iran recently warned it would resume enriching uranium at higher levels if a new deal isn't reached by July 7. **AP**

Gay couples plan mass weddings after Taiwan legalizes unions

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

GAY couples in Taiwan plan a mass wedding registration after lawmakers voted to legalize same-sex marriage, a first in Asia and a boost for LGBT rights activists who had championed the cause for two decades.

Legislators pressured by LGBT groups as well as by church organizations opposed to the move on Friday approved most of a government-sponsored bill that recognizes same-sex marriages and gives couples many of the tax, insurance and child custody benefits available to male-female married couples.

That makes Taiwan the first place in Asia with a comprehensive law both allowing and laying out the terms of same-sex marriage.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, a supporter of the law, tweeted: "On May 17th, 2019 in Taiwan, LoveWon. We took a big step toward true equality, and made Taiwan a better country."

"It's a breakthrough, I have to say so," said Shiao Hong-chi, professor of gender studies and communications management at Shih-Hsin University in Taiwan.

Thousands of people, including same-sex couples, demonstrated Friday morning in the rainy streets outside parliament before the vote. Many carried rainbow-colored placards reading "The vote cannot fail." About 50 opponents sat under a tent outside parliament and gave speeches favoring marriage between only men and women.

Taiwan's Constitutional Court in May 2017 said the constitution allows same-sex marriages and gave parliament two years to adjust laws accordingly. The court order mobilized LGBT advocacy groups pushing for fair



treatment, as well as opponents among church groups and advocates of traditional Chinese family values that stress the importance of marriage and producing offspring.

Religion, conservative values and political systems that discourage LGBT activism have slowed momentum toward same-sex marriage in many Asian countries from Japan through much of Southeast Asia, although Thailand is exploring the legalization of same-sex civil partnerships.

"This will help spark a debate in Thailand, and hopefully will help Thailand move faster on our own partnership bill," said Wattana Keiangpa of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said Taiwan's action should "sound a clarion call, kicking off

a larger movement across Asia to ensure equality for LGBT people and pro-active protection of their rights by governments throughout the region. No more excuses!"

At least 20 same-sex couples are planning a mass marriage registration in Taipei on May 24, a spokesman for the advocacy group Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan said. The newlyweds and hundreds of invitees will hold a mass party a day later on a blocked-off boulevard outside the presidential office, the event organizer said.

The law will give a boost to Jay Lin and his partner, who hope to marry and assume joint custody of their two 2-year-old sons. They plan to register after May 24.

"A lot of gay parents are excited about that already," said Lin, a Taipei-based online streaming service founder.

"I think once more people are married and more families are more comfortable being out in public, that will naturally have a beneficial impact on society and on people's minds," Lin said.

Taiwan's acceptance of gay and lesbian relationships began in the 1990s when leaders in today's ruling Democratic Progressive Party championed the cause to help Taiwan stand out in Asia as an open society.

Although claimed by China as its own territory, Taiwan is a self-governing democracy with a vibrant civil society dedicated to promoting rights for sexual and ethnic minorities, women, the handicapped and others.

Mainland China, ruled by the authoritarian Communist Party, remains much more conservative and officials have repeatedly discouraged even the discussion of legalizing same-sex marriage.

Despite that, news of Taiwan's new law was a major trending topic on social media in China, with more than 100 million views on the Twitter-like micro-blogging site Weibo.

Opponents in Taiwan raised fears of incest, insurance scams and children confused by having two mothers or two fathers. Both sides of the issue have held colorful street demonstrations and lobbied lawmakers.

"This is going to cause a lot of morality problems," said Lin Shih-min with the Taiwan political action group Stability of Power, which opposed the law. "From the point of view of the children, they have the right to grow up with both a mother and a father."

At least 20 same-sex couples are planning a mass marriage registration in Taipei on May 24

In November 2018, a majority of Taiwan voters rejected same-sex marriage in an advisory referendum. However, legislators favoring the bill, and voting separately on each item largely along party lines, said it followed the law as well as the spirit of the referendum.

"We need to take responsibility for the referendum last year and we need to take responsibility for people who have suffered from incomplete laws or faced discrimination," ruling party legislator Hsiao Bi-khim said during the three-hour parliament session. **AP**

Wang tells Pompeo US must negotiate on equal basis

Hao Huang

NEGOTIATING on an equal footing is the only way to solve pressing trade issues, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo in a phone call on Saturday, the ministry said in a statement.

Wang said the U.S. has recently harmed China's interests through va-

rious words and actions, including by what he said was containing normal business operations of China companies by political means, according to a readout of the call posted on the ministry website.

The State Department acknowledged the call in a one-sentence statement. "They discussed elements of the bilateral relationship, including

U.S. concerns about Iran," said spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus.

Wang urged "all parties to exercise restraint and act with caution" in Iran, and warned against "long-arm jurisdiction" by the U.S., according to the ministry readout.

The more detailed Chinese readout also said that Wang pointed out that China is willing to resolve economic and

trade disputes through negotiations, but that China must safeguard its legitimate interests and defend "basic norms of international relations."

He also urged Pompeo that the U.S. should abide by the One China policy in regards to the status of Taiwan.

The Wang-Pompeo call came days after President Donald Trump, citing national security

concerns, signed an executive order that could effectively ban Huawei Technologies Co. and Chinese sister firm ZTE Corp. from the U.S. market. The Department of Commerce on Thursday also said it had put Huawei on a blacklist that could forbid it from doing business with American companies.

The pair of actions risk aggravating Beijing as

Trump attempts to pressure China's leaders into agreeing to a wide-ranging trade deal. Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on almost all imports from the world's No. 2 economy after last week increasing duties on some USD200 billion in Chinese products to 25% from 10%. No talks between the parties are scheduled at the moment. **Bloomberg**

INDIA

Residents vote in final phase of grueling national election

Julhas Alam & Ashok Sharma, Kolkata

INDIANS voted yesterday in the seventh and final phase of a grueling national election that lasted more than five weeks, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party seeks to govern for another five years.

The election is seen as a referendum on Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP's main opposition is the Congress party, led by Rahul Gandhi, the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty that has produced three prime ministers.

Vote counting begins on Thursday, and the election result will likely be known the same day.

The voting covered Modi's constituency of Varanasi, a holy Hindu city where he was elected in 2014 with an impressive margin of over 200,000 votes. Modi spent Saturday night at Kedarnath, a temple of the Hindu god Shiva nestled in the Himalayas in northern India.

The final election round included 59 constituencies in eight states. Up for grabs were 13 seats in Punjab and an equal number in Uttar Pradesh, eight each in



Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, nine in West Bengal, four in Himachal Pradesh and three in Jharkhand and Chandigarh.

In Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, voters lined up outside polling stations early yesterday morning to avoid the scorching heat, with temperatures reaching up to 38 degrees Celsius. Armed security officials stood guard in and outside the centers amid fear of violence.

While the election, which began April 11, was largely peaceful, West Bengal, located in eastern India, was an exception. Modi is challenged there by the state's chief minister, Mamata Banerjee, who heads the more inclusive

Trinamool Congress party and is eyeing a chance to go to New Delhi as the opposition's candidate for prime minister.

Modi visited West Bengal 17 times in an effort to make inroads with his Hindu nationalist agenda, provoking sporadic violence and prompting the Election Commission to cut off campaigning there.

Nirmala Sitharaman, a BJP leader and the country's defense minister, accused Banerjee's supporters of attacking her party members and preventing them from voting at several places in six of the nine constituencies in West Bengal. She did not provide details.

Prodeep Chakrabarty, a retired teacher in Kolkata, said Modi's BJP was desperate to win some seats against Banerjee's influential regional party.

"People are divided for many reasons. We have to wait for a final outcome to see who people are voting for. Things are not predictable like before," he said.

Minorities in India, especially Muslims, who comprise about 14 percent of the country's 1.3 billion people, criticize Modi for his Hindu nationalist agenda. Modi's party backed a bill that would make it easier to deport millions of Bangladeshis who have migrated to India since Bangladesh's independence in 1971. The bill, however, eases a path to citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Parsees and Jains — non-Muslims — who came from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan over decades.

Voters were also up early in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh state, where election workers arranged for drinking water, shade and fans to cool them down.

"I straightaway came from my morning walk to cast my vote and was surprised to see enthusiasm

among the voters," said Ramesh Kumar Singh, who was among the first to vote. "There were long queues of people waiting patiently to cast their votes, which is a good sign for democracy."

During the election campaign, Modi played up the threat of Pakistan, India's Muslim-majority neighbor and archrival, especially after the suicide bombing of a paramilitary convoy in Kashmir on Feb. 14 that killed 40 Indian soldiers.

Congress and other opposition parties have challenged Modi over a high unemployment rate of 6.1% and farmers' distress aggravated by low crop prices.

Some of Modi's boldest policy steps, such as the demonetization of high currency notes to curb black-market money, proved to be economically damaging. A haphazard implementation of "one nation, one tax" — a goods and services tax — also hit small and medium businesses.

Voter turnout in the first six rounds was approximately 66%, the Election Commission said, up from 58% in the last national vote in 2014.

Pre-election media polls indicate that no party is likely to win anything close to a majority in Parliament, which has 543 seats. The BJP, which won a majority of 282 seats in 2014, may need some regional parties as allies to stay in power.

A Congress-led government would require a major electoral upset. AP

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AUSTRALIA

Leader vows to get back to work after shock win

Trevor Marshallsea, Sydney

A jubilant Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison vowed yesterday to get straight back to work after a shock election victory by his conservative government that has left bewildered voters wondering how they were taken by surprise.

The opposition Labor Party, meanwhile, began another bout of post-election soul searching while starting the task of finding a new leader, after Bill Shorten stepped down following an emphatic defeat Saturday in a poll many had seen as unlosable for his party.

Center-left Labor, which has governed Australia for only 38 of its 118 years as a federation, was rated an overwhelming favorite, both in opinion polls and with odds-makers, to topple the conservative Liberal-National coalition government after its six years in power.

Instead, Morrison — who became prime minister only last August when a contentious internal party vote dumped Malcolm Turnbull as its leader — swept the coalition to victory with what is likely to be an increased representation in Parliament.

The result is much the same as the last election, which delivered the government a single-seat majority in 2016. Since then, public expectations have taken a roller coaster ride based on the media's reporting of polls.

Opinion polling has been a factor in conservative and Labor governments ousting four of their own prime ministers in the past decade, mostly recently elevating Morrison to prime minister.

Sydney University political scientist Stewart Jackson said the polls that had put Labor ahead of the government for the past two years were too consistent for too long to be credible.

"That indicates 'herding,' where the pollsters themselves are getting results that they don't think are right and are adjusting them," Jackson said. "Because statistically, polls should never come up like that."

Martin O'Shannessy, who headed the respected Newspoll market research company in Sydney for a decade until 2015, said he was "shocked" by the government's victory, given the polling.

"It's not possible to tell exactly how the current polls are being conducted because they don't have the same method statement that polls in the past have had," O'Shannessy said.

Until Saturday, Newspoll had accurately predicted the winner of every Australian state and federal election since its inception in 1985. Australia has made voting compulsory, so pollsters' surveys of Australians' party preferences usually come close to the election result.

Newspolls are published every few weeks and are reported

by the Australian media like a game score of the government and opposition's popularity and achievements.

Morrison's predecessor, Turnbull, justified overthrowing his predecessor, Tony Abbott, in 2015 on the basis of "30 losing Newspolls."

Turnbull's administration had trailed Labor in more than 30 Newspolls before his government replaced him with Morrison as elections loomed.

O'Shannessy said yesterday, "You should never sack the prime minister on the basis of a Newspoll — ever."

Labor lawmaker Anthony Albanese, who was defeated by Shorten in a ballot of the party leadership in 2013 and will contest for the job again, said he had expected to be in government based on polling.

"The truth is that clearly there is a major gap between what the polling was showing and what the outcome was," Albanese said. "That is something that no doubt will be examined over coming days and weeks."

With just over 75% of votes counted by yesterday evening, the coalition had won 73 of the 76 seats needed to form a majority government, according to calculations from the Australian Broadcasting Corp. With seven seats still undecided, the coalition was expected to make further gains by the end of counting. The government had gone into the election as a minority

government, with just 73 seats.

Labor was holding 65 seats, with independents and minor parties claiming six.

The possibility remains that the coalition will again have to govern in the minority, relying on agreements with independent and minor party lawmakers to transact government business.

■ The result is much the same as the last election, which delivered the government a single-seat majority in 2016

Still, Shorten's move to concede defeat late Saturday night confirmed a resounding victory for the Morrison administration.

Speaking before attending church in his electorate in southern Sydney, Morrison thanked Australians for returning him to office.

"I give thanks to live in the greatest country in all the world," he said. "Thanks again to all Australians all across the country."

The 51-year-old, who received a congratulatory phone call

from President Donald Trump earlier yesterday, said he was eager to return to work today to form his new government.

A key Morrison ally, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, paid tribute to his leader's campaigning for securing the victory.

"The prime minister led from the front," Frydenberg told ABC TV. "From the minute the starter's gun was fired in this campaign, we knew we were behind, but we also knew we were in it, and no one knew this better than the prime minister."

"He crisscrossed the country with great energy, belief, and conviction. He was assured, he was confident, and he was across the detail, and he sold our economic plan to the Australian people, a plan that resonated with them," Frydenberg said.

Analysts credited the result also to a simple coalition platform centering on promises of keeping taxes to a minimum.

Labor entered the race grappling with a low popularity rating for Shorten, a 52-year-old former union boss widely seen as having a pallid personality. Rather than frame the election as a battle between him and the more outgoing Morrison, Labor strategists instead pushed a broad platform of policies.

Shorten campaigned heavily on reducing greenhouse emissions, while promising a range of other reforms, including the government paying all of a patient's costs for cancer treatment, and a reduction in tax breaks for landlords.

While senior Labor lawmaker Chris Bowen conceded his party may have suffered for what, for an opposition party, was an unusually detailed campaign, Shorten insisted it had been right to fight the election on issues rather than personalities.

"I'm disappointed for people who depend upon Labor, but I'm glad that we argued what was right, not what was easy," Shorten told supporters.

Shorten would have been Australia's sixth prime minister in six years had he been elected. Many Australians have at least welcomed Morrison's announcement of a change in Liberal policy in that the party can no longer dump a prime minister by internal party vote, meaning they will lead the country for a full three-year term unless an early election is called.

So high was public confidence of a Labor victory, Australian online bookmaker Sportsbet paid out 1.3 million Australian dollars to bettors who backed Labor two days before the vote. Sportsbet said 70% of wagers had been placed on Labor at the slender odds of USD1.16 to \$1.00.

As Labor absorbed the defeat, deputy leader Tanya Plibersek and Albanese told reporters they were considering running for the party's leadership. **AP**

I.M. Pei, architect who designed Louvre, Macao Science Center, dies at 102

IEOH Ming Pei, more popularly known as I.M. Pei, was one of the most influential architects history has seen. He died overnight on Thursday aged 102, the New York Times reported, citing his son, Li Chung Pei.

Pei gave “this century some of its most beautiful interior spaces and exterior forms,” said the jury of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, which Pei won in 1983.

Though reserved and supremely diplomatic, Pei’s face, always crowned by round thick-rimmed glasses, could break unexpectedly into a wide, dazzling smile. He approached clients with charm and a quick wit, and they usually succumbed happily.

He designed innumerable buildings around the world, many of which are now considered gems. His connection with Macau was realized in 2002, when the government decided to construct its own science center.

“Mr. Pei is at once the most pragmatic and the most visionary of architects, his work poised skillfully between the demands of the real world and the dreams of art,” Paul Goldberger, architecture critic of the New York Times, wrote in 1989 after the opening of the Louvre pyramid in Paris.

Pei’s 50-plus projects included the Musee d’Art Moderne in Luxembourg (2006), Beverly Hills’ Creative Artists Agency building (1989) and the 72-story Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong (1989). He also designed the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston (1979) and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland (1995).

Among his many honors were the American Institute of Architects’ Gold Medal in 1979; the Grande Medaille d’Or from the Academie d’Architecture de France three years later; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the U.S., from President George H.W. Bush in 1992.

SHANGHAI YOUTH

Pei was born in Canton, China (now Guangzhou), on April 26, 1917, the son of a bank manager. His family later moved to Suzhou, a city near Shanghai. As a young boy, Pei was enthralled by construction of high-rise buildings in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

He came to the U.S. to study architecture at age 17, receiving a bachelor’s degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1940 and a master’s from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design in 1946. At Harvard, he studied with Walter Gropius, one of the masters of modern architecture.

Pei honed his skills, in both de-

AP PHOTO



I.M. Pei standing in front of the Louvre Pyramid in 1989, and the Macao Science Center (overlay)

sign and coddling clients, under the tutelage of the prominent New York real estate developer William Zeckendorf Sr. As in-house architect for Zeckendorf’s Webb & Knapp Inc., Pei designed shopping centers, offices and residential towers, such as Manhattan’s Kips Bay Plaza.

“I believe that architecture is a pragmatic art,” Pei said. “To become art it must be built on a foundation of necessity.”

In 1955, he left Zeckendorf to form I.M. Pei & Associates, which would become I.M. Pei & Partners in 1966 and then Pei Cobb Freed & Partners in 1989.

MACAO SCIENCE CENTER

In April 2002, Pei set foot in Macau for a site visit of the Macao Science Center. At the time, the idea of building the science center was in a very early phase and the exact site had not even been determined. It was Pei who pinpointed the “dot” where the center now sits. He said the reason he chose the location was because the center is a place for education and, in the vicinity of the Macao Cultural Center, construction of the Science Center could fill the neighborhood with a cultural flair.

Pei’s designs are often associated with geometric shapes, especially the triangle. He extended this motif in his design for the science center. The center has an asymmetric conical shape that leans towards the east. The exterior is covered in silvery panels. Together, they make the building a contemporary masterpiece.

Pei not only designed that center’s exterior, but also the internal

structure. Many say that its spiral slope resembles the Guggenheim in New York, while the lighting system makes wide – and wise – use of sunlight.

After Pei’s passing, the Science Center issued a release to pay tribute to the architect.

JFK LIBRARY

The cool monumentalism with which Pei would always be associated emerged in the helmeted concrete towers, echoing the Rocky Mountain foothills, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado (1967). The interlocking triangles, squares, and circles of the controversial John F. Kennedy Library would become a Pei signature.

He elaborated on those geometric shapes in the design of the marble-clad East Building of the National Gallery (1978), the most acclaimed of Pei’s projects. He organized the museum around a grand atrium, roofed by a tracery of pyramid-shaped skylights that created a lively play of sun and shadow.

Pei and his partners were perfectionists in the use of modern building materials, cutting razor-sharp corners out of marble, stretching glass into vast, curved arcs, honing concrete to a velvety sheen.

HANCOCK PROBLEMS

Sometimes they stretched those materials to the limit, paying a heavy price.

The slim, elegant John Hancock Tower in downtown Boston shed dozens of its 11-foot-tall plates of reflective glass during construc-

tion, spurring litigation that might well have destroyed the firm. The claims were settled, but the building opened in 1976 four years late and almost double the original cost estimate.

Problems with the elaborate network of rods and spherical nodes that roof the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York for a time brought waves of angry publicity as construction ground to a halt.

Its opening in 1986 unveiled a stepped, glass-roofed lobby with a delicate web of metal supports that is among New York City’s great interior public spaces.

The texture, surface effect and sense of weight of the materials was so essential to the firm’s design identity that such setbacks could never persuade Pei to turn away from technological possibility.

LOUVRE PYRAMID

The 71-foot-high glass pyramid he built as the Louvre’s new entrance relied for its extraordinary visual lightness on a fretwork of stainless-steel rods and cables made by a manufacturer of yacht rigging.

Before its completion, the pyramid was widely derided as an insult to French history. Once it opened, however, it proved a triumph – the most admired of the “Grand Projets” with which France’s then-President Francois Mitterrand hoped to transform Paris.

“By the end of the 1980s, there was probably no firm capable of producing large-scale work with such refinement and excellence of detail,” Goldberger wrote. “The

splendid glass and metal-cable structure of the Louvre shows it.”

Even with all of his acclaim, Pei’s influence on the course of architecture has been limited, according to some critics. His forms were recognizably derived from such great architects as Le Corbusier and Louis I. Kahn, though he filtered them through a unique artistic sensibility.

LARGE SCALE

His talents seemed best-suited to large-scale buildings of civic significance. The stiff grandeur of Cleveland’s Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was seen by some as being at odds with the ephemeral popular art it celebrates. A simplistic monumentality made the Center for Arts & Media Technology at MIT much reviled by its inhabitants, even as they hatched dot-com innovations.

Although Pei retired from his firm in 1990, he continued to work on a few select commissions in his later years.

On the most important, the Suzhou Museum in Suzhou, China, he collaborated with his architect sons, Chien Chung and Li Chung. Displaying a 2,500-year legacy of art and including some extraordinary Chinese gardens, the museum was completed in 2006 in the city where Pei’s ancestors had lived for more than 600 years.

Pei was married to Eileen Loo, the granddaughter of a former Chinese ambassador to the U.S. The couple had three sons – Ting Chung, Chien Chung and Li Chung – and a daughter, Liane. Eileen Pei died in June 2014. Ting Chung died in 2003. **MDT/Bloomberg**



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what's ON



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

SALINE BATHS
TIME: 12pm-7pm (closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: May 26, 2019
VENUE: Post-Ox Warehouse Experimental Site
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

3RD MACAU PRINTMAKING TRIENNIAL
TIME: 10am-9pm
UNTIL: May 31, 2019
VENUES: Tap Seac Gallery
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

COIN TOSS SETTLES RARE PHILIPPINE ELECTION TIE

Philippine election officials settled a rare tie in a mayoral race on Friday by tossing a coin.
They proclaimed Sue Cudilla the new mayor of the town of Araceli in western Palawan province after she won a best-of-three coin flip by picking tails.
Both Cudilla, a former mayor, and her rival, incumbent Noel Beronio, received 3,495 votes in Monday's election. They agreed to the classic tie-breaker, which officials said is acceptable although local rules specify the drawing of lots.
Elections Commissioner Luie Tito Guia said a coin toss was also used to settle another freak mayoral tie in 2016.

"I'm praying very hard that the will expressed by the people will always be accepted," Guia said by telephone.

More than 43,500 candidates vied for about 18,000 congressional and local posts, including 81 governors, 1,634 mayors and more than 13,500 city and town councilors in 81 provinces in the May 13 elections in the Philippines, one of Asia's most rambunctious democracies.

TV canal macau



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

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 - 22 May



POKEMON: DETECTIVE PIKACHU

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm
Language: Cantonese

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

ARCTIC

ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 9:045pm
Director: Joe Penna
Starring: Mads Mikkelsen, Maria Thelma Smáradóttir
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 98min



AVENGERS: ENDGAME

ROOM 2
6:30pm
Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo
Starring: Brie Larson, Scarlett Johansson, Karen Gillan
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 181min

FRIEND ZONE

ROOM 3
2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm
Director: Chayanop Boonprakob
Starring: Nutthasit Kotimanuswanich, Pimchanok Leuwisetpaiboon
Language: Thai (Chinese & English)
Duration: 118min

THE HUSTLE

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

this day in history



1983: CAR BOMB IN SOUTH AFRICA KILLS 16

At least 16 people have been killed and more than 130 people injured in a car bomb explosion in South Africa's capital city, Pretoria.

The explosion happened outside the Nedbank Square building on Church Street at about 1630 hours - the height of the city's rush hour.

More than 20 ambulances attended the scene and took the dead and injured to three hospitals in and around Pretoria.

Police sealed off the surrounding area with a barbed-wire fence as emergency personnel sifted through the rubble looking for bodies.

Bomb disposal experts were called to the scene to search for a possible second bomb.

The outlawed anti-apartheid group the African National Congress has been blamed for the attack.

A huge pall of smoke rose hundreds of feet into the air as debris and bodies were strewn around the scene of the explosion.

It is understood the bomb had been placed in a blue Alfa Romeo car outside the multi-storey building, which houses the South African air force headquarters.

It exploded at the height of the city's rush-hour as hundreds of people were leaving work for the weekend.

Glass and metal were catapulted into the air as shop-fronts and windows were blown out.

Many passers-by had limbs amputated by the flying debris. Others bled to death.

South Africa's Minister for Law and Order, Louis le Grange, who visited the scene immediately, blamed the attack on the ANC.

He said: "I have no doubt who is responsible for this despicable attack."

He said the explosion was the "biggest and ugliest" terrorist incident since anti-government violence began in South Africa 20 years ago.

He added: "Most of the victims were civilians, but some were air force personnel in uniform, black and white. Quite a number of those killed were black."

The ANC is committed to overthrowing the minority white government.

Oliver Tambo, who is the organisation's acting president while its senior figure, Nelson Mandela, is in prison, said the Nedbank Square building was a legitimate target, although he did not admit carrying out the attack.

General Mike Gedenhuys, Police Commissioner, said: "Many of the victims are so badly mutilated they have not yet been identified."

General Magnus Malan, South African's defence minister, described the explosion as a "cowardly, criminal deed in the Communist war being waged against South Africa".

He said more than 40,000 civilians had died as a result of terrorism in the past five years in Africa and 83,000 armed men had died.

South Africa has nearly five million whites, 21 million blacks, nearly one million Indians and about 2.5 million people of mixed race.

The government's apartheid system denies citizenship rights to black people except in 10 remote homelands.

The ANC has warned it intends to step up its campaign to bring an end to white minority rule.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The number of dead rose to 17 and 197 people were injured in the explosion.

Four days later the South African Air Force bombed ANC bases in Maputo, Mozambique, in retaliation for the Pretoria car bomb.

At least six people, including two children, were killed.

Following the Maputo attack the ANC formally admitted carrying out the Pretoria bombing.

On 2 February 1990 the South African government lifted restrictions on the ANC allowing legal opposition to apartheid for the first time in 40 years.

The ANC party's leader, Nelson Mandela, was freed on 11 February 1990 after 27 years in detention.

In May 1994 Mandela became South Africa's first black president when the ANC swept into power.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's true - you just can't go home again. Sure, moving home or back to where you came from is always a legitimate option to choose, but you can't confuse a geographic return with an emotional return.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Make plans for the future. Time is definitely on your side today, so use it wisely. Your romantic relationship is getting stronger, and today the two of you will finally have all the time you need to have that conversation.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your finances are your own business, and no one else's, no matter what their relationship to you. So if you're feeling tight with money (or loose with money), then you have every right to act accordingly.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 After a busy spell and lots of new beginnings, your life is entering a period of many terminations. The good news is that nothing is going to be over that doesn't need to be over.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Take the more difficult route today - sure, it could tax your energy to the maximum limit, but in the end it will reward you with a great pride that will feed your ego in a profound and powerful way.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You can help other people without being too critical today, but you will have to be honest about what you think. Right now, there is no point in sharing your thought unless you share all of them: the good and the bad.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The best approach for ticking off all the items on your ever-growing to-do list today is a personal one. As much as possible, you should do your business on a one-on-one basis.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Try to align yourself with an intellectual person today - while their smarts might intimidate you a little bit, their insight will inspire you to new levels of greatness. They can help you prevail in any challenging situation.

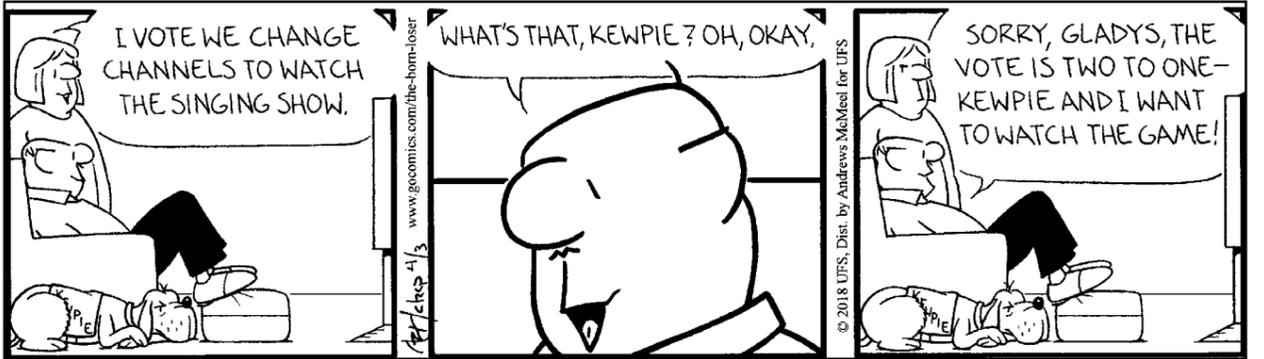
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Several dramas will be whirling around you today, but you can handle them... and who knows? You might even enjoy them, since they involve some of your favorite people.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 A big change is coming that will affect your home life and shift things around in a slightly confusing way. But don't worry - in the end, these changes will improve things dramatically.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Getting a little bit more exercise into your life is a lot easier than you think, so investigate one or two ways to do just that today. Just parking at the far end of the parking lot will have impact.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 An upcoming family obligation might seem like it will be a tedious experience, but you should keep an open mind. Once you get into it, you'll find more than a few new entertaining angles.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- "First Lady of Song" Fitzgerald; 5- Domineering; 10- Rani's garb; 14- Big Island bash; 15- Mislaid; 16- Steep, rugged rock; 17- Sponsorship; 18- 11th-century Spanish hero; 19- Car; 20- Stanzas; 22- Go in again; 24- Collection agcy.; 25- Scandinavian capital; 26- Higher in rank; 30- Goatlike antelope; 35- Justice Fortas; 36- Beverage made with beaten eggs; 37- Man and Wight; 38- Pertaining to the distant past; 41- Stately residence; 43- Done in; 44- ER VIP; 45- Orange drink; 46- World book; 47- Flute; 50- Swirl; 53- Actress Lupino; 54- Azure; 58- Lower in value; 62- Top draft level; 63- Derogatory; 66- Actress Skye; 67- Actress Patricia; 68- Saturn's largest moon; 69- Carbon compound; 70- Microbe; 71- Refine metal; 72- Stitches;

DOWN: 1- Mtn. stat; 2- Winter Olympics event; 3- Hideout; 4- Outback resident; 5- Approval; 6- Texas tea; 7- Brief instant; 8- Swizzles; 9- Alpine song; 10- Read a bar code; 11- Stuck in ___; 12- Miles per hour, e.g.; 13- Helicopter pioneer Sikorsky; 21- Goof; 23- Silk dye; 25- Assn.; 26- Taco topper; 27- Letter-shaped fastener; 28- Pertaining to punishment; 29- Tic-tac-toe win; 31- Fool; 32- Trojan War epic; 33- Crystal-lined rock; 34- Ed of "Lou Grant"; 39- Actress Scala; 40- First name in photography; 41- A Stooze; 42- Unfortunate happening; 44- Unbattered, as toast; 48- Keats piece; 49- Animal bite worry; 51- Brushes; 52- Strong blue cotton fabric; 54- Album unit; 55- Child support?; 56- Once around the sun; 57- Aromatic fragrance; 59- Bang-up; 60- Winter blanket; 61- Electric fish; 64- Mineral suffix; 65- Indian dish



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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FOOTBALL

Benfica wins 5th Portuguese league title in six seasons

BENFICA has won its fifth Portuguese league title in six seasons after routing Santa Clara 4-1 on Saturday.

Benfica lifted its 37th league trophy by finishing two points ahead of defending champion Porto, which defeated Sporting Lisbon 2-1.

Benfica trailed Porto by seven points in the beginning of the year.

"Everybody thought we were done in January," Benfica forward Pizzi Fernandes said. "But we have a great group of players and overcame the challenge. We showed that we are deserving champions."

A draw would have been enough for Benfica at the Stadium of Light, as it entered the final round with a better head-to-head tiebreaker over its rival. It won four straight titles before Porto ended its streak last year.

The host got off to a fast start and was up 3-0 by half-



time with goals by Haris Seferovic, Joao Felix, and Rafa Silva. Seferovic scored again early in the second half before Santa Clara got its lone goal through Cesar.

Porto struggled at home against third-placed Sporting, which played with 10

men from the 19th minute because of a red card to defender Cristian Alexis Borja.

Danilo Pereira and Hector Herrera scored late in the second half after the visitors opened the spell with a Luiz Phellype goal.

Sporting qualified for the

Europa League along with fourth-placed Braga.

Porto will play in the qualifying rounds of the Champions League, while Benfica goes straight into the group stage.

Chaves, Nacional and Feirense were relegated. **AP**

Madrid loses last match of season to forget

REAL Madrid put a fittingly poor ending to its worst season in recent memory after losing its last match of the Spanish league on Sunday.

Many of the frustrated fans at the Santiago Bernabeu jeered Madrid's players after the 2-0 loss to Real Betis. Most of Madrid's supporters have long placed their hopes on what changes the club will make to an underperforming squad in the summer.

Betis outplayed the hosts from the start and got second-half goals from Loren Morón and former Madrid forward Jesé Rodríguez.

Madrid entered the match with nothing to play for, locked into a third-place finish for the second consecutive season.

Madrid was out of the Champions League and Copa del Rey in early March and without a realistic chance of stopping Barcelona from successfully defending its La Liga title.

Since the return of Zinedine Zidane to take charge of the club after its shock loss to Ajax in the round-of-16 in the Champions League, the team has finished the campaign with a record of 5 wins, two draws and four losses.

"The fault is ours," Madrid defender Marcelo said. "We didn't start well and we didn't finish it well either. In no way was this the season we wanted to have." **AP**

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FOOTBALL

Man City completes sweep of English trophies with FA Cup win



Watford's goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes tries to stop Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus

MANCHESTER City swept aside Watford to complete the first clean sweep of English men's football trophies.

The fourth piece of silverware of the season was sealed by four different scorers in the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium on Saturday. Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus netted twice and David Silva and Kevin De Bruyne also scored as Watford was humiliated 6-0.

Victory for Pep Guardiola's side came a week after the Premier League trophy was retained to join the League Cup and Community Shield already in City's possession.

"What a season," City captain Vincent Kompany said. "What a tremendous club."

But the unprecedented achievement by football's costliest squad comes against the backdrop of investigations into City's compliance into football's spending rules that could lead to the Abu Dhabi-owned team being banned from the Champions League.

More than USD1 billion has been spent on transfer fees alone since 2008 when Sheikh Mansour bought a team that was more accustomed to playing in lower leagues than lifting trophies.

It wasn't until 2011 that City ended a 35-year trophy drought by winning the FA Cup.

Now City is the undisputed power of English football — a status it claimed from neighbor Manchester United.

"It's one of the best seasons I have experienced as a manager," said Guardiola, who won titles previously at Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

Watford was contesting its first cup final in 35 years and never had a look in after Roberto Perea was denied by goalkeeper Ederson of the chance to snatch a shock lead in the 11th minute.

Not long after, Watford fans were made to endure City players celebrating in front of them.

After Abdoulaye Doucoure gave the ball away, City broke forward and Sterling headed through for

David Silva to strike into the net.

City's other Silva — Bernardo — was the provider of the second in the 38th, chipping to the far post where Gabriel Jesus diverted the ball into an empty net. Sterling ensured it crossed the line but his Brazilian teammate was credited with the goal.

The onslaught came in the second half with De Bruyne exerting his influence after coming off the bench. The Belgian netted in the 61st, receiving the ball from Gabriel Jesus, who had combined with Sterling.

Gabriel Jesus found the net seven minutes later after being released by De Bruyne's throughball, sliding past Heurelho Gomes after the goalkeeper came off his line.

Then the record-equaling final victory margin came from a double inside six minutes from Sterling, who grew up near Wembley and has a tattoo of the stadium's arch.

"It just shows what the manager's building here," Sterling said. "At the start of the season he said, 'Let's try and get the mentality right and go for the Premier League again,' and we've done that again, exceptionally well."

"It's a credit to all the boys, being mentally switched on throughout the season which has been long with the World Cup as well. Everyone's been focused and on their A game the whole way through." **MDT/AP**

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opinion

World Views

Michael Schuman, Bloomberg

CHINA JUST DOESN'T WANT TO BE LIKE THE WEST

Theories abound for why the U.S.-China trade talks collapsed into stalemate, from misplaced overconfidence on the part of Beijing to President Donald Trump's calculation that a tariff fight will boost his re-election chances. It helps to look beyond the political maneuvering and consider China's history.

Throughout its 500-year relationship with the West, Beijing has sought to profit from its wealth without truly embracing its ideals and norms. That long-standing ambivalence is playing out in trade negotiations today, and probably doomed them before they even got underway.

The notion that China can be turned "Western" has been the mainstay of U.S. foreign policy toward Beijing since President Richard Nixon held his famous 1972 meeting with Mao Zedong. But the thinking goes back much further. In the 18th century, the European powers, frustrated by Chinese trade practices, wanted the Qing Dynasty to adopt its economic principles, too. Back then, China was more than happy to trade porcelain and tea for silver, but the court tightly controlled such exchanges. That seemed unfair to merchants who desired free trade. In 1793, the British sent a mission led by Lord Macartney to Beijing to plead for market opening and other reforms.

But Macartney's refusal to perform the standard, obsequious kowtow before the emperor enraged protocol-obsessed mandarins. The emperor sent Britain's King George III a condescending letter rejecting the requests. "How can our dynasty alter its whole procedure and system of etiquette, established for more than a century, in order to meet your individual views?" he asked.

The Qing never willingly accepted Western-style trade and diplomatic practices. They were bombarded into it — literally, by the cannon fire of the Opium Wars in the mid-19th century. Only then did China open wider to foreign commerce and culture, and begin to accept European-style state-to-state relations.

Resistance, though, hasn't been China's only response. Beginning in the late 19th century, Chinese intellectuals, reformers and revolutionaries came to believe the country had to become more like nations such as Britain and the United States. As the Qing Dynasty tottered, these thinkers saw salvation in copying overseas institutions and practices — such as a constitution, elected assemblies and Western-style schools. Still, debate raged over how westernized China had to become. Some argued that merely buying Western guns and learning its new technology would be sufficient; China's core institutions didn't have to change. Others saw China's traditions as outdated and backward. Only wholesale adoption of foreign ideas could rebuild its greatness.

It's ironic that the trade talks fell apart near the 100th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement. Named after student protests on that day in 1919, the term signifies a wider campaign to change Chinese society. "I would much rather see the past culture of our nation disappear than see our race die out now because of its unfitness for living in the modern world," Chen Duxiu, one of the founders of the Chinese Communist Party, wrote in 1915.

This spirit carried into the 1980s. Under China's pro-market reforms, the country adopted free enterprise, invited in overseas investment, heeded Western economists and joined institutions such as the World Trade Organization. No less a figure than Hu Yaobang, the party's general secretary, suggested that Chinese should eat with knives and forks rather than chopsticks.

But wariness of the West never went away, and as China's economic might has grown, so has its determination to chart its own course. On the global stage, President Xi Jinping has pushed Chinese alternatives to the Western world system, such as his Belt and Road infrastructure-building program. At home, Xi has emphasized the role of the state over greater liberalization, and promoted traditional Chinese culture and philosophy to ward off unwanted ideas such as democracy.

This love-hate attitude is playing out in the trade talks. On the one hand, Beijing realizes it benefits from being part of the current U.S.-led global order. On the other, Beijing isn't willing to embrace that order fully and accept its norms.

[Abridged]

THE BOMB HITS TOURIST BUS NEAR EGYPT'S GIZA PYRAMIDS, WOUNDS 16

Egyptian officials say a roadside bomb has hit a tourist bus near the Giza Pyramids.

They say Sunday's blast wounded at least 16 people, including tourists.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to brief media.

Egypt has battled Islamic militants for years in the Sinai Peninsula in an insurgency that

has occasionally spilled over to the mainland, hitting minority Christians or tourists.

The attack comes as Egypt's vital tourism industry is showing signs of recovery after years in the doldrums because of the political turmoil and violence that followed a 2011 uprising that toppled former leader Hosni Mubarak. It is the second to target foreign tourists near the famed pyramids in less than six months.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	
Ambient	30-50 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

The Netherlands wins Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv



AP PHOTO

The Netherlands won the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv Saturday, with Duncan Laurence's doleful piano ballad "Arcade" crowned champion of Europe's annual music extravaganza.

The 25-year-old was tapped as an early front-runner before the Grand Final but was only ranked third after the vote of professional juries from the 41 participating countries, trailing Sweden and North Macedonia. He surged ahead thanks to the fan vote, securing The Netherlands its fifth win ever in the competition. Italy finished second, followed by Russia, Switzerland and Norway.

"This is to dreaming big. This is to music first, always," Laurence said, as he was handed the trophy from last year's winner, Israel's Netta Barzilai.

Some 200 million people around the world were believed to have watched the annual campy contest with 26 nations battling in the Grand Final of the 64th Eurovision.

Madonna was the star attraction, performing her hit staple, "Like a Prayer," marking 30 years since its release, and a new song "Future" from her forthcoming album "Madame X." She took the stage after participants wrapped up their performances shortly after midnight when the elaborate voting process got underway across Europe.

To maximize onscreen tension, performers are ranked by a mix of fan votes and professional juries. Spectators could not vote for their own country, but like-minded nations tend to fall into blocs that back their regional favorites, with politics meshing into art.

Israel earned the right to host the show after Barzilai won last year's competition with her catchy pop anthem "Toy."

The ostensibly non-political affair has tried to avoid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has largely succeeded, despite swirling threats of controversy. Calls for performers to boycott the show over Israeli policies toward Palestinians failed to generate much momentum.

A small protest took place outside Tel Aviv's Expo Center before the show, following another one from musicians in Gaza earlier in the week. A recent round of rocket fire toward Israel from there also failed to temper excitement.

Madonna herself had faced calls from a Palestinian-led campaign to avoid performing at the event in Israel. But the Queen of Pop rejected the boycott motions, saying she will "never stop playing music to suit someone's political agenda." Still, two of her embracing dancers sported the flags of Israel and the Palestinians on their backs.

All eyes were on Iceland's controversial steampunk

band Hatari, which had drawn attention for initially saying it would be "absurd" to participate in Israel because of its policies toward the Palestinians. They had vowed to use the Eurovision spotlight to expose the "face of the occupation," but their live performance of grinding metal rock passed without incident. Only at the end of the broadcast, when their final vote tally was announced, did they whip out a Palestinian flag, to sounds of boos from the audience.

As the reigning champion, Israel swept straight through to the finals — along with the five European countries who most heavily funded the event. The other 20 participants qualified through a pair of semifinal rounds.

Israel has won the Eurovision four previous times and it has provided the country with some of its cultural touchstones. "Hallelujah" became the country's unofficial national song after Milk and Honey won the contest for Israel when it hosted the event in the late 1970s, and Dana International became a national hero and global transgender icon when she won with "Diva" in 1998. Barzilai became a role model for plus-size women after her win last year. She has been unapologetic about her weight, the loud colors she wears, and the funky chicken moves and sounds that have become her trademark. **MDT/AP**

WORLD BRIEFS

SWITZERLAND Swiss media were reporting that early exit polls yesterday show that voters approved a measure to strengthen Switzerland's gun laws, bringing the Alpine country in line with many of its European partners over the objections of many law-abiding gun aficionados.



AP PHOTO

SAUDI ARABIA does not want war but will not hesitate to defend itself against Iran, a top Saudi diplomat said yesterday amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf after attacks on the kingdom's energy sector.



AP PHOTO

FRANCE French President Emmanuel Macron sees himself as Europe's savior and this week's European Parliament elections as a make-or-break moment for the beleaguered European Union.

RUSSIA says Syrian government forces have unilaterally ceased fire in the northern Idlib province, the last major rebel stronghold.



AP PHOTO

USA Former President Jimmy Carter carved an unlikely path to the White House in 1976 and endured humbling defeat after one term. Now, six administrations later, the longest-living chief executive in American history is re-emerging from political obscurity at age 94 to win over his fellow Democrats once again.