



MACAU PASSPORTS RANK WELL

A Visa Restrictions Index puts Macau passports as the joint 36th strongest in the world

P5



LOCAL ECONOMY TO SUSTAIN GROWTH

The Economist Intelligence Unit expects the local economy to grow at a rate of 5.2 percent this year

P7

CHINA HOME SALES SURGE



P10

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WORLD BRIEFS



PAKISTAN vowed yesterday to work to prevent non-nuclear states from gaining the technology that would put them on the path to acquiring nuclear weapons — even though both Islamabad and neighbor New Delhi have defied non-proliferation treaties to become competing nuclear powers.



MYANMAR Clean-up work has begun as aftershocks continue to rattle villages near Myanmar's biggest city a day after a 5.1 magnitude earthquake injured more than two dozen people and shook homes and temples. The epicenter of Monday night's quake was about 70 kilometers northwest of Yangon.



THAI authorities say they have seized 21 rhinoceros horns smuggled from Ethiopia worth almost USD5 million. The bags carrying the horns were discovered Friday in a random customs search at Bangkok's main airport. The bags' owners fled as officers searched their bags and have not been apprehended.

More on backpage

Casinos given deadline to revamp smoke rooms

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BLOOMBERG



Ex-Taiwan president Ma Ying-jeou indicted over secrets leak

P11

HK Int'l Film & TV Market features Macau pavilion



A man watches VR amusement products at the Filmart

SEVERAL film and video production companies from Macau are featuring at the 21st Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (Filmart), which is currently being held in Hong Kong. The local pavilion, which spans 90 square meters, was jointly organized by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

Several film and video production companies were invited from Macau to show-

case their businesses in the Pavilion, as well as to connect to and explore partnership opportunities with filmmakers and industry professionals from around the world.

The project was instigated to enhance the standard of local productions and encourage local industry professionals to venture into the international film market.

MGTO held a cocktail reception named "Experience Macao Cinematic Style", in Fil-

mart, on Monday to present local film and video productions in addition to distinctive locations as ideal backdrops for films in Macau.

Originating from 26 countries and regions, around 300 industry buyers and members of the press attended the reception.

Local film and video productions as well as extraordinary filming locations in Macau were introduced and recommended to the guests during the reception.

During the cocktail reception, local film and video production companies shared their filming and post-production process in Macau.

Organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Hong Kong International Film & TV Market is the largest market fair for international films and TV entertainment programs in Asia and the second largest in the world, both in terms of number of exhibitors.

Every year it attracts thousands of buyers and offers a platform for exhibitors to showcase their diverse film and TV productions.

MAF outreach program to hold over 40 activities



THE 28th Macau Arts Festival's (MAF) Outreach Program features over 40 activities including talks, master classes, workshops, meet-the-artist sessions, school performances and movie screenings. The MAF outreach activities will be launched in April and the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) opened applications for the program on Sunday. The activities will include "One Day! Cantonese Opera" which will be held on April 1 and 8.

The session will allow participants to collaborate with young actors and put into practice their Cantonese opera techniques, according to a statement released by the IC.

Hong Kong expert in Japanese culture, Kengo, will hold the lecture "The Untold Secrets of Japan - Kengo's Talk on Japanese Culture" on April 8, helping participants understand the Japanese Yamato people.

On April 29, a "Masterclass with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie

Zane Company" will be held to allow participants to practice and reflect on how to use one's own body to express social issues.

Dancers of intermediate and advanced levels must submit their dance-related experience when registering.

The activity, "Workshop on Art Critique for Secondary School Students", to be held between April and May, will continue to improve young critics' writing and arts appreciation skills.

The instructors will teach their drama and dance appreciation techniques to students, who will put theory into practice by writing art critiques after watching the programs.

Most of the MAF Outreach Program activities have free admission. IC would like to remind visitors that vacancies are limited and subject to availability.

Tickets for the 28th edition of MAF, organized by the IC, are on sale now.

LEGAL WISE BY MdME

João Encarnação*



TRUMP ESCORT SERVICE WHEN DEFENSE TRUMPS OFFENSE

Recent developments in Mainland China regarding the preliminary granting to Donald Trump of the rights to the word mark TRUMP raised eyebrows worldwide. Not only did such approvals come shortly after Mr. Trump stepped into the presidential office, but also the nature of some of the services covered by the filings was, to put it mildly, ambiguous. The list includes "escort services", "spas" and "massage parlours", terms that have historically been used as euphemisms for a different line of activities.

The uproar focused mainly on the ethical, political and economic implications of a potential conflict of interest between Mr. Trump, the President and Mr. Trump, the Businessman. After all, the Trademark registrations about to be granted by China represent valuable private assets.

Another point made by some was that those filings imply that Mr. Trump's organization engages or intends to engage

in unethical or illegal activities. However, Mr. Trump may have no intention of entering into such areas of business himself but simply be aiming at keeping his name-brand from being used in connection with such activities by third parties acting in bad faith.

Mr. Trump is a master-brand and his legal team is specialized in using all means available to protect his Intellectual Property rights. The filing of defensive trademarks as described above is one of them.

The Chinese economy has, in the last couple of decades, developed at an impressive rate. Part of that growth was, allegedly, based the abusive use and registration, by Chinese entrepreneurs, of ideas - including technology, services and brands - developed by foreign public and private companies. When it comes to trademarks, misappropriation is more visible and consequential, and can be very difficult to stop. This is because, as with Macau

S.A.R., Mainland China is a first-to-file jurisdiction. In other words, and in general, the first one to the IP Office gets the right, even if the applicant is not the developer/first user of the mark.

In 2010, a Chinese state-owned enterprise, the GAC Group, branded its cars TRUMPCHI. This brand is now a common sight in the streets of Mainland China and it is very unlikely that Mr. Trump will be able to reverse this. But an earlier defensive filing of this mark for automobiles would most probably have barred the use and registration by GAC.

The Chinese government is now sending a clear message that Intellectual Property is to be upheld and international brand owners are more confident that action will be taken against infringers. Trials related to crimes against Intellectual Property increased to 147,000 in 2016, and Michael Jordan scored a big win recently against a Chinese company. However, the first-to-

file rule remains in place and, more than ever, defensive filings should be part of a company's IP strategy.

In Macau, large corporations have been taking steps to protect their effective use of trademarks by way of registration, but also filing defensive marks. The catch is that a merely defensive filing is potentially vulnerable to cancellation for non-use three years after registration. But the low cost of re-filing, with a creative rewording of the list of items, is an incentive to keep using this preventive strategy.

Small and medium enterprises in Macau have been slower in taking advantage of the formal protection system available in the law. The consequences can entail serious legal costs for recovery of brands, and business-threatening repercussions if such recovery fails.

Ironically, Mr. Trump seems to consider that the risk of someone offering Trump Escort Services in Macau is lower than in Mainland China. None of the 26 applications he filed in Macau include a reference to massage or escort services. Maybe it's time for a business visit to Macau - with a Secret Service escort.

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AL committee agrees with casino smoking lounges

Julie Zhu

THE Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) held its 10th meeting to discuss amendments regarding the Law on Prevention and Control of Tobacco Smoke yesterday. The majority of the committee (eight in favour and two against) agrees with a proposal according to which casinos must meet government requirements before 2019 to keep smoking lounges inside their facilities.

Last week, the government delivered new proposals to the committee for further discussion. The proposals included some requirements for gaming operators regarding smoking lounges inside casinos. Those adjustments seek to improve the requirements in terms of preventing smoke from leaking out of the lounges.

According to committee chairman Chan Chak Mo, three exceptions to the smoking ban are being proposed: allowing casinos to set up



Chan Chak Mo (right)

smoking lounges, establishing smoking lounges or smoking areas in prisons, and maintaining rooms which allow customers to sample tobacco products at tobacco stores.

Chan revealed that in yesterday's session, the government did not accept all of the aforementioned suggestions, additionally noting that the new bill still requires that no indoor smoking be allowed in prisons. The government also proposed that any shops, aside from cigar stores, are not permitted to exhibit tobacco products.

The new amendments are expected to come into effect at the beginning of 2018, although the smoking lounges will

only be allowed from January 1, 2019.

From that time, smoking inside casinos will be completely banned, barring in those smoking lounges which meet the government's requirements.

"If the bill can be passed, it will come into effect on January 1, 2018, and, within one year, casinos can set up qualified smoking lounges," explained Chan.

He expressed the personal belief that smoking lounges can reduce the negative impact of second hand smoking for casino employees.

As the gaming sector contributes to the highest propor-

tion of taxes in Macau, Chan suggested that the city should not take the risk of causing a reduction in these taxes by completely banning smoking inside casino premises. "We can't predict the casinos' losses if a full smoking ban is implemented," he justified.

He said that many casinos, including small ones, questioned the government about the consequences of being unable to meet the requirements for smoking lounges.

"The government will not allow smoking [in the casinos]," said Chan, explaining that this will be the consequence if casinos do not meet the government requirements.

Chan noted that if the law is passed and comes into effect on January 1, 2018, the government is giving casinos one year to set up their smoking lounges.

By 2019, according to Chan, if casinos cannot set up qualified smoking lounges, then customers will not be permitted to smoke inside the premises.

Next week, the committee will invite government representatives to attend its meeting on discussions of the bill's amendment.

The Health Bureau announced last month that the revamp of smoking lounges in casinos would be "a step forward."



More Tourist Police officers will patrol streets

The head of the public relations department of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), Lei Tak Fai, noted that, in the long term the region might allocate more Tourist Police officers to the streets, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The addition of more human resources will serve to face the needs of the city's tourism sector. Moreover, the equipment and uniforms of these officers might also be upgraded, depending on future circumstances. Forty tourist police officers began to patrol the streets of Macau this month; 30 on the Macau Peninsula, and 10 on the islands. Lei pointed out that these officers will not only assist tourists, but will also prevent crimes and help with human flow control.

Computer association leader talks on Wi-Fi Go

The president of the Macau Computer Society, Chan Weng Kin, noted during a forum that took place on Monday, that 90 percent of the world's free Wi-Fi services are not ideal, and that Macau is not unique when it comes to free Wi-Fi services. Chan pointed out that the government's shortage of human resources, imperfect supervision mechanisms, and vague punishment policies mean that the city's free Wi-Fi is flawed. He suggested that the government interconnects with different telecommunication providers in order to improve the quality of the services.

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EDUCATION

IFT named Asia's number 2 for hospitality



THE Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) has been named Asia's second best higher education institution for hospitality and leisure management, and the world's 18th best, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017.

IFT was the only higher education institution from Macau included in the ranking under the subject area of hospitality and leisure management, and ranked higher than many of its competitors in countries such as Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia.

According to the ranking for hospitality and leisure management in the Asia region, the highest scoring institution was the Hong Kong Polytechnic Univer-

sity, followed by IFT, Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (3), South Korea's Sejong University (4) and Taylor's University (5) in Malaysia. The Chinese University of Hong Kong was also placed in the top 10 for the Asia region.

While the listings for the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong are under Hong Kong's flag, the IFT was paired with a flag of the People's Republic of China.

"The quality of education at IFT and the Institute's contributions to the community have, over the past two decades, been recognized by many awards and international certifications," notes a statement issued by the IFT.

The prestigious QS World Uni-

versity Rankings lists the world's top universities overall, as well as ranking them across individual disciplines. It has been compiled by QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd. annually since 2011, and this year assessed more than 1,100 institutions in 74 countries.

The ranking by discipline is produced using four sources of information, including surveys of academics and employers to assess institutions' international ranking, as well research impact assessments.

This was the first year in which the category of hospitality and leisure management was introduced to the QS World University Rankings by Subject. It is not included on the Times Higher Education World University Rankings' list.

Established in 1995, IFT offers an extensive selection of tourism and hospitality bachelor degree programs. Around 20,000 participants attend its vocational and professional training courses annually according to the institution, which also noted that it collaborates with 101 universities and tourism organizations around the world. **DB**

IPIM

MSAR 'very interested' in Sao Tome and Principe

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) is "very interested" in Sao Tome and Principe, and is awaiting the official establishment of relations between the two countries, the President of IPIM told Macauhub in Lisbon.

Following the reestablishment of diplomatic relations on December 26 [2016] the process "is taking place" on a diplomatic level and IPIM has "to wait for clear guidelines from the central government," in view of its work to promote trade relations, said Jackson Chang.

"Of course, IPIM is interested in exploring the Sao Tome and Principe market by carrying out missions involving Chinese companies," said Chang in Lisbon on the sidelines of a meeting of a delegation from the Pan-Pearl River Delta region with Portuguese companies and associations in the environmental sector.

The President of IPIM noted that he had visited all the Portuguese-speaking countries, with the exception of Sao



Jackson Chang

Tome and Principe and said it was likely that Sao Tome businesspeople would be invited to the 2017 edition of the meeting of businesspeople from China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of China re-established diplomatic relations on December 26 after Sao Tome cut ties with Taiwan.

The reestablishment of diplomatic relations will, according to the new Deputy Secretary-General of Forum Macau, Ding Tian, enable all Portuguese-speaking countries to be part of the Forum. **MDT/Macauhub**

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10 places open in 'UNESCO Internship Program' 2017

THE Talents Development Committee (CDT), the Macao Foundation (FM) and the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) have jointly launched the "UNESCO Internship Program," offering the opportunity for 10 eligible local residents to partake in internship positions offered by UNESCO in destinations such as Cameroon, Mozambique, and Peru, the CDT informed in a press statement.

The program, launched for the first time by the Macau government, aims "to provide young people with opportunities to practice in international organizations."

The internships on offer include positions in the field of Social and Human Sciences, Science and Technology and Innovation,

Human Resources, Communication, and Cultural Heritage.

Applications can be submitted from today until April 13 for those who have a Macau Permanent Resident Identity Card (BIR), a certificate of professional degree (bachelor's or above) specified for the internship position issued in academic year 2015/2016 or academic year 2016/2017, and the appropriate required language proficiency.

The maximum duration of the internship is 12 months. The government will cover round trip travel expenses in addition to providing a monthly living allowance of MOP12,000.

The candidates' assessment and final results will be known at the end of June and will be publically published on CDT's website.

VISA-FREE ACCESS INDEX

Macau passports 'biggest climber' in North Asia

GLOBAL citizenship and residence advisory firm Henley & Partners has published its Visa Restrictions Index 2017, ranking countries and territories in the world by the number of other countries that their citizens can travel to visa-free.

This year's index put Macau SAR passports as the joint 36th strongest in the world, allowing visa-free access to 127 countries and territories. Macau shares the ranking with passport holders from Panama, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, but is beaten by Paraguay (128), Venezuela (129) and Mauritius (131).

The ranking is an improvement over the 2016 edition of the index, in which Macau was ranked 40th with a score of 120. In 2015, Macau enjoyed access to the same number of countries as 2016, but held a better global ranking, also at 36.

Hong Kong was ranked 22nd in the index, allowing visa-free access to 152 countries, down from 20

in 2016 and 16 for the year before. Taiwan came in at 31st (134) and mainland China at 85th (51).

For the North Asia region, which includes Macau and Hong Kong, Macau was recognized as the "biggest climber", moving up four ranks. Nevertheless it remained the fifth strongest in the region out of a total of six countries, beating only mainland China.

Hong Kong saw the biggest fall with a slip of just two ranks, but retained its status as the third strongest in the region. Japan also retained its position as the top-ranked country in the North Asia region.

In global terms, the strongest passports are issued by Germany, according to the index, with the country's



citizens permitted visa-free access to 176 countries. The number two spot is held by Sweden (175), while Denmark, Finland, Italy, Spain and the United States share third place, each at 174.

Meanwhile, the weakest of the passports were issued by the states of Somalia (30), Syria (29), Pakistan (28), Iraq (27) and Afghanistan (24).

In accordance with the Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index methodology, the data is compiled based on regulations effective on January 1, 2017. It surveys 199 passports from around the world and 219 destination countries, therefore the maximum score a country can earn is 218. **DB**

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THE Macau economy is expected to grow at a rate of 5.2 percent this year and an average rate of 5.3 percent in the 2017/2018 period, according to the latest report on Macau from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The publication adds that the expected economic growth will be based on increased gaming revenues, the main industry of Macau, and improvement of the economic climate will lead to a direct increase in household consumption.

Although Macau's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2016 contracted for the third consecutive year, the final two quarters posted year on year growth, and the final quarter of the year saw growth of 7 percent.

Some large hotel and gaming complex will open to the public in the period in the Cotai landfill

MACAU

Economy will grow at an average rate of 5.3pct in 2017/2018

area between the islands of Coloane and Taipa, increasing both hotel capacity and the number of casinos.

Macau will continue to record high surpluses in both fiscal terms and in its foreign trade, due to increased tax revenues, a direct result of higher revenues from punters in the territory's 38 casinos.

The series of 26 months of declines in casino revenues from casinos started in 2014 but finally stopped in August 2016, and February recorded the highest growth in the

last seven months, an increase of 17.8 percent to MOP22.991 billion (USD2.873 billion).

Accumulated gross revenues in the first two months of the year amounted to MOP42.246 billion (USD5.280 billion), a 10.6 percent increase when compared with January/February 2016.

Gross fixed capital formation, or investment, is expected to register an annual contraction of 7.7 percent this year, before rising again in 2018 with a marginal increase of 0.5 percent. **MDT/Macauhub**



57,845 work in Wholesale & Retail Trade sector

At the end of the fourth quarter of 2016, the Wholesale & Retail Trade sector had 57,845 persons engaged, up by 3.6 percent year-on-year. According to a survey on manpower needs and wages, as of December 2016, average earnings (excluding bonuses) of full-time employees rose by 2.6 percent year-on-year to MOP12,800. The survey covers diverse sectors, namely: Wholesale & Retail Trade; Transport, Storage & Communications; Security Activities and Public Sewage & Refuse Disposal Activities.

KIM JONG NAM MURDER

Kim Han Sol might have fled to the Netherlands

An online video showing a person that identifies himself as Kim Han Sol, the oldest son of Kim Jong Nam, who was killed last month, prompted questions about where he might be hiding after fleeing from Macau, where he resided. According to South Korean News Agency, Yonhap, last week Han Sol may have fled to the Netherlands to seek asylum.

In addition, according to Oxford Student website (OxStu), Han Sol has reportedly turned down an offer to study at an Oxford graduate college due to fears that his uncle could have him assassinated if he were to take up the offer.

The OxStu also cites a previous report from The Daily Mail which said Han Sol's girlfriend was a student at Oxford University and he was initially planning to join her before receiving a warning (allegedly from Chinese security agents) that his life would be put at risk if he decided to enroll at the university.

Thae Yong Ho, a dissident who was previously

a North Korean diplomat in London, said in an interview last week that the motive behind Kim Jong Nam's murder was his half-brother's desire "to solidify his legitimacy as the leader." The former diplomat added also that Jong Nam had been, until now, "the biggest obstacle" to Kim Jong Un becoming a long-term leader in North Korea.

Han Sol has also been considered a key figure in order to conclude the process of identifying the body, with Malaysian authorities seeking family members of the deceased in order to collect DNA samples.

After the death of Jong Nam, Han Sol, could be presumed by the North Korean regime to now occupy the place left by his father and that makes him an obvious next target now that all doubts over the person killed at Malaysia's main airport seem to be dissipated with several news outlets reporting that Nam's body was finally identified with the help of Japanese authorities. **RM**

Writer: EU needs of policies to integrate Muslim community

Lynzy Valles

EUROPE is currently facing a crisis regarding the integration of Muslim communities into its territories and an expert argued that the European Union is in need of creating policies aimed at this very end.

Henrique Raposo, a Portuguese writer and a media pundit, argued in his talk this week at the University of Macau – held as part of the Macau Literary Festival – that the solution to the current challenge is a revival of the classical liberal patriotism.

During the talk, Raposo argued that two conservative forces would decide the future of Europe.

"Either the center-right patriotism of Merkel, Fillon or Macron, politicians determined to defend the cosmopolitan status quo of the last decades; or the far-right nationalism of Le Pen, Brexiteers, Alternative for Germany - political-forces to destroy Europe."

The center-right patriotism believes that all races and religion can live together under the same legal framework; whilst the extremists are more discriminatory - which is a mistake, according to the speaker.

Nevertheless Raposo acknowledged that one of the reasons for the ongoing discrimination of Muslims is fear of the recent terrorist attacks by the so-called Islamic State (IS).

"The center-left and the center-right didn't respond to that fear. So they gave room and time for the far-right to grow. We now have to start thinking about integrating Muslims who are born and raised in Europe," he reasoned.

Raposo then argued that the EU could use Singapore as an example of how to integrate different communities – citing that the country acquires educational and housing policies for residents.

He noted that 80 percent of Singapore residents live in public housing regardless of their nationality. He also argued that there are no exclusive schools targeting specific nationalities. "They imposed a mandatory diversi-



Henrique Raposo

ty. People have to live together [so] in every neighborhood [there are] Chinese, Malay and Indians," he said.

Meanwhile when questioned on how Europe is currently tackling the issue, Raposo briefly said, "lousy, we're making a mess of things."

He blamed the center-right for not developing a policy of integration, resulting in the view of Muslims as visitors to the territories.

"We shouldn't use the term multiculturalism, we should use segregation or clash of communities," he argued, recalling the theories of political scientist Samuel P. Huntington who argued that the clash would become the primary source of conflict in the future.

Raposo noted that terrorist attacks are being conducted by Muslims living in Europe and not those from the Middle East.

"We all have the moral duty to integrate refugees and all [the] economic interest [to do so ...]. We need immigrants, a lot. It's crazy to build walls when we need them," he said, noting Europe's ageing society.

The media pundit also noted that the strategy of IS in organizing these attacks is to make EU residents fearful of Muslims.

"We're coming to that point. We're coming to a place in time where everybody in the streets [or] bus will be afraid of Muslims and we have to stop that immediately."

Raposo also added that it would take a generation for the EU to fully integrate Muslim communities in its countries. According to him, the EU has to solve the issue by integrating the community with the laws and values of the host country – without jeopardizing Islamic cultural and religious rights.

Labor law to be revised next year

A new revision of the labor law will enter the legislative process in the first quarter of 2018. This pledge was made by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, in remarks to journalists in Beijing. Leong said that among the seven amendments to be enforced in the revised law that are currently in discussion by the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs, one was the expected creation of paternity leave.

DNA database postponed

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has revealed that there is not yet an established date for the creation of the so-called "DNA database." It remains unclear whether the project, which has since 2012 been described as an important asset to the force, will be implemented. According to PJ's spokesperson, the main obstacle to the establishment of such a project is the "complexity of the legislative process." "The procedures regarding the production of legislation in this field are lengthy, so legislating on the DNA database is still ongoing," a PJ spokesperson told Lusa. Nevertheless the spokesperson also claimed that the PJ is working on such a project in the hopes that, when the relevant law comes into force, the establishment of a DNA database will swiftly follow suit. The idea of having a DNA database in the region came during the mandate of the current Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, who was director of the PJ at the time.

JAPAN ASSISTED IN IDENTIFYING BODY

ACCORDING TO the Japan Times, Tokyo provided Malaysian authorities with Nam's fingerprint data, which was collected in 2001 when he was detained by immigration at Tokyo Narita International Airport for trying to enter the country on a false passport. At that time the episode became a scandal, since Nam's reason for being in the country were allegedly to visit

Tokyo Disneyland. The same report notes that in addition to the fingerprint data, Japan also offered other physical characteristics to the Malaysian authorities that included mug shots taken at the time of the detention. Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said yesterday that the body of Kim Jong Nam has been embalmed to better preserve it.

TECHNOLOGY

Schmidt flags promise in new Goodenough battery

Jonathan Tirone

THE 94-year-old creator of the lithium-ion battery has invented another breakthrough storage device that's capturing the attention of industry heavyweights.

"John Goodenough, inventor of the lithium battery, has developed the first all-solid-state battery cells," said Alphabet Inc.'s Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt via Twitter yesterday. Goodenough's claim that his new battery cells have three times as much energy density as today's lithium-ion batteries is "promising," according to Google's former chief executive officer.

A new and more powerful generation of batteries may be made entirely from glass, according to the conclusions of Goodenough and his team of researchers published by the U.K. Royal Society of Chemistry. They store and transmit energy at temperatures lower than traditional lithium-ion packs and can be made using globally abundant supplies of sodium.

The research could result in "a safe, low-cost all-solid-state cell with a huge capacity giving a large energy density and a long cycle life suitable for powering an all-electric road vehicle or for storing electric power from wind or solar energy," the researchers wrote in the peer-reviewed journal *Energy & Environmental Science*.

Energy storage is seen as the missing link in the world's transition to a zero-carbon economy. Batteries can fill power gaps from intermittent solar and wind energy. Companies including Tesla Inc. and Volkswagen AG have set their sights on lithium-ion to usher in a new generation of plug-in vehicles.

The research conducted by Goodenough and his team, who worked from the University of



Alphabet Inc.'s Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt

Texas at Austin as well as at the University of Porto in Portugal, was driven by the "urgent" need to reduce fossil fuel consumption and combat climate change.

Goodenough claims that his new battery cells have three times as much energy density as today's lithium-ion batteries

The researchers are working on several patents and are seeking to collaborate with battery makers "to develop and test their new materials in electric vehicles and energy storage devices," according to a statement by the University of Texas.

"The road from the lab to the factory is a long one," said Julia Attwood, an analyst at Bloomberg New Energy Finance. "Some technologies encounter significant difficulties when they attempt to scale up. It could be a while before we're seeing these materials in electric vehicles or stationary storage."

It took Goodenough about 11 years to see his lithium-ion breakthroughs commercialized by Sony Corp. in 1991, according to a 2015 profile published by Quartz magazine. The scientist began focusing on storage technologies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during the 1970s as a potential way of resolving the persistent oil crisis of the era, according to the article.

"We believe our discovery solves many of the problems that are inherent in today's batteries," Goodenough said in a statement. "Cost, safety, energy density, rates of charge and discharge and cycle life are critical for battery-driven cars to be more widely adopted."

Bloomberg



A poster with the word 'strike' is fixed at a door at Berlin Schoenefeld Airport, Germany

Berlin airport union attacks Ryanair for 'strikebreaking' tactic

Richard Weiss

STRIKING Berlin airport workers may cease giving notice of walkouts after Ryanair Holdings Plc began using its own ground staff to help maintain services from the German capital.

The tactic of bringing in foreign "strikebreakers" poses a security threat because the Ryanair employees are being granted so-called airside access without sufficient checks, the Ver.di union said yesterday.

The labor group, which represents about 2,000 striking staff at six ground-handling providers, may now deviate from its practice of announcing each walkout a day in advance to give people time to change their travel plans.

Ryanair said it had brought in only "fully qualified and authorized ground-handling staff" to dispatch aircraft and minimize disruption to customers. Kenny Jacobs the carrier's chief marketing officer, added that strikers "have no business" accessing the airport and ramp when they are not working.

"It's a disgrace that Berlin customers and visitors are having their travel plans disrupted," Jacobs said in an emailed statement. "We call on the German government

to intervene."

Flights from Berlin's Tegel and Schoenefeld airports are being disrupted for a third day in five as workers seek improvements in pay that's been squeezed by increased competition. Some 578 flights were canceled, taking the total lost since the walkouts began on Friday to more than 1,900.

Some other airlines are also managing to operate flights, and while that may be with Berlin-based staff or non-striking handlers, Ryanair said it's not alone in drafting in help.

Europe's biggest low-cost carrier serves Schoenefeld alongside discount rivals including EasyJet Plc and Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA. Tegel's leading operators are Air Berlin Plc, Deutsche Lufthansa AG and British Airways.

Ver.di said that the current strike will end today. While the union didn't directly respond to an offer from the employers to enter mediation, it said a sweetened pay deal must be proposed to stave off further action. Though an agreement has been reached at Stuttgart airport, the conflict could spread to Frankfurt, where Acciona SA has yet to agree terms, it said.

Bloomberg

corporate bits

CTM SPRING DINNER SHOWS GRATITUDE TO STAFF



CTM held a spring dinner on Friday to express the company's gratitude to its members of staff for their contributions in the past year. With the participation of more than 1,000 staff

members, CTM celebrated the Year of Rooster. CEO of CITIC Telecom Lin Zhen Hu, CEO of CTM Vandy Poon and Chairman of CITIC Telecom Xin Yuen Jiang expressed their

gratitude to all their employees for their hard work and contributions. They also expressed their hopes that their combined efforts would enable them all to move forward and grow bigger and stronger and to embrace all the opportunities the future could present. They also wished CTM a brilliant future for its 36th anniversary.

During the dinner, a special program called "Appreciation Culture" invited colleagues to share their experiences of positive attitudes and good deeds in the work environment through a video, to spread the positive energy of appreciation and to enhance the cohesion within the company.

VW SEEKS TO MOVE BEYOND CRISIS



Volkswagen AG sought to draw a line under the diesel scandal that has locked it in crisis mode for more than a year, with sweeping restructuring efforts starting to take hold and profitability improving at the namesake car brand.

While Chief Executive Officer Matthias Mueller

acknowledged yesterday that emissions lawsuits will continue to preoccupy the automaker for many years, he said the company is "back on track" and in a position to push ahead with tackling an "epochal shift" in the auto industry. Those initiatives could eventually include talks with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, with the German company now more open to strategic partnerships, Mueller said.

"Volkswagen needs to transform, not because everything in the past was bad, but because our industry will see more fundamental changes in

the coming 10 years than over the past 100," Mueller said at the annual press conference in Wolfsburg, Germany. "It was clear to me from day one that we need to seize this decisive turning point to realign Volkswagen for the future."

In addition to working through the scandal, Mueller has been loosening up Volkswagen's rigid decision-making structure and pushing the manufacturer to tackle challenges posed by a shift to self-driving, electric vehicles. Last year, he set up Moia, which will offer ride-sharing and other mobility services. The group also plans to roll out more than 30 battery-powered vehicles by 2025.

ATLANTIC CITY COMING BACK TO LIFE

Water park eyed at ex-Atlantic Club casino

THE Atlantic City casino where Steve Wynn used to make sure Frank Sinatra had enough towels may soon become an indoor water park and go-cart track.

Ronald Young's R&R Development Group said Monday it has bought the former Atlantic Club casino and plans to turn it into a non-gambling family resort. He said his group plans to invest USD135 million into hotel renovations and construction of

an indoor water park and hopes to have 300 hotel rooms open by the fall.

The water park will be the centerpiece of the project at the Boardwalk site that once was Wynn's Golden Nugget casino in the early days of casino gambling in Atlantic City, a property made famous by television commercials in which Sinatra slipped the casino magnate a \$5 bill and told him to make sure The Chairman of the Board got enough fresh towels.

The resort, to be called Dolphin Village, is designed to appeal to families.

"We are going to complement every casino here," Young said. "People are going to love this." He said it should take 12 to 14 months to complete the water park once construction begins. Yung added the project would feature a go-cart track where the expansive casino floor used to be. And the resort will feature a "world-class" arcade as well, he said.

If it comes to fruition, the project will mark the third of five Atlantic City casinos that shut down since 2014 coming back to life. The former Showboat casino is open as a non-gambling hotel, and Hard Rock International is reopening the former Trump Taj Mahal as a new casino next year.

R&R bought the property for an undisclosed price from Clearwater, Florida-based TJM Properties, which in turn bought it from former owner Caesars Entertainment following the



AP PHOTO

shutdown. TJM will continue to hold an ownership stake in the property, Young said.

Young's partner in the venture is attorney Robert Reilert, the former general counsel for Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian said Young brought a group of investors to the city a year ago with plans for a water park that did not come to fruition.

"However, I believe that this new location and timing are much better to assure success," Guardian said.

Young said restoring casino gambling at the site was never given a thought.

"I don't even want to say the C-word," he said.

The Atlantic Club is one of several former casino properties

in Atlantic City whose use is limited by deed restrictions imposed by former owners, stating they cannot be used as casinos for a specified length of time.

The Atlantic Club was the first of four Atlantic City casinos to close in 2014.

In January 2016, a deal to sell the property to Endeavor Property Group fell through. Endeavor AC, a property company based in Ambler, Pennsylvania, had announced plans in 2015 to convert the Atlantic Club into a non-casino resort with an 81,000-square-foot, indoor-outdoor water park. Plans also called for conference and event facilities, a family entertainment center, new restaurants and retail space along the Boardwalk.

MDT/AP

THE WHO WILL TAKE UP LAS VEGAS RESIDENCY

THE WHO is taking up residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas this summer. Caesars Entertainment announced that the Rock and Roll Hall of Famers will become the first rock band to take up residence at the hotel-casino's Colosseum since the venue opened in 2003. The first run opens July 29 with six shows through Aug. 11. Tickets go on Friday at prices from USD76 to \$501. The Who have sold more than 100 million



records since forming in 1964. Their hit albums include "My Generation," "Tommy" and "Quadrophenia."

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Home sales surge 23pct defying curbs

CHINA home sales remained resilient in the first two months of the year, signaling policy makers are struggling to check the booming housing market.

The value of new homes sold rose 23 percent to 912 billion yuan (USD132 billion) in January and February compared with the first two months of 2016, according to National Bureau of Statistics data released yesterday. Sales rose 17 percent in December, the last time the data was released.

"Sales were a lot stronger than expected," said Larry Hu, head of China economics at Macquarie Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong. "Buyers in third- and fourth-tier cities chased gains, eyeing similar price surges in top cities."

The surge comes after top policy makers used this month's Natio-

nal People's Congress to reiterate a pledge to curb property speculation, and some local governments expanded home-buying restrictions. New banking regulator Guo Shuqing has said he will pay close attention to real estate bubbles, after 45 percent of new loans in China last year went to the property sector, with most going to personal mortgages.

Most first- and second-tier cities have imposed home-buying restrictions in the past six months.

Buyers turned more bullish, as sales growth by area surged 24 percent year-on-year, more than double the 10 percent increase in December, according to Bloomberg calculations based on the data. Builders remained optimistic with the value of land bought rising 13 percent, the data show.

Investment in real estate development gained 8.9 percent in January-February from a year earlier, down from 11.1 percent in December, according to Bloomberg calculations. Strong property investment helped China's fixed-asset investment accelerate, rising 8.9 percent in the first two months of the year, compared with 8.1 percent in 2016.

"Previous property cooling measures have helped little to cap property investment," Betty Wang, an economist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. in Hong Kong, wrote in a note after the data was released.

The inventory of unsold homes rose for the first time since March last year, climbing to 407 million square meters.

Price-controls in cities where home values have risen rapidly



will remain tight, or even escalate this year, Moody's Investors Service analyst Chris Wong wrote in a note yesterday.

"While the effects of increasing land supply will take time to realize, Moody's believes government-

ts in first- and major second-tier cities will maintain or even tighten their restrictive measures to curb investment or speculative demand for properties, and to prevent an overheating of prices," Wong said. **Bloomberg**

Analysts' most-hated stocks are Hong Kong's biggest winners

Kana Nishizawa

WHEN it comes to this year's surge in Hong Kong stocks, it paid to root for the underdog.

Equities with the lowest ratings from analysts have driven the market's Asia-leading gains in 2017, streaking ahead of shares showered with buy recommendations, data compiled by Bloomberg show. While this is frustrating for stock strategists - and the investors who follow their advice - it reflects a pivot in the market's focus as China's economic recovery solidifies.

Bloomberg assigns analysts' recommendations a value from one, a sell, to five, a buy. These are then averaged to create a consensus rating. Hong Kong-listed stocks covered by at least five analysts with a consensus rating of less than three have climbed 11 percent this year, based on an average that's weighted for market value, versus the 7.2 percent advance in equities with unanimous buy ratings, the data show.

Take Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. Hong Kong's marquee airline has 15 sell recommendations and zero buys



The Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing building

as increased competition on Asian routes crimps earnings, but it's climbed 14 percent in 2017, well ahead of the Hang Seng Index, which is up 8.3 percent.

Likewise, Tsingtao Brewery Co. The beer maker has struggled as China's slowdown in the wake of the global financial crisis priced out lower income drinkers - it has 10 sells to one buy. Still, Tsingtao's Hong Kong stock has soared 23 percent in 2017 after posting its biggest advance since September last month.

In 2016, the reverse was true, with lower-rated Hong Kong stocks falling as those with perfect buy credentials climbed.

Strength in manufacturing to producer prices has added to the picture of Chinese eco-

nomic health in 2017. Data yesterday showed factory output and fixed-asset investment exceeded estimates for the first two months of the year. That's helped last year's market laggards catch up, said Vincent Chan, head of China macro research at Credit Suisse Group AG in Hong Kong.

"Usually companies that get all the buy ratings are companies that enjoy structural growth - that means irrespective of the economic dynamics their earnings are growing," he said. "When the economic cycle starts to turn, like this year, growth no longer becomes a scarce commodity. These companies that nobody is holding, all of the sudden they deliver growth."

Analyst love hasn't

been able to staunch the losses in shares of WH Group Ltd. in 2017. The Hong Kong-based company, owner of the world's largest pork producer, has fallen 4.2 percent this year, even with all 12 analysts covering the stock rating it a buy. Universal Medical Financial & Technical Advisory Services Co. is also a unanimous buy, and has gained 6.7 percent this year, just under half Cathay's climb.

"People are just looking for opportunities," said Brett McGo-negal, chairman and chief executive officer at Capital Link International Holdings Ltd. in Hong Kong. Investors who came too late to the Hong Kong rally are searching for "other things and some of these are household names - Cathay, Tsingtao are very well known brands," he said.

Cathay has rebounded 15 percent from last year's low, even with analysts expecting the air carrier to report a 92 percent plunge in 2016 operating profit on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Tsingtao has benefited after Bloomberg News reported Danish beer-maker Carlsberg A/S may purchase a stake. **Bloomberg**

Services index introduced to reflect changing economy

CHINA introduced a new indicator for the services sector to better track the vast range of activity from movies to restaurants that now account for more than half of the economy.

The services output index rose 8.2 percent in January and February from a year earlier on growth in technology, transportation, and deliveries, the National Bureau of the Statistics said yesterday in the first release of the index. It plans to update the measure each month.

The NBS said the index tracks the output of services, also known as the tertiary sector, without deducting the input costs, which means it's different to a quarterly report released with the government's data on gross domestic product. The increased focus on services underscores the sector's increasing importance as China transitions away from old smokestack industry drivers and export-led growth.

Services accounted for 51.6 percent of economic output last year. The category's 8.3 percent growth in the fourth quarter helped offset slower expansions in manufacturing and agriculture and contributed to the world's second-largest economy posting its first acceleration in two years.

The index is crafted to

reflect short-term changes in the service sector, said Sheng Laiyun, a National Bureau of Statistics spokesman at a press conference in Beijing Tuesday. China's economy is rapidly restructuring from over-reliance on industry to services, and the days of "reading the face of industries" to make decisions have been replaced by services, he said.

The gauge reflects both the volume of businesses and values such as operating revenue, NBS said in a statement. It's adjusted for prices, and raw data come both from the statistical system and government ministries. The bureau said it currently releases only the general gauge, while sub-indexes by sector will be rolled out "at the proper time."

"It's a change made to adapt to the evolving structure of the economy," said Gao Yuwei, a researcher at the Bank of China Ltd.'s Institute of International Finance in Beijing. He said that with a comprehensive indicator, the government can better gauge the growth of services output and improve policy making.

Gao said the new index still needs improvement because it doesn't account for input costs and that it's difficult to collect data from service companies because they're more scattered and fast-changing. **Bloomberg**

Taiwan leaks case makes Ma third straight president prosecuted

Adela Lin, Yu-Huay Sun

EX-TAIWANESE President Ma Ying-jeou expressed confidence he would be exonerated after Taipei prosecutors indicted him over allegedly leaking details of a criminal investigation while still in office.

Ma, 66, was hit with three criminal counts yesterday alleging that he improperly disclosed a wiretapped conversation between lawmakers discussing an influence-peddling investigation, according to court documents filed by the Taipei District Prosecutors Office. Each count carries a possible sentence of as many as three years in prison.

The former president and Kuomintang chief told reporters yesterday that he was exercising his "constitutionally grounded authority over crisis management" at the time. "The act was not a crime," Ma said, according to a TVBS broadcast.

The indictment makes Ma, who championed closer ties with Taiwan's one-time civil war rivals in China, the island's third consecutive president to face criminal charges after leaving office. His predecessor, Chen Shui-bian, of the rival Democratic Progressive Party, was granted medical parole in 2015 while serving a 20-year prison sentence following his corruption conviction.

Lee Teng-hui, who oversaw Taiwan's transition to direct democracy as president from



Former Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou

1988 to 2000, was found not guilty of money laundering and embezzling government funds in November 2013.

The charges against Ma represent the latest twist in an enduring political saga that has entangled Taiwan's most powerful officials. The alleged leaks fueled a failed bid by Ma to oust a popular legislative speaker, damaging his own low approval ratings and helped

precipitate a series of election defeats that led to his Kuomintang's ouster.

The case turns on whether Ma improperly disclosed a wiretapped June 2013 conversation between the speaker, Wang Jin-pyng, and a DPP lawmaker who had recently been acquitted of breach-of-trust allegations. Wang told the lawmaker, Ker Chien-ming, that prosecutors wouldn't appeal, the Su-

preme Prosecutors Office said in September of that year.

While Wang was never accused of wrong-doing, Ker sought charges against Ma. Yesterday, the former president was accused of improperly discussing details of the call with the then-premier and his deputy secretary general, according to court documents. The charges were leaking non-defense secrets, leaking classified infor-

mation from communications surveillance and breaking rules protecting personal information.

■ The case turns on whether Ma improperly disclosed a wiretapped June 2013 conversation

Ma was questioned more than three years ago in connection with the disclosures, but presidential immunity protected him until he left office in May. Ex-Taiwanese Prosecutor General Huang Shyh-ming was convicted in 2015 of improperly disclosing the information to Ma and was released after paying a fine.

Ma faces several investigations into actions he made while in public office. In June, current President Tsai Ing-wen, of DPP, denied Ma's request to visit Hong Kong under a state secrets law that restricts trips by former top officials after they leave office, saying the city was a "sensitive region."

Yesterday, Tsai's office declined to comment, saying only that the president respects the judiciary and wouldn't comment on individual cases. **Bloomberg**

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

RELIGION

CHINA is rebuilding a major center of Tibetan Buddhist learning in the country's west to improve safety and public health, a local official and state media said yesterday, refuting reports last year that the complex was being demolished and its residents evicted.

The sprawling Larung Gar complex had been home to thousands of monks, nuns and laypeople studying the religion's more esoteric aspects. Overseas monitoring groups said last year that buildings were being torn down in an apparent attempt to drive off those staying there.

However, county government spokesman Jiang Zhiming told The Asso-

ciated Press that only some buildings had been razed to clear access lanes for firefighters. He didn't say how many Buddhist faithful remained at the site, but said about 800 had been resettled in a nearby town.

"The purpose of the renovation is to improve the living standard of the residents there and eliminate fire hazards," Jiang said. Work began last May and will finish this month, he said.

Along with the seminary and temples, the site included a settlement made of thousands of log cabins lining the steep sides of

a valley that provided accommodation for residents and visitors attending short-term study courses.

Built in 1980, the seminary had hosted around 4,000 people, but was designed "haphazardly" and grew over the years "without regard to geological risks" in the seismically active area, the official China Daily newspaper said.

Government teams previously evicted thousands of monks in 2001, but the site has swelled significantly in the years since. A fire in 2014 had destroyed about 150 dwellin-

gs but caused no deaths or injuries, China Daily said.

The seminary is located in Sichuan province's Sertar county, a remote mountainous region largely off-limits to foreign media. Information from the area is almost impossible to verify.

Access to traditionally Tibetan parts of western Sichuan has been restricted since anti-government riots swept across the region in 2008 and reporters who make it to the area are usually detained and sent back to the provincial capital.

More recently, the area

has seen a wave of self-immolations by Tibetan clergy and laypeople protesting government suppression and calling for the return of the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader.

Also yesterday, state newspapers quoted China's hand-picked Panchen Lama, the second-highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism, calling for stricter regulation of Buddhist temples and clergy, including "fake monks."

"Buddhism has suffered the effects of commercialization. Some monks were not following religious disciplines and

have been seeking financial gain in the name of religion," the Panchen Lama said in his first speech ever to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the official advisory body to China's ceremonial parliament.

"Although fake monks cannot represent mainstream Buddhists, they have had a very negative influence," he said.

China picked its own Panchen Lama in 1995, rejecting a boy chosen by the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule. **AP**

S. Korea women's school movement seen as root of Park ouster

Youkyung Lee, Seoul

WHEN the Constitutional Court removed President Park Geun-hye from office last week, there were waves of social media messages thanking students at one South Korean university for sparking the historic change.

Last summer, months before the public learned about a shadowy adviser behind Park, Ewha Womans University students gathered on the Seoul campus to protest something that initially seemed unrelated to national politics: the school administration's decision to create a new degree program.

Ewha, considered the country's top women's university, soon withdrew the plan, but the students did not stop there, pressing on with their sit-in to urge the school president's resignation. The efforts to topple the university president ended up uncovering a crucial piece of the puzzle in the political scandal that eventually brought down the country's leader: the school's favoritism to an equestrian athlete who turned out to be the daughter of Park's secretive confidante, Choi Soon-sil.

The extent of Ewha's favors to Choi's daughter, Chung Yoo-ra, was further investigated by South Korea's parliament and a special prosecution team. Seven school officials, including its former president and several professors, were indicted on criminal charges, and Chung's admission to the university was canceled.

The episode struck a nerve in the country, where many young people work hard to get into a prestigious university, and unleashed the massive popular movement that would help unseat Park, who was impeached by parliament in December and formally removed from office by the court on Friday. Park is accused of colluding with her confidante to extort money from businesses while allowing Choi to pull government strings from the shadows.

"It was a total surprise for us to discover Choi Soon-sil's link to the school," said Kim Ji-Eun, a 1994 graduate of Ewha who joined thousands of students and alumni to rally against the university's president.

Although the student protesters may not have intended to force out Park, experts said their movement would be remembered as the opening chapter in the political saga



In this Aug. 10 photo, students and graduates of Ewha Womans University stage a rally demanding that university chief Choi Kyung-hee resign at the school campus in Seoul

that ended her presidency. It also highlighted a new protest culture by those who were raised after the 1987 end of authoritarian rule, growing up with YouTube and K-pop.

"Ewha protests were the key to the impeachment," said Lee Taek-Gwang, a professor of cultural studies at South Korea's Kyunghee University. Without them "things would not have moved so quickly," he added.

Students who participated in the protests declined to be interviewed for this story, some fearing reprisals and others still undergoing treatment for injuries sustained when they were forcefully dragged away by police during the demonstrations.

The police action happened last July, in the early days of the protests, when some 1,600 officers entered a building occupied by a group of students that reportedly numbered around 200.

The students, covering their faces with baseball caps and masks and standing arm in arm, burst into the popular K-pop song "Into the New World." The choice of the song — the debut single by

Girls' Generation, a South Korean girl group — surprised many former student activists, who had memories of rallying against the country's authoritarian leaders with protest songs as police fired tear gas at them.

When I saw the police crackdown, I realized there was something very violent in the university's policies.

KIM JI-EUN
EWhA ALUM

The scenes last summer of the young students singing the song, about a woman venturing into an unknown world, ahead of the police crackdown were widely viewed and shared on Facebook and YouTube, along with what happened next: students getting force-

fully dragged out by the police amid screams of pain.

The police intervention convinced many Ewha graduates to join the protest movement. It also triggered larger questions about what made Choi Kyung-hee, the Ewha president, call for the police action, and caused the students to dig deeper into her possible wrongdoings. In October, Choi stepped down. But suspicions that Chung, the equestrian athlete, had received special favors from the school grew.

"When I saw the police crackdown, I realized there was something very violent in the university's policies and this wasn't simply about injustice on campus," said Kim, the Ewha alum.

Kim, who attended the university while pro-democracy student activism was still alive in the 1990s, said she understands why, even after the outpouring of messages thanking Ewha students following Park's ouster, many of them remain anonymous.

"I felt that the students in their 20s today were afraid that expressing dissent can take a toll on their career and

life," Kim said.

For previous generations of student activists, their activism against South Korea's former authoritarian government was nothing to hide, and sometimes was even an asset in their search for a job. But younger South Koreans are more familiar with stories of activists who are stigmatized by their dissent even though freedom of speech is protected as a constitutional right.

Park's former presidential aides were indicted for allegedly blacklisting journalists, artists and politicians for their critical views of the government and denying them government funds.

Before Choi Soon-sil's Ewha link emerged, the student protesters were not always welcomed by the public or the media. Some saw them as students at an elite university trying to protect their exclusive community by urging the cancellation of the new degree program, which the protesters said had been introduced secretly without consulting students.

Lee, the Kyunghee University professor, said such an evaluation is unfair and reflects the tendency to belittle organized activities by women.

"People have a prejudice against Ewha graduates because they are women, that women are not politically active and are consumeristic," he said. "The reason that their resistance was seen as selfish is partly due to those prejudices against women."

Even though Park, the country's first female president, saw a disgraceful exit, South Korean women saw her fall as a victory for women in the country because the movement that forced her out was started by the Ewha students.

Kim said she would never forget the special bond among the women during the sit-in, with students from across generations calling each other "friend" — something that she and others did not experience during earlier protest movements, in which hierarchy and leadership structure were rigid.

"There were a lot of discussions," Kim said. "It was meaningful to see how students around age 19 and 20 gradually realized the systematic problems behind what they thought was wrong with the school. But seeing even some liberal intellectuals deriding us, I felt that there was certainly a gender issue here." AP

Matthew Lee, Matthew Pennington

SECRETARY of State Rex Tillerson plunges this week into the increasingly volatile situation in North Asia with visits to Japan, South Korea and China, the region's central players for dealing with North Korea's missile launches and nuclear tests. Complicating the mission are Chinese concerns about how the U.S. has responded so far.

Beijing strenuously objects to the initial deployment to South Korea of a U.S. missile defense system. One of Tillerson's chief tasks will be to assuage Asia's biggest country and arrange a much-anticipated visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to the United States.

Tillerson's four-day trip will be closely watched for signs of how the Trump administration will approach the escalating tensions with North Korea, whose leader has disregarded international appeals to disarm and accelerated weapons development. The North conducted two nuclear tests and 24 ballistic missile tests last year, deepening concern in Washington that it could soon develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

Last week, North Korea launched four missiles into the ocean off Japan as the U.S. and South Korea began annual drills. The allies call the drills routine. Pyongyang regards them as an invasion rehearsal.

The Trump administration is searching for new ideas to stop North Korea in ways that years of international sanctions and diplomatic isolation have failed to do.

While administration officials say all options are on the table, including military ones, early signs indicate the U.S. wants to ensure current sanctions are properly applied, targeting the

Tillerson heads to Asia with North Korea tensions high



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

government's revenue sources and ability to import sensitive technology usable in nuclear weapons and missiles.

Tillerson arrives today in Japan and will meet Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tomorrow

For now, there appears to be no desire to negotiate with North Korea — a holdover stance from the Obama administration, which demanded the North first commit to the goal of denuclearization. But U.S. officials have been vague about what their new approach might entail.

All eyes are now on Tillerson as he tries to navigate the complex and sometime acrimonious relationships necessary for formulating a regional strategy. It's a task President Donald Trump complicated last year by challenging Japan and South Korea to contribute more to their own defense and questioning the fundamentals of four decades of U.S. diplomacy with China. But since taking office, Trump has sought to allay those concerns.

Tillerson will travel on a small plane without a contingent of journalists or a designated pool reporter who would send reports to the broader diplomatic press corps, departing from 50 years of practice and even from Tillerson's earlier official overseas trips to Germany and Mexico.

The State Department says it will accommodate U.S.-based

reporters traveling to Asia commercially by providing them access to Tillerson's public events at each stop. But commercial flights don't easily align with Tillerson's schedule, making such coverage more difficult.

Reporters have traveled with the secretary of state to report quickly on developments in foreign negotiations. They also question U.S. diplomats in front of their counterparts. Such practices allow immediate and comprehensive coverage of the diplomacy at hand. Journalists also are present if something untoward happens to the secretary of state. In 2015, John Kerry fell off his bicycle outside Geneva, breaking his leg at a delicate moment in Iran nuclear negotiations.

Some U.S. lawmakers are concerned Tillerson risks letting foreign governments shape co-

verage and sending a message that Washington isn't committed to supporting a free press. Sen. Edward Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat, urged Tillerson last week to reconsider. It wasn't clear if the decision might be amended.

Tillerson arrives today in Japan and will meet Prime Minister Shinzo Abe the next day. Abe has courted Trump, visiting the president's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida last month. North Korea marked the occasion by test-launching a new type of solid-fuel missile.

Tillerson then visits South Korea, caught up in political upheaval after last week's ouster of its president, Park Geun-hye, over a corruption scandal. Park had been in lockstep with Washington's efforts to isolate Pyongyang. The favorite to succeed her is Moon Jae-in, a moderate who wants to engage North Korea's government.

Tillerson's final leg involves meetings with several senior Chinese officials in Beijing. Relations are delicate after the U.S. and South Korea began the deployment last week of a missile defense system they say targets North Korea. Beijing claims the radar can range inside Chinese territory and weaken its nuclear deterrent.

The dispute threatens Washington's effort to get Beijing to exert more economic pressure on its traditional ally, North Korea. China recently suspended North Korean coal imports, a major source of revenue for Pyongyang. China now wants the U.S. to restart nuclear talks with the North. **AP**

THAILAND

Groups urge action against torture, disappearances

Dake Kang, Bangkok

RIGHTS groups are urging Thailand's government to enact legislation banning torture and forced disappearances as its human rights record comes under United Nations review.

The review in Geneva by the U.N. Human Rights Committee comes shortly after Thailand's legislature unanimously ratified a U.N. treaty against forced disappearances. But groups such as Human Rights Watch say Thailand needs domestic laws ex-

plicitly prohibiting torture and forced disappearances to effectively comply with the treaty.

Last month, Thailand's legislature failed to pass a bill against torture and enforced disappearances, saying it needed more study. The U.N. expressed concern over the matter, which is to be discussed at the review of Thailand's compliance with a civil and political rights treaty ratified in 1996.

"I don't think they're trying enough. Ratification of international law is not enough," said Por-

npen Khongkachonkiet, director of the Cross Cultural Foundation, a Thai anti-torture organization. "They need to do things domestically."

Other issues up for U.N. review include the transparency of Thailand's legal system and its free speech record. The U.N. will issue recommendations to Thailand at the end of March.

"We have repeatedly expressed concern that due to lack of legislative framework, any crime of enforced disappearances might continue with no accountability or le-

gal redress," said Laurent Meillan, acting regional representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Southeast Asia. "We are hopeful that after the review, efforts will be made to reintroduce the bill in its current form."

The proposed legislation would have set mandatory sentences for those found guilty of torture or abduction. It would force officials to let family members know where a suspect is being held, and create an independent committee

to locate and aid abducted persons.

The bill also included measures against torture. Rights groups accuse Thailand's military government of throwing political prisoners in military prisons and torturing them. Thailand has ratified U.N. treaties against torture and the government vigorously denies it tortures prisoners.

Since 1980, the U.N. has recorded 82 cases of enforced disappearances in Thailand. In one case, Somchai Neelapajit, a Thai Muslim lawyer and

human rights activist, was dragged from his car at night by five policemen in 2004; his body was never found. Though government officials were linked to his abduction, no one was ever prosecuted and last year police declared the case closed.

"The government needs to take swift and concrete action to enact a law that severely penalizes torture and enforced disappearance," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "After years of waiting, more promises are simply not enough." **AP**

UK Parliament gives government power to begin EU exit

Jill Lawless, London

BRITAIN lurched closer to leaving the European Union yesterday [Macau time] when Parliament stopped resisting and gave Prime Minister Theresa May the power to file for divorce from the bloc.

But in a blow to May's government, the prospect of Scotland's exit from the United Kingdom suddenly appeared nearer, too. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon called for a referendum on independence within two years to stop Scotland being dragged out of the EU against its will.

In an announcement that took many London politicians by surprise, Sturgeon vowed that Scotland would not be "taken down a path that we do not want to go down without a choice."

Sturgeon spoke in Edinburgh hours before the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill passed its final hurdle in Parliament's upper chamber, the House of Lords.

The House of Commons approved the bill weeks ago, but the 800-strong Lords fought to amend it, inserting a promise that EU citizens living in the U.K. will be allowed to remain after Britain pulls out of the bloc.

They also added a demand that Parliament get a "meaningful" vote on the final deal between Britain and the remaining 27 EU nations.

Both amendments were rejected Monday by the Commons, where May's Conservatives have a majority. A handful of pro-EU Conservatives expressed their un-

ppiness, then abstained from the vote.

The bill returned to the Lords, in a process known as parliamentary ping pong. Faced with the decision of the elected Commons, the Lords backed down and approved it without amendments.

Labour peer Dianne Hayter, who proposed the amendment on EU citizens, said the Lords had done their best, but "our view has been rejected in the elected House of Commons, and it is clear the government is not for turning."

Once the bill receives royal assent — a formality that should be accomplished within hours — May will be free to invoke Article 50 of the EU's key treaty, triggering two years of exit negotiations, by her self-imposed deadline of March 31.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon called for a referendum on independence within two years

May was forced to seek Parliament's approval for the move after a Supreme Court ruling in January torpedoed her attempt to start the process of leaving the bloc without a parliamentary vote.

The House of Commons and House of Lords battled over the bill's contents, with the status of EU nationals in Britain — and Britons in fellow EU member



Britain's Brexit Secretary David Davis

countries — drawing especially emotional debate.

Both British and EU officials have said such residents should be guaranteed the right to stay where they are, but the two sides have so far failed to provide a concrete guarantee, leaving millions of people in limbo.

Scottish National Party lawmaker Joanna Cherry told the House of Commons that one constituent, a Lithuanian, had told her "the uncertainty caused by this government and this Parliament is making her feel worse about her personal situation in Britain than she did in Lithuania under the Soviets."

Brexit Secretary David Davis told lawmakers the government had a "moral responsibility" to the 3 million EU citizens living in Britain and the 1 million Britons in other member states, and intends to guarantee their rights as

soon as possible after exit talks start.

"That is why we must pass this straightforward bill without further delay, so the prime minister can get to work on the negotiations and we can secure a quick deal that secures the status of both European Union citizens in the U.K. and also U.K. nationals living in the EU," he said.

Pro-EU lawmakers accused the government and Brexit-backing lawmakers of running roughshod over the concerns of the 48 percent of Britons who voted to stay in the EU.

Conservative legislator Dominic Grieve called the government's opposition of handing Parliament a final vote on Brexit "deranged," and the Green Party's Caroline Lucas said lawmakers should not just hand ministers a blank check.

"We were not elected to be lemmings," Lucas said.

Mike Corder, Rotterdam

DUTCH Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his main rival at national elections, the far-right populist Geert Wilders clashed Monday in their only nationally televised face-to-face debate ahead of Wednesday's vote, with Wilders calling Rutte untrustworthy and Rutte responding by saying a Wilders government would plunge the Netherlands into chaos.

The Dutch election is being seen as a key indicator of the future of populism in Europe after Britain's vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election. Later this year, two far bigger European nations, France and Germany, also go to the polls.

Wilders' Party for Free-

NETHERLANDS

Election rivals clash in TV debate

dom, or PVV, has been sliding in polls recently but is still close to Rutte's VVD.

"On Wednesday the Netherlands has the chance to prevent us waking up on March 16 and you are the biggest party," Rutte told Wilders. "That chance is still very real. That would mean the biggest party is one that walks away when it gets difficult, which puts party interest above the national interest."

The prime minister was referring to Wilders' abandoning support for Rutte's first minority coalition in 2012 by refusing to back a tough austerity package.

Wilders, in turn, accused Rutte of breaking election

pledges and vowed that taking the Netherlands out of the European Union — one of Wilders' key pledges — would allow the Netherlands "to become the boss in our own country again."

But in a debate that focused on the economy, health care and immigration, Rutte insisted Wilders did not offer real solutions to problems.

Wilders is unlikely to be able to form the next government even if he wins the popular vote as all mainstream parties have ruled out working with him. The Netherlands' proportional representation voting system guarantees coalitions.

Referring to the ongoing

Dutch diplomatic row with Turkey over Rutte's decision to block two ministers from addressing rallies in Rotterdam, Wilders said Rutte should "at least throw the Turkish ambassador and his staff out of the country."

Rutte used the barb to attack Wilders who, like President Donald Trump, often communicates via tweets, portraying Wilders as unfit to lead.

"This is the difference between tweeting from the couch and running the country," Rutte said. "If you run the country you have to take sensible decisions."

Earlier Monday, Rutte

said he wants the Netherlands to turn the tide of populism in this week's parliamentary election.

"Remember the Brexit. We all thought that would never happen. Remember the U.S. elections," he told reporters in Rotterdam. "So let's not make that mistake again. These elections are crucial. Let us stop the domino effect right this week, this Wednesday. The domino effect of the wrong sort of populism winning in this world."

In the debate, Rutte mocked one of Wilders' election pledges — to ban the Quran — asking if he intended to establish a "Quran police" to go door to door

Euroskeptics accused pro-EU legislators of trying to frustrate the will of voters who passed a June referendum to leave the EU.

"The simple truth is this — deal or no deal, vote or no vote, positive vote or negative vote, this process is irreversible," Conservative legislator Edward Leigh said. "We're leaving the EU, and that's what the people want."

May is now free to trigger Article 50 as early as this week, but the government signaled the move would come much closer to the March 31 deadline.

May spokesman James Slack repeated the government's position that it would happen by the end of March.

"I've said 'end' many times, but it would seem I didn't put it in capital letters strongly enough," he said.

The government's satisfaction at victory in Parliament was tempered by the prospect of an independence vote that threatens the 300-year-old political union between England and Scotland.

Sturgeon said she would seek to hold a referendum between the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2019 so Scottish voters could make an "informed choice" about their future.

While Britons overall voted to leave the EU, Scottish voters backed remaining by 62 to 38 percent, and Sturgeon said they should not be forced to follow the rest of the U.K. into a "hard Brexit" outside the EU single market.

In a 2014 referendum, Scottish voters rejected independence by a margin of 55 percent to 45 percent. But Sturgeon said the U.K.'s decision to leave the EU had brought about a "material change of circumstances."

May — whose government would have to approve a legally binding referendum — accused Sturgeon's Scottish National Party of political "tunnel vision" and called her announcement "deeply regrettable." **AP**



Mark Rutte (right) and Geert Wilders leave after a national televised debate

confiscating Islam's holy book.

"What we have to do to protect our borders is not make agreements with people like Mr. Erdogan," Wilders said, in a reference to the European Union's migrant deal with Turkey. Instead the government must "shut the Dutch borders here." **AP**

Susannah George, Mosul

In Mosul, a heavy but not crushing blow to IS group

IRAQI troops have surrounded western Mosul and military leaders vow it's only a matter of time until they crush the last major stand of the Islamic State group in Iraq. But the militants are positioning themselves to defend the remains of their so-called "caliphate" in Syria and wage an insurgent campaign in Iraq.

The extremists are carrying out what looks like an organized, fighting withdrawal: a core of fighters is holding out in the city using hundreds of thousands of civilians as shields, tying down and bleeding the Iraqi military in urban combat.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon and Iraqi officials say the senior IS leadership has escaped to regroup in Syria and the deserts along the border to prepare for the future.

"They know they will lose Mosul, but they want this to be a hard fight," said Maj. Saif Ali, a commander in the Iraqi special forces on the front lines.

The civilian population is perhaps the main reason IS fighters have been able to hold out so long and turn Mosul into such a grueling battle. It took months for Iraqi forces to drive them out of eastern Mosul while trying to avoid high casualties among residents amid house-to-house battles. Now some 2,000 militants, by a coalition estimate, are holed up in western Mosul with 700,000 civilians. IS fighters are holding most of those civilians hostage as shields, while forcing some to flee as cover for their troops.

Mosul's fall will be the biggest blow yet to IS, largely breaking its hold over territory in Iraq and ending its rule over half the "caliphate," which at its height stretched from northern Syria through western Iraq. The largest city in IS territory, Mosul provided the group significant financing from taxing the population, factories to make weapons and space to gather freely.

But the Islamic State group's durable organization ensures it can fall back to the next fight.

THE BATTLEFIELD

Last weekend, Iraqi forces completely encircled western Mosul by capturing the last road into the enclave of about 40 square kilometers, comprising some of the city's most densely built districts.

"Any of the fighters who are left in Mosul, they're going to die there because they are trapped," Brett McGurk, the special presidential envoy for U.S.-led coalition against IS, said Sunday.

In the month since the assault on the west began, troops have retaken the city's airport, a sprawling military complex, the main government compound and a ribbon of neighborhoods on the southwest side of Mosul. The offensive is being wa-



Iraqi federal policemen open the road towards the government complex in Mosul



An Iraqi soldier inspects a train tunnel, adorned with an Islamic State group flag

ged from three directions with two divisions of special forces and a force of federal police advancing along the Tigris River, which divides the city into its western and eastern half.

Use of artillery and airpower has been dramatically stepped up, mostly by the Iraqi air force. "They are causing the real destruction," said federal police Cpl. Abbas Takleef, whose unit retook the government complex last week.

Iraqi officers have frequently expressed impatience with extensive vetting of airstrikes required by the U.S.-led coalition to avoid civilian casualties. Recently, the coalition enabled more of its officers on the scene to approve strikes, speeding up procedures.

But more intense bombardment could translate into deaths among residents. Airwar, an independent group that tracks casualties from the campaign, said several hundred civilians have been killed in March alone.

THE CIVILIANS

Residents trapped in western Mosul face dwindling supplies of food and fuel. Limited provisions enter through smuggling routes still in use despite the siege, according to a senior humanitarian official who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

But prices have skyrocketed: the price of a kilogram of sugar has leaped from USD1 to more than \$20.

Bassam and his wife Asma, residents of a western neighborhood just recaptured by Iraqi forces, said they survived because they began stockpiling provisions back in October, before the Mosul assault began. Shops completely ran out of food more than two months

ago, they said.

The couple asked to only be identified by their first names, fearing for the safety of relatives still under IS rule.

Around 50,000 civilians have fled in the past four weeks, according to the United Nations. Escape is incredibly dangerous: IS has threatened to kill anyone caught trying to get out, and residents have to cross dangerous front lines to reach safety.

But at times, the militants allow large groups to leave, giving cover for their own fighters to move as well.

Ali, the special forces major, said that one night more than 5,000 civilians crossed out through front lines near his position. Soon after, militants who had slipped into government-held territory struck his forces from the rear, hitting a house and nearby school being used by the Iraqi troops. A sniper with a night scope killed a young soldier on the roof of the house, and a rocket-propelled grenade wounded a soldier at the school.

The attacks rattled the soldiers as they tried to regroup for the next push, said Lt. Col. Nour Sabah, who was stationed at the school.

"They are trying to exhaust us," he said.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE IS

The well-organized IS counter-attacks point to how the militants are maintaining command and control even as their grip on Mosul falls apart.

The Islamic State group's top leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and his senior lieutenants escaped Mosul even before the assault on the city began in mid-October, Iraqi and coalition officials believe. They likely went to Raqqa in Syria, though some

may have set up in desert hideouts along the border.

"They're not willing to share the risk that they demand of their fighters to fight to the death," U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, who heads the U.S.-led coalition against IS, said at a Pentagon press briefing.

Also escaping are many middle-rank IS fighters, the rough equivalent of a military's captains and majors crucial to keeping structure. A lieutenant-colonel with Iraqi intelligence estimated hundreds of IS fighters have fled west Mosul among the civilians. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Those fighters could form the backbone of an IS rebirth as an insurgent force.

From the relative safety within the territory the Islamic State group still holds in Syria and the pockets remaining in Iraq, along with any sleeper cells the militant group has inside Iraqi government-controlled territory, IS can carry out insurgent operations in Iraq including suicide bombings, much as it did before 2014 in its incarnation as al-Qaida in Iraq.

From Syria, the group can also plot attacks in the West.

"The Caliphate will not vanish," IS pledged in an internal publication found north of Mosul by Aymenn Jawad al-Tamimi, a researcher with the Middle East Forum who studies the group.

He said the document appeared to anticipate that urban areas like Mosul and Raqqa will be lost.

"It adopts the idea that the Caliphate does not end with loss of territory, and the West in particular should realize the next generation of the Caliphate's soldiers are being nurtured within their bor-

ders," al-Tamimi said.

WHAT'S NEXT IN THE FIGHT

The next likely target is Raqqa, in northern Syria. U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces are trying to cut off supply lines into the city, and U.S. officials have said an assault could begin with weeks. There too, however, the militants are dug in for long and potentially grueling fight.

From there, the last stronghold of the militants could be the Deir el-Zour region in eastern Syria, near the border with Iraq.

Iraqi forces will likely need weeks of rest and resupply after Mosul. But then the fight will also continue in Iraq to mop up the last pockets held by militants along the border. Also crucial to recapture are Iraqi border crossings still in the militants' hands, a step that would crimp — though not completely stop — IS's ability to move supplies and fighters into Iraq.

Senior military and intelligence officers warn that addressing Iraq's political divisions will be just as important.

In the past, the militants have been able to rebound from defeat by exploiting anger among Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, which feels marginalized by Shiites. And Iraq will have to deal with the monumental task of rebuilding cities destroyed in the fight against IS. Slowness in doing that could fuel Sunni resentment.

The U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Doug Silliman, said the next task will fall to the Iraqi government to return services to territory retaken from IS to deliver a lasting defeat to the group, at the Sulaimani Forum earlier this month.

"The military victories will not be enough," he said. **AP**

what's ON

MACAO ARTS WINDOW 2017: UNTITLED TRAVEL - WORKS OF LIN GE

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: May 14, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

PACKING THE NATURE - WORKS BY NG MAN WAI

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and mandatory holidays)

UNTIL: March 26, 2017

VENUE: 1st Floor, Macao Art Garden, No. 265, Av. Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

MACAO LITERARY FESTIVAL - THE SCRIPT ROAD CONCERT BY SÉRGIO GODINHO, WITH PIANIST FILIPE RAPOSO

TIME: 8:30pm

VENUE: The Venetian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP100

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6207 2294

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS - EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE

TIME: 10am-6am daily (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAO

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

MUSEUM ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

GOODYEAR RETIRES BLIMPS BUT KEEPS FAMILIAR FORM IN FLIGHT



Goodyear has let the helium out of the last of its fabled fleet of blimps, but the company's flight program will continue.

About two dozen employees were on hand yesterday to witness the deflation of California-based Spirit of Innovation.

But shed no tears, blimp fans, you'll still see a familiar blue-and-gold form floating over your favorite sports event or awards show.

Although the blimp's replacement, Wingfoot Two, will look about the same when it arrives at Goodyear's airship base in Carson later this year, it will be a semi-rigid dirigible.

Such aircraft, one of which has already replaced Goodyear's Florida blimp, have a frame, which means they maintain their shape when the helium is drained. Blimps, on the other hand, go flat. Wingfoot Two, currently operating in Ohio, will be replaced by yet another dirigible when it leaves there for Southern California.

Far more important to Goodyear is that the new airships are faster, quieter, larger, easier to fly and more maneuverable than the blimps it introduced more than 90 years ago. Still, the company plans to keep calling the new models blimps.

"Because a Goodyear Semi-rigid Dirigible doesn't roll off the tongue," laughed company airship historian Eddie Ogden.

Crew members yesterday yanked a rip line to open a section at the top of the blimp's big gas bag, known as an envelope. It took about two minutes for it to crumple to the ground. **AP**

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
15:20	Champions League: FC Porto - Juventus (Repeated)
17:00	Criminal Minds S.8
17:40	Once Upon a Time S2 (Repeated)
18:20	Labirint (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

02 MAR - 08 MAR



KONG: SKULL ISLAND

ROOM 1

(2D): 2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

(3D): 7:15pm

Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts

Starring: Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

THE FOUNDER

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: John Lee Hancock

Starring: Michael Keaton, Nick Offerman, John Carroll

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 115min

LA LA LAND

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min

THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Colm McCarthy

Starring: Gemma Arterton, Glenn Close, Sennia Nanua

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 111min

MACAU TOWER

02 MAR - 15 MAR



LOGAN

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: James Mangold

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min

this day in history



1981 PAKISTANI JET HOSTAGES RELEASED

The passengers and crew of a Pakistan Airways plane held hostage for nearly two weeks have been released in Syria.

They were freed after the Pakistani Government agreed to the hijackers' demand to release 54 people from prison.

The 147 people on the plane were set free after the former prisoners arrived in Damascus.

The Pakistani's Airways Boeing 720 was taken over at gunpoint by three men during an internal flight from Karachi to Peshawar on 2 March.

They forced the pilots to fly to Afghanistan where they murdered one of the passengers, a Pakistani diplomat.

Led by a man identified as Islamullah Khan, the three hijackers are said to be part of the Al Zulfikar group which wants to oust General Zia ul-Haq.

General Zia came to power four years ago in a coup which toppled Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the leader of the Pakistani People's Party (PPP).

Mr Bhutto was hanged in 1979 after being found guilty of the murder of a political opponent following a trial which was widely condemned as unfair.

Pakistan's rulers have accused the deposed leader's son, Murtazo Bhutto, of being in league with the hijackers.

General Zia said Mr Bhutto, who lives in London, had flown to Kabul Airport to meet the men after they took control of the jet.

Three Americans, one Canadian and a Swede were among the released passengers. They are said to be unharmed but suffering from mental and physical exhaustion.

The hijackers had said the Americans were CIA agents and threatened to kill them and blow up the plane.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In the wake of the hijack members of the Pakistani People's Party (PPP) were rounded up and arrested.

Pakistanis were horrified by the murder of the diplomat, Tariq Rahim, and the PPP's alleged backing of the hijackers lost it a lot of popular support. In 1986 Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's daughter, Benazir, returned from exile to lead the PPP in a campaign for fresh elections. In 1988 General Zia died in mysterious circumstances in an air crash.

Later the same year Benazir Bhutto led the PPP to victory in the general election. However, she was dismissed in 1990 after being accused of corruption and incompetence.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Finishing up all your errands isn't that important today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 It looks like someone who has been letting themselves be treated a bit too much like a doormat...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Family problems are fading now, as the people you're related to are realizing you are your own person.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Details, details, details! Facts and figures are swarming all over you today...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Saving money always sounds like a good idea, but it is seldom any fun. If you are feeling a pinch...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You have worked hard to get where you are, and you should feel proud. Just don't be surprised if guilt creeps into your mind...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Every time you get rid of an old idea, assumption or unwanted item, you make room for a new influx of energy and growth.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your charm is going to be so effective today that doors won't just open a little bit so you can elbow your way in...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Today, any secrets you learn are to be kept, not shared! You will be the recipient of a lot of privileged information from a few very influential people.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Controversy will be a helpful shield for you today. It will create a nice loud, distracting noise that will keep everyone busy...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Be careful about how you approach any business deals today, and try not to let your emotions get the better of you.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Some of the people around you are moving into exciting changes, and their happiness is contagious.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 5- Up to it; 9- Personnel; 14- Lotto-like game; 15- Speaker's spot; 16- Is Born; 17- CPR experts; 18- Camaro model; 19- Lerner's partner; 20- Scatter; 23- Vane dir.; 24- Allow; 25- What's left; 27- Gettysburg general; 31- Energy units; 33- Serpents; 37- Receipts; 39- Earthlink competitor; 40- This is fun!; 41- In spite of; 44- Yale students; 45- Strike; 46- Tranquil; 47- All there; 48- Colorful computer; 50- Aluminum-bronze coin of Iceland; 51- Costa; 53- Help; 55- Short trader?; 58- Pretentious display; 64- Now you; 66- Ancient Andean; 67- Top-drawer; 68- can of worms; 69- Like Nash's lama; 70- Supermodel Sastre; 71- Armed strongholds; 72- Fiddling emperor; 73- Sun. speeches; DOWN: 1- Barely managed, with "out"; 2- Actress Moore; 3- Fornicary residents; 4- Rock clinging plant; 5- Stop on ...; 6- Mineral used as a weighting agent; 7- Large cat; 8- Edible snail; 9- Shops want to achieve high ones!; 10- General on Chinese menus; 11- Suit to ...; 12- Young deer; 13- Grates; 21- Varnish resin; 22- Magnetic induction units; 26- Showy and cheap; 27- Floating bombs; 28- Name on a bomber; 29- Join the cast of; 30- Waterwitch; 32- Dreadlocks wearer; 34- Less outgoing; 35- Old finnish money; 36- Rocker Bob; 38- Morals; 42- Pallium; 43- lift?; 49- Invasive tumor; 52- Smidgens; 54- Author Calvino; 55- Beginning on; 56- Seized vehicle; 57- Ale, e.g.; 59- Feminine suffix; 60- Mai; 61- Actress Skye; 62- Lulu; 63- Scottish loch, home to a monster!; 65- CD earnings;

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including website and contact information.

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including Taipa Warehouse, St Pauls Ruins, Hellene Gardens, Kingsville, Houston Court, and Edf. Nam Long.

JML Property logo and branding, including the text '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.

THE ROADHOUSE MACAU

St. Patrick's March 17

IRISH DANCERS; HANNAH & EMILY HELBIG
08:45PM

SINGERS: DECLAN CARRUTHERS & DECLAN GREEN
09:00PM

CAESAR SALCEDO & IN-HOUSE BAND
10:30PM

RAFFLE DRAW
11:00PM

ARTIST: BARRY JAZZ FINNEGAN

中華人民共和國澳門特別行政區
氹仔島南部遊艇碼頭鄰近西堤圓形地 2875 2945 /THEROADHOUSEMACAU/

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England plans salary cap, player quotas for women's football

Rob Harris, London

ENGLAND'S football leaders want to restrict the number of foreign players in their top women's league and introduce salary caps to tackle the growing financial gulf between clubs.

The English Football Association's concerns reflect those it has been confronting in the men's game, with the same target: Turning the national teams into world champions while retaining strong domestic competitions and boosting grassroots participation.

Manchester City's signing of FIFA world player of the year Carli Lloyd is embraced by a governing body keen to raise the standards in its league, as is the club's decision to divert funding from the men's team to the loss-making women's setup.

But only City, Arsenal, Chelsea and Liverpool have the financial strength to give their women's teams full-time contracts and pay significant transfer fees. Those clubs have surpassed the smaller teams who were once the foundation of the women's league but who lack the resources to compete with the new elite.

"There are always going to be those tensions to manage," Sue Campbell, the FA's head of women's soccer, said at Wembley Stadium on Monday. "So a team like Manchester City's ambition is to win the women's Champions

AP PHOTO



League. To do that they want, not just a good 11 players on the pitch, they want some great substitutes. Because of the fact we haven't got enough talent through at this point they are looking overseas to bring people in."

Rather than imposing quotas and financial curbs, FA technical director Dan Ashworth is in talks with clubs to build a consensus to ensure there's a competitive balance in the competitions.

"We have met with those clubs and talked about putting a quota

for English players," Campbell said. "We are still in that discussion. We are talking about moving to a hard salary cap [...] where you can have your marquee players but you have a salary cap that holds the game in balance."

Lloyd has only joined Manchester City from the Houston Dash for a curtailed April to June Women's Super League spring series. The American is set to return home before the WSL shifts to mirror the men's season by playing from September to May.

Two London clubs have turned to the United States for 2017 signings, with Crystal Dunn joining Chelsea from the Washington Spirit and Heather O'Reilly arriving at Arsenal from Kansas City.

Those players can have a big role in helping to develop the next generation of English talent, according to Arsenal defender Alex Scott, who finished third at the Women's World Cup with England in 2015.

Quotas are "something that needs to be looked at, you don't

want it to get silly," said Scott, who said there were benefits to her stint in the U.S. with the Boston Breakers. "I know how much I benefited from going over to America to play [with the Boston Breakers ...] it improved me as an England player."

The FA believes its women's team is better placed to win the World Cup before the men repeat the 1966 success

And the FA believes its women's team is better placed to win the World Cup before the men repeat the 1966 success.

"The women have a stronger sense of team identity as to who they are through adversity," FA chief executive Martin Glenn said. "You get strength through adversity. And we have worked hard with sports psychiatrists and the like to create that identity."

England's men exited the 2016 European Championship with an embarrassing Round of 16 loss to Iceland and last reached a tournament semifinal two decades earlier.

"The bulldog spirit — go out and kill or whatever — doesn't work for such a diverse group of players or this generation of players," Glenn said of the men's team. "The England women's team is one of the best in terms of team spirit I have seen." **MDT/AP**

Era of FIFA veteran Hayatou under threat at African election

Elias Meseret,
Gerald Imray, Ethiopia

ISSA Hayatou's reign could end this week after nearly 30 years as the head of the African soccer confederation and a top FIFA executive.

Hayatou, FIFA's most senior vice president due to his long service, faces what is predicted to be a tough election challenge — an unfamiliar situation for him — at the Confederation of African Football's general assembly in Ethiopia tomorrow. His opponent, the head of the Madagascar association, could provide African soccer with a new leader and a new direction for the first time since the

late 1980s.

Defeat for Hayatou in the vote of CAF's 54 full member countries would not only remove him as president in Africa but also as a FIFA vice president and a member of its ruling council. Ahmad, the challenger from Madagascar, would replace Hayatou on the FIFA Council.

With a younger candidate calling for a more transparent CAF, and questioning the secrecy with which the organization has conducted financial deals, the 70-year-old Hayatou may be another veteran soccer leader pushed out by a desire for change emanating from the 2015 FIFA corruption

scandal.

Ahmad, casting himself as the man to modernize CAF, is campaigning under the Twitter hashtag #TogetherForChange. Hayatou, the son of a sultan from northern Cameroon, doesn't tweet and rarely gives interviews.

Hayatou, seeking an eighth term, enters the election weighed down by the threat of a criminal prosecution. The Egyptian Competition Authority has recommended that he and his secretary general be referred to court over a marketing and television rights deal worth a reported USD1 billion.

"If I believed that I will lose this election, I wouldn't have entered the race

in the first place," Hayatou said on his arrival in Addis Ababa at the start of election week.

Hayatou's confidence shouldn't be ignored, with his longevity impressive: Sepp Blatter was still FIFA's secretary general when Hayatou took charge of African soccer. Current FIFA President Gianni Infantino was a teenager.

Hayatou was re-elected unopposed as CAF president in 2013, but he was only unopposed after he pushed through rule changes that allowed only members of his executive committee to stand against him, preventing a challenge from former FIFA executive commi-

AP PHOTO



In this Feb. 26, 2016 file photo, then-Acting FIFA President Issa Hayatou of Cameroon sits on the podium during the extraordinary FIFA congress in Zurich

tee member Jacques Anouma. Age limits for candidates were also removed, allowing Hayatou to be eligible for re-election this year. There was little opposition to him.

And although Ahmad's campaign team has claimed support from 35 countries — 28 votes guarantee victory — the public announcements of

support for the challenger haven't matched that number.

"It is very difficult now to say how many countries are going to vote for me," Ahmad told The Associated Press yesterday. "Nobody can know that at this moment. You campaign and if you believe in your work, only the vote will tell." **MDT/AP**

opinion

Views on Asia

Tim Culpan, Bloomberg

ASIA'S LACK OF CYBER DEFENSES IS A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

It's not often that we hear updates from Asia's cybersecurity companies. That's because there aren't very many of them.

NEC Corp. announced on Monday it will set up a security operations center in California under its Infosec Corp. affiliate. The initiative adds to teams in Japan and Europe, allowing NEC to run a "follow the sun" operation, similar to that deployed by others in the field.

Importantly, it makes the Japanese company just that little bit more global, and helps to add Asia to the conversation on IT security providers.

If asked to name an Asian cybersecurity company, chances are Trend Micro Inc. would be the first to come to mind, and most would draw a blank at a second.

Despite playing host to a hotbed of internet breaches, hacks and espionage, Asia Pacific has just 21 firms among the Cybersecurity 500, a ranking of the world's best companies in the industry. The list, compiled by researcher Cybersecurity Ventures, isn't based on size or growth, but on a qualitative assessment of the hottest and most innovative.

Bessemer Venture Partners, a Silicon Valley investor with skin in the cyber game, takes a more quantitative approach and lists 29 companies in its BVP Cyber Index of publicly traded companies whose principal business is information-technology security. Even then, only two Asian companies make the gauge: Trend and NQ Mobile Inc.

But NEC isn't just dipping its toes in the water. It bought Infosec in 2013 and started ramping up its emphasis on IT security about a year later as part of a company reorganization, listing the subject as a key focus for the coming years. Among its successes, NEC supplies biometrics technology for India's Aadhaar citizen-identification program and a facial recognition system for South Australia's police force.

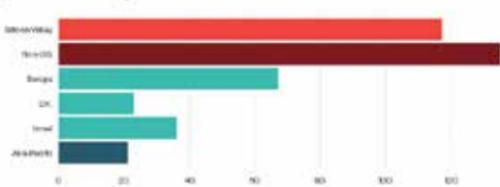
Dig deep enough and you'll find more examples of IT security businesses buried inside other Asian companies. There's also a plethora of small, independent infosec teams - notably in Taiwan - that are chasing down breaches and selling consulting services to corporate and government clients that have been hacked.

Yet the lack of size, scale and specialized focus in Asia is surprising. It took a long time for Western companies to treat seriously the defensive need for cybersecurity, but once they did the business opportunities were also quickly recognized. In Israel (population: 8.3 million), the nation's ongoing security threats have been turned into a burgeoning industry that birthed 36 of the Cybersecurity 500 companies.

Many Asian boards still have their heads buried in the sand when it comes to the attacks they face, not just from hacks but from fraud, intellectual property leakage, and physical and supply chain breaches. When they do start to face up to reality we can expect a rush of new, specialist companies to meet that need.

Secure Business

The U.S. still dominates the global cybersecurity business while Israel and the U.K. have a strong presence. Asia is lacking.



THE MARX'S GERMAN BIRTHPLACE BUZZ ACCEPTS STATUE FROM CHINA

The German city of Trier has decided to accept a statue of Karl Marx from China, marking the 200th anniversary of the father of communism's birth.

The city council voted 42-7 with four abstentions Monday night to accept the gift, according to news agency dpa. The statue's precise location and size are to be decided following further negotiations with China.

Initial plans by Chinese sculptor Wu Weishan called for the statue and its pedestal to be 6.3 meters tall, leading to criticism from some in the city.

Statues and streets named after Marx were common in communist East Germany. Many survived the collapse of communism, unlike tributes to more contemporary socialists.

Trier, near the border with Luxembourg, was in West Germany. Marx was born there May 5, 1818.

Singapore tops Tokyo as Asia's city with best quality of living

SINGAPORE tops the ranks in Asia as the city with the best quality of living, well ahead of Tokyo and Hong Kong because of its efficient infrastructure.

The city-state gained one spot from last year and came in at No. 25 on a global ranking of 231 cities by consulting firm Mercer. In Asia, Tokyo was at 47 and Hong Kong at 71, with both declining slightly in the index.

Singapore was top of the list on quality of city infrastructure, which includes supply of electricity, drinking water and phone services. Mercer also assesses public transportation, traffic congestion and the availability of international flights in this category.

"Cities that rank high in the city infrastructure list provide a combination of top-notch local and international airport facilities, varied and extended coverage through their local transportation networks, and innovative



solutions such as smart technology and alternative energy," said Slagin Parakatil, a principal at Mercer who is responsible for its quality of living research.

Singapore also scored high because of "internal stability, wide availability of consumer goods, availability and quality of housing and low incidence of natural disasters," Mercer said.

The global ranking - based on data compiled between September and November last year - was dominated by Western European cities, with Vienna and Zurich topping the list. The only non-European cities in the top 10 were Auckland in third spot, Vancouver in fifth, and Syd-

ney in 10th.

In Asia, great disparities in the quality of living remain, Mercer said. Beijing was ranked at 119, with Shanghai at 102 and Guangzhou at 121. Bangkok dropped two spots to 131, and Manila climbed one spot to 135.

The next-best Asian ranking in infrastructure was for Hong Kong at sixth place, while Sydney was at eighth.

"By and large, cities across the Pacific enjoy good quality of living, though criteria such as airport connectivity and traffic congestion are among the factors that see them ranked lower in terms of city infrastructure," Mercer said. Bloomberg

Rajoy's neglect of Spanish working poor risks backlash

SPAIN, often cited as Europe's bailout poster child, still has a lot to do to fix its economy, according to the Organization for Economy Cooperation and Development.

In a review of the nation's progress since a crippling real-estate collapse in 2007, the group said that Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's reliance on short-term labor contracts coupled with an inefficient tax system and misallocation of benefits payments risks fostering public disaffection even as the economy grows thanks to structural reforms. The precarious nature of the labor market and persistently low productivity are two of the main dangers facing Spain, it said.

While unemployment has fallen from a peak of 26 percent to about 19 percent, youth unemployment remains a problem, the OECD said. The two-tier nature of the labor market - with older staff benefiting from secure jobs to the detriment of younger workers on temporary con-



Mariano Rajoy

tracts - risks fueling further discontent, according to the report.

"The high share of long-term unemployed risks loss of skills, disaffection and alienation," the OECD said. "Part of the answer is continued strong economic growth, but strengthening training and job placement and better minimum income support are crucial."

Almost 40 percent of young Spaniards are unemployed with few skills and close to half of the jobless have been unemployed for more than a year, reducing their chances of reentering the labor market as their skills become obsolete, the OECD said.

The institution called for a better allocation of resources for state-funded programs for job-seekers, improved training programs and more financial support for families with children.

The OECD also noted there is scope for efficiency in the tax system, suggesting an increase in environmental levies and abolishing reduced value-added tax rates could help prop up revenue without penalizing workers. While the nation has undergone a structural improvement toward a more balanced economy, public debt remains high, it added.

Spain's public debt has almost tripled since 2007 after a decade-long housing bubble came to an abrupt end, prompting the worst economic crisis in modern history. With the debt pile at around 100 percent of output, Spain is still in breach of European rules demanding all member states keep their national debt below 60 percent of gross domestic output. Bloomberg

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

ETHIOPIA The death toll has risen to 72 after Saturday's collapse of a mountain of garbage in a landfill outside Ethiopia's capital. Many victims were women and children as makeshift homes inside the Koshe landfill were buried in debris. It is not clear how the collapse occurred.

BURUNDI Reports of mutilated corpses are again emerging as Burundi's political crisis continues, a UN expert on the East African nation says. Such corpses were seen in 2015 and early 2016 but reports have resumed in recent months. In many cases neither victims nor suspected perpetrators could be identified.



EGYPT's ousted president Hosni Mubarak was ordered to be freed from detention on Monday, according to the prosecutor who signed his release order. The decision ends nearly six years of legal proceedings against Mubarak and seems certain to revive the ongoing debate over whether the goals of the 2011 uprising that ended his reign were ever realized.

GERMANY Ground staff at Berlin's two airports walked off the job for the second consecutive day yesterday in a wage dispute, again forcing the cancellation of most flights to and from the German capital. More on p8

SPAIN's Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis said Scotland will be "at the back of the queue" if it wants to become a member of the European Union if it decides to leave the United Kingdom.

IRELAND has mounted a major search off the County Mayo coast after a sea rescue helicopter with four crew members crashed overnight in the Irish Sea. Coast Guard director Eugene Clonan says one crew member has been found and is hospitalized in critical condition, while hopes are fading of finding the other three personnel following yesterday's crash.