

79



MGM PRESENTS DIGITAL ART SPECTACLE
The MGM Art Symposium returns for its second year with a cast of globally-renowned creatives discussing the nature of digital art

P2



LI KA-SHING'S SON STUMBLES IN SUCCESSION

P6 GREATER BAY



XI RECRUITS POPULISTS FOR GLOBAL PLAN
News that Italy will join the Belt and Road Initiative has sparked worries in the West over China's push for economic domination

P10

MON.25
Mar 2019

T. 16°/ 20° C
H. 80/ 98%

facebook.com/mdtimes
+ 13,000

N.º 3255
MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

Greater Bay Plan

\$148/3.5GB

No More Boundaries

Note: CTM reserves the right to make the final decision in case of any dispute.

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA pledged to improve its system for registering new drugs in the country this year and more closely monitor those medicines after they've entered the market, part of a series of rapid health-care reforms that seek to lower costs and improve the quality of drugs. More on p9



THAILAND The leader of the oldest political party and former PM has resigned after his party's poor showing in the general election. Vejjajiva (pictured) announced his resignation after an unofficial tally last night showed his Democrat Party in fifth place. The Democrats received about 2.98 million votes out of a preliminary total vote count of about 33 million. More on p12



INDONESIA's long-awaited first subway opened yesterday in Jakarta to relieve crippling traffic gridlock in Southeast Asia's biggest economy. President Joko Widodo presided over a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of the second phase: a northward line planned for completion by 2024. The two projects are being built at a cost of USD2.6 billion.

More on backpage

CORRUPTION

CCAC take down gov't official who profited off greyhounds

P4

CITY UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

PROF JACKY HO

Schools need new tactics to tackle bullies

P3 MDT INTERVIEW

Las Vegas Sands notifies SEC of settlement

Casino company Las Vegas Sands has notified federal regulators that it settled a 15-year breach-of-contract battle with a Hong Kong businessman, without disclosing terms. A notice posted with the Securities and Exchange Commission says only that Round Square Co. headed by Richard Suen "released all claims" against Sands when the agreement was announced March 14 in Nevada state court. The notice says the settlement's terms are confidential. Sands twice appealed jury verdicts that Suen was due tens of millions of dollars for helping Sands open its first casino in the Chinese gambling enclave of Macau in 2004. The settlement ended a third trial in Nevada that focused on establishing the amount Round Square should receive.

Pagcor sees revenue jump in offshore operations

More stringent regulations over Philippine offshore gaming operators, starting from 2016, have resulted in a large increase in revenue for the country's gaming regulator, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp (Pagcor). Offshore operations generated PHP657 million (MOP4.3 billion) in 2016. After the aforementioned regulations were tightened, revenues soared to PHP3.924 billion (MOP25.6 billion) in 2017 and PHP7.365 billion (MOP48.1 billion) in 2018.

Kosovo suspends casinos, betting shops

Kosovo's parliament has voted to suspend all casinos and betting shops. Lawmakers voted 74-0 for a resolution suspending gambling activities until a draft law the government will prepare in 30 days is approved. It did not say what the new law will change. Avdullah Hoti, a lawmaker with the Democratic League of Kosovo party who proposed the resolution, said "betting games have grabbed the citizens and no one has become rich with the betting shop businesses." In a post on his Facebook page, Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj said he is looking for Cabinet approval next week. In 2018, the government gained 16 million euros (MOP146 million) from gambling receipts. After neighboring Albania closed all casinos and betting shops last year, many of them moved to Kosovo.

SECURITY

Authorities consider holding armed attack drill annually

AN armed attack drill is considered being held annually to simulate emergency situations in the city's casinos, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau announced in a statement on Friday.

The announcement came after the simulation drill dubbed as Wolf Hunting 2019 was concluded at The Venetian Macao on Friday, in which emergency workers and officers from the Judiciary Police, the Public Security Police Force, the Fire Services Bureau and the Customs Service took part.

The drill on Friday simulated an armed robbery with six actors posing as criminals attacking some patrons before escaping the hotel lobby.

According to authorities, some 360 people attended the 90-minute drill.

According to Paulo Martins Chan, director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), "the emergency contact system has been improved between DICJ, the casinos, as well as the police," as cited in a report by TDM. Commenting on the drill, Ma Io Kun, commissioner-general of Unitary Police Service said, "without testing, we won't be able to assess the effectiveness of the current system operations."

The police said in a statement that the drill included simulations of multiple injuries, a bomb threat, people being held hostage and standoffs between the police and the criminals. The drill also incorporated pe-



pper spray for the first time.

The police also pledged that it would remain vigilant in developing the security situation by carrying out different types of exercises, enhancing the coordination capacity and joint operations of public security services and other entities to deal with possible emergency situations.

Commissioner-general Ma

further added that the rise in money exchange scams has brought changes to the surroundings of the casinos. Yet he assured that the city's overall social order remains intact.

Wolf Hunting was designed to test the ability of public-sector departments and the local casino industry to coordinate and respond to major incidents.

Further, DICJ said in a state-

ment that it would continue to assist the police in its simulation drills, and coordinate with the gaming concessionaires and sub-concessionaires "in order to enhance the capacity to respond to unforeseen situations."

It added that the move is also to establish mechanisms of collaboration, and improve and optimize the supervision of casinos in a timely manner. **LV**

Airport holds fire drill

THE Macau International Airport (MIA) carried out its "Fire in the Fuel Farm Exercise 2019" on Friday, involving a simulated fire in a fuel tank caused by static electricity.

Nam Kwong Petroleum & Chemicals Co. Ltd., the fuel provider, activated the safety systems according to their internal procedures and moved the vehicles that were parked in the area.

Simultaneously, they notified all entities involved in the emergency in accordance with the Airport Emergency Plan.

The airport fire fighting station deployed their trucks immediately to the location to put

out the fire. Although there were no injuries, the commander-in-chief asked for additional support from the Fire Services Headquarters and evacuated staff in the vicinity of the incident.

The exercise, which lasted for 45 minutes, was coordinated by the Macau International Airport Company Ltd.

About 230 people took part in the exercise, representing the Unitary Police, the Public Security Police Force, the Fire Services, the Civil Aviation Authority and CAM-Macau International Airport Company, amongst others.

CANIDROME

Senior gov't official directed greyhounds to boost his clinic's business

MACAU'S Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has found that a division head of the Municipal Affairs Bureau abused his power in the aftermath of the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome's closure last summer by directing the placement of greyhounds to an animal clinic in which he secretly held a stake.

In July last year, the Municipal Affairs Bureau, then known as the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, took in more than 500 stranded greyhounds at the Canidrome after the venue was closed and the

operating company evacuated from the premises. One month later, the CCAC received a complaint alleging that some public servants had mishandled the subsequent placing of the greyhounds.

The anti-corruption agency said that the senior public official, Choi U Fai, the veterinary and inspection head of the Civic Affairs Bureau, had colluded with another public servant (an assistant officer of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau) and a businessman to obtain unlawful economic advantages.

According to a CCAC report, the suspect directed the greyhounds to an animal clinic in which he secretly had a stake. As a result, the clinic won a contract to provide medical care for and perform neutering surgery on over 500 greyhounds.

In addition, without the approval of the former Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the division head assigned his subordinates to lend government-owned medical equipment to the clinic.

Choi was a long-time advocate for the Canidrome's closure, disclosing to the

press as early as in 2012 that dozens of greyhounds were being killed each month.

As suggested by the Public Prosecutions Office and approved by the Criminal Investigation Court, Choi has been suspended from public duties. Moreover, coercive measures have been taken against all three suspects, including the requirement to regularly report to authorities and a prohibition on exiting the Macau SAR. If found guilty, the three suspects may face up to five years imprisonment in accordance

with the Penal Code.

Meanwhile, during the course of the investigation, the CCAC also discovered that since July 2012, the division head had abused his power by assigning his subordinates to include a trading company, in which he controlled an interest, in a list of suppliers for the division's procurement of goods and services. The inclusion in the list resulted in the company winning over 120 contracts, involving a total sum in excess of MOP8 million.

If found guilty, Choi is liable for imprisonment of up to three years. **DB**