



'EPIDEMIC OF BAD NUTRITION'

Interview with former nutrition and obesity professor Rocio Medina, who growth of obesity cases in the region

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CHINESE ASTRONAUT IN TOWN

Macau marked the second anniversary of China's Space Day yesterday by holding an educational session

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FRENCH VOTE SHUTS OUT MAINSTREAM POLITICS

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WORLD BRIEFS



KOREAS Fresh off an immense North Korean parade that revealed an arsenal of intercontinental ballistic missiles, rival South Korea and its allies are bracing for the possibility that Pyongyang's follow-up act will be even bigger. There's a chance N.Korea will conduct its sixth nuclear test or its maiden test launch of an ICBM around the founding anniversary of its military today. [More on p11,13](#)

CHINA Alibaba's Jack Ma said society should prepare for decades of pain as the internet disrupts the economy. The world must change education systems and establish how to work with robots to help soften the blow caused by automation and the internet economy, Ma said in a speech to an entrepreneurship conference in Zhengzhou. [More on p10](#)

TAIWAN "Digital minister" Audrey Tang, appointed by leaders hoping to better connect with young voters who helped sweep independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen into office last year, is using her expertise to more directly involve the public in policymaking, and to counter "fake news." [More on p10](#)

PHILIPPINES Regular troops, backed by airstrikes, captured a jungle camp belonging to an extremist band allied with the Islamic State group yesterday and killed several militants in the country's south, military officials said. An army general raised the Philippine flag in the camp of the Maute armed group near Piagapo town in Lanao del Sur province a few hours after troops occupied the rebel base. [More on backpage](#)

FOLLOWING GRAFT BUSTER REPORT

IC scraps irregular employment contracts

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Vintage plane makes Macau stopover

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PAULO BARBOSA

Q&A ROCIO MEDINA
VICE PRESIDENT, WORLDWIDE NUTRITION TRAINING

'We are living in an epidemic of bad nutrition and obesity'

Renato Marques

FORMER nutrition and obesity professor Rocio Medina, who is one of the designers of a new study program to train professionals in the field at the University of Monterrey in Mexico, visited Macau as part of the "Herbalife Asia Pacific Wellness Tour 2017." Medina is also the vice president of Herbalife's Nutrition Institute.

Since starting her private practice in Mexico in 1994, Medina has been addressing multiple issues related to bad nutrition and its consequences in Mexico - a country that is known as the "The Fattest Country of the World" because Mexico's obesity rate is extremely high.

To learn more about these topics and their relation to the modern lifestyle, and the growth of obesity cases in the region, the Times spoke to Dr Medina on the sidelines of the Herbalife tour at Landmark Hotel in Macau.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – As an urban society, Macau is facing the same challenges as other developed societies. Is obesity a worldwide problem?

Rocio Medina (RM) – There are currently trends that we are living worldwide and HK and Macau are not an exception. They are growing markets [for our products] because we are living in an epidemic of bad nutrition and obesity. The latest surveys show a growth [in the number of people who are overweight] in most of the age groups, with the exception of the older ones, but even those results [of Body Mass Index (BMI)] are due mostly to the loss of fat mass and not fat, which leads us to talk now about body composition instead of just weight. We are trying to educate our members and let them know that obesity is not just overweight, it's about how your body is composed.

RENATO MARQUES



MDT – What are these problems related to? Is it just about what we eat?

RM – The lifestyles that we are living right now don't make it easy for us to get good nutrition. It's really difficult these days with everyone rushing, women working ... we don't have time to have meals in a balanced way.

MDT – The last survey done in Macau in 2015 found that between 15-20 percent of the population between the ages of four and 22 were facing obesity problems – a growth of

more than three percent compared to 2010. Is it what we are feeding our youth that is the major problem?

RM – What I think is that parents are not at home anymore, since they are working, and kids are not as active as they used to be. As parents, we want to keep our kids safe at home, and so we provide them tools that are convenient to keep them at home. They are not doing enough exercise, they are more sedentary and we bring home fast food that is cheap and convenient, sometimes be-

cause we don't have time to prepare meals.

With all this, we are giving them the wrong idea and the wrong knowledge of what good nutrition is, and since we are not at home we don't push them to eat vegetables and fruits, and they are not as tasty as pastries and cakes and sweets, and we let them eat whatever they want because we are working. So it's in fact a combination of factors that are leading our young generation to increase their weight and the fat in their body composition, and of course this results in what

we have been seeing in the last years regarding health conditions in younger people that we didn't used to see 20 or 30 years ago. Diabetes, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia – those were health condition for older people (40 years old and above) but now we see them in very young people: kids and teenagers.

School is very important; we can and should have at least one nutrition class from kindergarten

MDT – In your opinion, what is the role of schools in regards to this particular topic or educating young generations?

RM – I think education is a key point. It is really important to educate our kids in the field of nutrition, but [it is also the role of] the family, as what we are doing at home is crucial.

I will give you the example of Mexico, [one of the world's leading countries] on obesity. The government started a program in schools that prohibited the sale of junk food, but you know what happened? The parents provided the junk food to the kids and they took it to school. There wasn't any good result after that program.

So I think the government, society and family should all have that knowledge. Of course the government can and should invest in education of the parents and kids from a very young age, so they can receive that education at home and at school.

School is very important, and we can and should have at least one nutrition class from kindergarten, but family plays a very important role. We need to follow the same path, otherwise kids get confused. If their parent is giving them junk food and the school is saying it is bad [to eat those foods], of course they will believe their parents more. They won't think their parents aren't doing a good thing for them. We need to be consistent on this.

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Julie Zhu

CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

Irregular employment contracts scrapped following CCAC report

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will terminate employment contracts with 94 of its irregularly recruited staff, as stated in a report released by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) on March 10. IC president Leung Hio Ming disclosed this information yesterday, during a press conference at the IC office regarding the aforementioned report. All department heads were required to occupy the front rows in the conference room.

The CCAC report highlighted several unlawful hiring practices at the IC. The report was issued just weeks after a leadership change at the IC, in which former president Ung Vai Meng quit unexpectedly and was replaced by Leung, one of the bureau's former vice presidents.

Leung began by explaining that between 2010 until the present, IC has purchased 32 public facilities and organized many different art events. This resulted in an increased workload, and the department began facing severe pressure in terms of human resources.

"About three fourths of the people will end their relationship with IC between June and September," revealed Leung. The aforementioned 94 people are still working for the IC.

Leung noted that IC, following the CCAC report, has already terminated its previous employment contracts with these staff members.

However, in order to allow IC more time to adjust itself in terms of human resources, the IC has continued to employ these people through temporary contracts "to meet emergency needs."

The law states that citing "emergency needs" as justification for a temporary contract allows IC a maximum of one year to resolve its employment difficulties.

Besides the majority who will leave IC before the end of September, the remaining workers will also gradually leave the department before their temporary contracts finish. "They [the 94 people] need time to plan their future," said Leung.

The CCAC report also pointed out that the bureau had appointed two department heads who had less than five years of working experience.

Leung claimed that the above happened because several Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) functions, employees and facilities were merged with IC, which had appointed 14 department heads back in January 1, 2016.

The report had great impact over the IC, and a great influence over the society.

LEUNG HIO MING

"Due to the deviation of the IC's understanding of legal articles, flaws arose within the institute's administrative behaviors," explained Leung. According to him, Chief Executive Chui Sai On waived working experience requirements for the two department heads.

rements for the two department heads.

Last Friday, while attending a meeting at the Legislative Assembly, Chui said that he would never, within his term, make use of his rights to waive working experience requirement for any kind of leadership.

The new IC president also expressed that he "completely agreed with and respected the CCAC."

Regarding the parties responsible for the aforementioned human resources problem, Leung said that "all department heads and leaders are responsible for the problems, as the problems spread widely all over IC."

"They [the issues found] do not involve interests or violations of the law," said Leung, adding that "many levels have problems."

Although the improper recruitments were approved by IC leaders as well as by other IC high officials, Leung did not disclose any accountability or punishment to be undertaken by these leaders.

However, he repeatedly indicated that these mistakes happened only because of the IC's imperfect knowledge of the region's laws, and were therefore unrelated to corruption.

Leung further repeated several times that "the [CCAC] report had great impact over the IC, and a great influence over the society."

He also expressed his hope that society will continue to support the IC, and look at it in a comprehensive and objective way.



Leung Hio Ming (center) pictured during yesterday's press conference

Alexis Tam says Ung is not involved in corruption

THE Commission Against Corruption report was released a few weeks after IC former president Ung Vai Meng stepped down from his position.

Regarding the doubts whether Ung was involved in the improper recruitment of human resources, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam spoke in Ung's su-

port last Sunday, asserting that no corruption was involved in the recruitment.

"He was not familiar with the laws, [and] is not involved in any corruption," said Tam, adding that Ung might not have a deep understanding of the city's laws regarding the employment process. "He was not aware that it was a mistake back then," Tam said.

TOURISM

Visitor arrivals for March show a slight increase



INFORMATION from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that visitor arrivals

increased to 2,501,219 in March, and a slight month-to-month increase of 0.2 percent.

Overnight visitors rose by 13.9 percent year-on-year to 1,336,384, while

le same-day visitors decreased by 2.4 percent to 1,164,835.

Visitors from mainland China increased by 11.5 percent year-on-year to 1,655,103 in March, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme (741,199) rising by 18.4 percent.

Mainland visitors came mainly from Guangdong Province, Hunan Province and Fujian Province.

Visitors from the Republic of Korea (65,393), Japan (33,158) and Taiwan (84,347) increased by 56.9 percent, 19.2 percent and 7.5 percent respectively, while those from

Hong Kong (492,215) decreased by 12.6 percent.

Meanwhile visitors from the United States (16,203) and Canada (7,519) registered an increase whereas those from Australia (6,720) and the United Kingdom (4,798) saw a decrease.

Analyzed by mode of transport, visitor arrivals by land went up by 5.1 percent year-on-year to 1,416,109, with visitors arriving through the Border Gate increasing by 3.6 percent.

Visitor arrivals by sea increased by 4 percent year-on-year to 877,254. Those disembarking at the Outer Harbor and the

Provisional Ferry Terminal in Taipa rose by 5.6 percent and 1.5 percent respectively.

Visitor arrivals by air increased by 18.6 percent year-on-year, with those arriving at the airport rising by 18.3 percent.

In the first quarter of 2017, visitor arrivals totaled 7,872,461, up by 5.6 percent year-on-year. Overnight visitors rose by 12.1 percent while same-day visitors edged down by 0.2 percent.

The average length of stay of visitors increased by 0.1 day year-on-year to 1.2 days. For overnight visitors, the average length of stay decreased

by 0.1 days to 2.1 days, whereas that of same-day visitors remained stable at 0.2 days.

During the first quarter, visitors from mainland China (5,317,678), the Republic of Korea (229,605) and Taiwan (225,620) increased by 7.6 percent, 32.0 percent and 1.9 percent respectively while those from Hong Kong (1,520,574) dropped by 2.5 percent. Moreover, visitors from the United States (44,122) and Canada (19,128) increased year-on-year while those from Australia (21,822) and the United Kingdom (12,928) decreased.

UM to confer honorary doctorate on Nobel laureate



The University of Macau (UM) will confer the Doctor of Science honoris causa on physics Nobel laureate Carl Edwin Wieman today. After the ceremony, Wieman will give a Doctor honoris causa Lecture titled, 'Taking a Scientific Approach to Science Education'. The university said in a statement that the scholar will share his views on scientific education and discuss ways to increase students' knowledge in the field. Wieman received the Nobel Prize in physics in 2001. He is a renowned physicist in the United States and an educator at Stanford University.

High school students lose thousands to fraud

Three local high school girls have lost around MOP6,700 to a fraud, after attempting to purchase show tickets. The three students wanted to buy tickets for a Korean band's concert scheduled to take place in Hong Kong. Through a Macau based social network platform, these students booked four tickets from an individual who claimed to be able to buy the tickets for them. The students transferred money to a Hong Kong bank account on the instructions of the individual, but subsequently lost contact with him or her. They then reported the matter to the police.

Illegal inn probe finds several crimes

Renato Marques

ACTING on a tip-off of an alleged illegal inn operating in the NAPE area, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) investigated the premises and found that not only was the apartment being used as illegal accommodation, but that it was also being used for prostitution.

Further investigation found several quantities of illegal drugs and an unlawful caretaker, a PSP spokesperson informed during a press conference held yesterday.

The case was finally unveiled after the PSP searched the building last Saturday on April 22.

On arrival, the police found a man acting suspiciously, whom on questioning stated he had been hired as a caretaker to clean two apartments located in the building.



An illegal inn being shut down by MGTO staff

The police found four keys in his possession allowing access to both apartments.

While nothing suspicious was discovered in the first apartment, the police discovered the second apartment was being shared by four women, aged between 27 and 34 years old, for the practice of prostitution.

A detailed inspection of the rooms found several drugs, including "Ice" (74.5

gram), Maku (16.8 gram) and Cocaine (4.4 gram), in the possession of one of the women, as well as in her handbag and a room cabinet. The woman in question is a 34 year-old woman from mainland China, and the drugs were found wrapped and dissimulated as candies.

Several instruments and materials used to weigh and pack the drugs were also

found in the apartment. While the woman only admitted to having ownership of some of the discovered drugs, the police spokesperson said that there is strong evidence that she is engaged in drug trafficking and distribution.

The woman also tested positive on a drug test.

According to the same source, the drugs have a street value of around MOP85,000.

She was charged with illegal trafficking and consumption of drugs, as well as illegal possession of drug processing and consumption tools.

As for the caretaker, a 34 year-old man also from the Mainland, further investigation revealed he had been illegally hired to clean both the apartments in return for a daily fee of MOP100. He has been charged with performing illegal work.

As for the other three women sharing the apartment, the police reported that they had not found any connection between them and the woman who was in possession of the drugs.

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Legendary plane makes Macau stopover



Captain Francisco Agullo stands in front of the plane



The Douglas DC-3 parked in a local hangar

Paulo Barbosa

BOARDING the Douglas DC-3 is like returning to the era of black and white movies, when commercial aviation was making its first steps. A model of the twin-engine propeller plane, which revolutionized air transport in the 1930s and 1940s, arrived at the Macau International Airport on Sunday as part of the Breitling DC-3 World Tour.

The plane is expected to depart today to Taiwan, from where it will fly to Japan, for a one-month stint at several airshows. It will later cross the Pacific

toward the US, where it will stay for part of the summer. The total length of the world tour is six months, covering 55 cities and 28 countries.

Since it took off in Geneva in March 9, exactly 77 years after it flew for the first time in 1940, the plane has made a number of stopovers at the Balkans, before it moved on to the Middle East and the Gulf states, after which it charted a course towards Greater China, showcasing in events and air shows.

The captain and owner of the DC-3, Francisco Agullo, spoke with journalists yesterday at the hangar where the airplane

is parked. Besides the DC-3, Agullo – a former Swissair pilot – currently flies private jets. He has accumulated 12,000 flight hours in different types of aircrafts, including nine round the world flights, one of them with an ultralight plane (in 2010).

The Swiss captain said that the heritage plane was last flown commercially by Eastern Airlines in 1988. He bought it in 2008, and restored it almost to its original version – with exception of the cabin and the cockpit, upgraded to modern flight requirements, which are completely different then they were in the 40s. To make the longer stretches of the world tour, the plane has also been adapted to have a 14 seat capacity in order to carry extra fuel, which is stored in the cabin.

When asked about the difference between flying a 77 year-old plane and a modern one, Agullo said: “I always give this example: I don’t know if you’ve had the opportunity to drive an old car or an old truck. It is very heavy, there is no power steering. But you can drive the mo-

dern cars nice and easy, because they have power steering. The airplanes are exactly the same. You can fly an Airbus A380, the biggest plane in the world, with two fingers... But the DC-3? You need two hands and your friend [the co-pilot] needs to help with power because it is so heavy. It is a different philosophy, but this is a lot of fun.”

Curiously, the DC-3 is still being used by a few airliners in countries like Colombia, Bolivia, US (namely in Alaska) and Canada, occasionally with a replacement engine but retaining the remaining parts.

“In Colombia they use the airplane to fly in the jungle, for example. It is quite amazing to see an airplane still flying commercially in certain countries. The reason is that, in the aviation world we say that the only replacement for a DC-3 is another DC-3. And that means a lot and it’s true. This airplane can carry 30 people inside and land on a field, in the mud strip or on a grass strip that is only 800 meters long. There is no other airplane that can do this, even

today,” Agullo said, adding that it is still possible to find original parts for the model, although “it is becoming more difficult.”

When asked about what is going to happen to the plane after the world tour, Agullo pledged not to sell it. “I hope that we can keep the airplane for as long as possible in flying condition. We want people to come and fly with us. That is what we really want to do for as long as possible,” he concluded.

During the Macau stopover, the plane was authorized to make a 15-minute flight, cruising 800 meters above Macau with some invited guests.

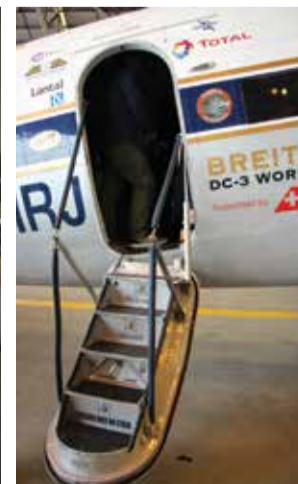
OVER 16,000 DC-3s PRODUCED

THE MAIDEN flight of the Douglas DC-3 took place on December 1935. A total of 16,079 DC-3 were built in three different countries, with the majority being built in the US (10,655), with others in Russia (4,937) and a small number in Japan (487). The model’s production ended

in 1945. A military version (the C-47) was also used extensively during World War II. The current market price of the DC-3 ranges from USD300,000 to USD5 million, according to Francisco Agullo. There are currently around 150 DC-3s flying around the world.

500 WATCHES ABOARD

BREITLING IS marking the world tour by introducing a limited edition of its Navitimer aviation chronograph. Five hundred watches will make the world tour aboard the DC-3. The watch will be on sale this fall, after the tour ends. According to the captain, the watches are being kept inside the plane in a secret location.



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Second China Space Day marked with astronaut lecture

MACAU marked the second anniversary of China's Space Day yesterday by holding an educational session to promote interest in astronomy among young students.

The event, held at the Science Center, was organized by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ). About 400 middle school students attended the event.

Chinese astronaut Wang Yaping, a crew member of China's Shenzhou-10 manned spacecraft, shared her experience of ground training and orbit operation with the students after showcasing several video clips about the space mission.

Wang has previously held a lecture while in space for mid-



Chinese astronaut Wang Yaping (left) met yesterday with Chui Sai On

dle and elementary school students, via a nation-wide live TV broadcast. When asked about her most interesting exper-

ience during the mission, Wang replied that she had found the loss of gravity as the most interesting, but added that it had

also created inconveniences such as sleep difficulties.

The astronaut added that if she could land on the moon in future, she would want to dress like Chang'e, the moon goddess in Chinese myth, with a pet rabbit in her arms, which made the students break into laughter.

Jin Sheng, a specialist on popularization of astronomy to youths, briefed the students about China's space program.

DSEJ's head Leong Lai said in her opening speech of the event that Macau's youth will learn about the achievements of China's space industry and the endeavoring spirit of Chinese astronauts.

China Space Day was initiated last year to mark the launch of China's first satellite on April 24, 1970. **MDT/Xinhua**

Fire leaves woman with first-degree burns

A 63-year-old Hong Kong woman sustained first-degree burns after a fire broke out at an apartment where she was staying last Sunday. The Fire Bureau rescued the woman from a second floor bathroom in the two story building located on Rua do Ervanários. Both the woman's forearms and chest suffered burns. Two other people in the building managed to reach ground level after spotting the fire. The cause of the fire is suspected to be by a television short circuit.

Jobs to fill quotas reported to DSAL

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) received complaints from four local people regarding violation of their employment rights, according to a report by TDM. DSAL's director Wong Chi Hong disclosed this information yesterday, stating that the complainants claimed they had signed employment contracts with a local hotel, but the hotel later withdrew their offer of employment. The victims claim that they were hired just to fill locals' job quotas. Wong added that any local residents' employment will not be affected by importing foreign workers. He further stated that the DSAL will complete its investigation on the case within the next several months, after which they will inform the media.

HONG KONG

MTR Airport Express chief requests fee hike



People board the Airport Express train at Hong Kong International Airport

MTTR Corporation Chairman Frederick Ma has defended the proposed introduction of fare hikes in Hong Kong's Airport Express MTR, stating that it is the first fee hike since it came into operation in 1998.

Ma urged lawmakers to approve the proposed 10 percent fare hike, as cited in Hong Kong reports.

According to him, the service has been running at a loss and has been facing increasing costs from staff pay increases and facility upgrades.

The chairman also contended that its fares are cheaper compared to airport rail services overseas.

"The Airport Express has been in operation for 19 years and the fare has not been changed," he said. "I think it's

just fair that we will be granted this 10-percent increase."

If the plan is approved, starting this June, a trip via Octopus card from the Hong Kong station to the airport will cost HKD110, while trips to the airport from Kowloon and Tsing Yi will cost HKD100 and HKD65 respectively.

The fares for adult single-journey tickets are proposed to be raised by an amount between HKD10 and HKD15, while the fare for a 30-day round-trip ticket would see an increase of HKD15 to HKD30.

Ma is confident that the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link will commence operation by late 2018, hoping to reach an operation agreement with the Hong Kong government by late July.



Rotaract Club of Macau awards trip to Nepal for best project

Renato Marques

THE 15th Goodwill Ambassador Program organized by the Rotaract Club of Macau has closed by unveiling the winning team, which won a trip to Nepal. The presentation and award ceremony took place recently at the Centro de Actividades Juvenis do Porto Exterior.

The grand winner this year was the group "Triple C", with their humanitarian project "A Liter Of Light."

The winning project, which was selected from four finalist submissions, aims to provide people in need with access to solar energy.

The group of four Rotaract club members won a sponsored trip to Nepal as Goodwill Ambassadors, with the purpose of meeting local and foreign Rotaractors and participating in local services that assist the needy.

The four teams had emerged as finalists after three rounds which included interviews, training and community activities. The teams were put to the test in the final round with a presentation of their projects and the results achieved, followed by a Q&A session by the judges.

This year's theme - Humanity in Action - "had

the purpose to create an awareness among teenagers about human rights problems, such as human and organ trafficking," said the president of the organization, Matthew Wong.

The chairperson of the Organizing Committee also added, "contestants brought creativity and team spirit into full play. Their performance was impressive and outstanding."

The competition, which reached its 15th edition this year, intends to keep youngsters engaged in community and charity activities, as well as to impart additional skills through training and information sessions.



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Wisconsin tribes clash in casino expansion fight

Todd Richmond, Bowler

AT 85, Betty Putnam-Schiel has trouble standing, but she gets along well enough in her home on the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans' northern Wisconsin reservation thanks to tribal assistants who do everything from shovel her snow to change her lightbulbs.

But maybe not for much longer. Another tribe, the Ho-Chunk Nation, is expanding its nearby casino into a full-fledged resort that would rival the Stockbridge-Munsee's own casino, threatening the gambling revenue that supports services like Putnam-Schiel's helpers.

The Ho-Chunk say they're simply trying to provide for their own people. The increasingly bitter quarrel illustrates how tribes across the country are clashing as they battle for gambling revenue in an ever-tightening market.

"It's unfair," Putnam-Schiel said of the Ho-Chunk expansion. "I count on the help from the casino money. It's survival for a lot of us."

According to the National Indian Gambling Commission, 240 tribes offered gambling in 28 states as of January. With casinos restricted to reservations and land held

in federal trust, tribes have been left to beef up their existing facilities to grow revenue rather than expand into new territories. That means more tribes have found themselves in direct competition with their neighbors, said Steve Light, co-director of the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gambling Law and Policy at the University of North Dakota.

Intertribal disputes over casinos have happened in Connecticut, California and Michigan in the past five years. Just two years ago, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker refused to give the Menominee Nation permission to build a second casino on trust land in Kenosha after the Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk complained about competition — just as the Stockbridge-Munsee are now.

The current dispute looks like a classic David vs. Goliath fight. The 7,000-member Ho-Chunk Nation has no true reservation. The federal government moved the tribe from Wisconsin to Nebraska in the 1830s; members who returned to Wisconsin in the 1870s received or purchased homesteads. As a result, the tribe has established six casinos on trust land around Wisconsin, including in Wisconsin Dells, the state's tourism center. They also have established office supply distribution centers, gas

stations, an RV park and a theater.

The Stockbridge-Munsee, by comparison, have about 1,400 members. About a third live on a swampy, rural reservation in Shawano County, about 50 miles east of Green Bay. It's a hardscrabble existence; 21 percent of the American Indians in the county lived below the poverty line in 2015 and a drive through the reservation reveals aging, isolated homes linked by lonely two-lane roads.

240 tribes offered gambling in 28 states as of January

The tribe runs a banquet hall, a golf course, an RV park and a gas station but depends almost entirely on revenue from its North Star casino. The money funds tribal health care and elder centers, elder chore assistants and the reservation's police and fire departments. The money also has paid for body cameras for county sheriff deputies, a police liaison officer and tutors in Shawano County schools and workers who help



Ho-Chunk casino

the county with road repairs, tribal President Shannon Holsey said.

But the Stockbridge-Munsee has always struggled with location. The reservation is about 10 miles from U.S. Highway 29, the main thoroughfare that crosses the state. Gamblers have to travel winding two-lane roads through a bog to reach the North Star.

The Ho-Chunk, meanwhile, have run a casino just off Highway 29 about 17 miles west of the North Star since 2008. Last year, the tribe began work to add hundreds more slot machines, a hotel and a restaurant to the site.

The Stockbridge-Munsee estimate the expansion will cost them USD\$22 million in lost gambling revenue as players choose the Ho-Chunk facility over the North Star. That could lead to job cuts and severely curtailed tribal services, the band's leaders say.

The Stockbridge-Munsee filed a federal lawsuit last week alleging the expansion violates the Ho-Chunk's gambling compact with the state, arguing the compact doesn't allow for such an extensive

expansion. They also contend that Walker has breached the Stockbridge-Munsee's own compact, which calls for the state to protect the tribe from competition. And they dispute that the Ho-Chunk land was properly taken into trust to allow gambling in the first place.

"We're not just going to roll over," Holsey said. "This is our home."

Walker administration officials wrote to the Stockbridge in January that they were satisfied that the Ho-Chunk expansion was legal, citing a 2003 amendment to the Ho-Chunk compact and an earlier Bureau of Indian Affairs determination on the trust issue.

Ho-Chunk leaders responded to the Stockbridge lawsuit by calling their arguments frivolous, weak and trivial.

"The only issue here is dealing with competition," Ho-Chunk spokesman Collin Price said in a telephone interview. "The tribes own businesses. These businesses provide resources and programs for tribal members. That's why it's so important to protect them and try to offer more." **AP**

ANALYSIS

Corporate China needs much better controls

Christopher Balding

WHEN it emerged last week that China Minsheng Banking Corp. had sold USD436 million in suspect wealth-management products, fears rose of a collapse in the loosely regulated market for such products. It now looks like a more mundane case of forgery involving a branch manager.

But that's not exactly reassuring: In fact, it suggests a different kind of systemic risk.

Internal controls - such as auditing, document verification and risk management - are part of the dull machinery of financial markets, which most people never notice. Yet such tedious tasks are vitally important. What can start as corner-cutting at one business unit can quickly spiral

into a threat to the whole company and beyond.

In much of corporate China, weak internal controls are the norm. Banks are reluctant to spend money on database or compliance software.

Forged corporate seals have been used to conduct billions of dollars in seemingly legitimate trading. Nearly 60 percent of Chinese executives say that unethical behavior is acceptable to keep a company going or to meet revenue targets. In short, investors and regulators have reason to worry.

And these worries aren't merely theoretical. Large thefts or losses from Chinese banks - ranging up to USD560 million, in one case - happen with frightening regularity. What makes these cases so egregious isn't the sophistica-

tion and planning that goes into them but the relative ease with which employees walk out the door with stolen yuan in a briefcase. The thefts look less like mastermind plots from a heist movie than like a cartoon.

Many major firms impose few controls beyond what the person in charge says. I know of companies that accept hard-copy reports from regional managers with no auditing to verify information. The data is then entered by hand into basic spreadsheets used to oversee the whole operation. Although foreign investment banks typically store all employee communications conducted on company-issued phones and computers - and often use artificial intelligence to verify compliance - in China it remains strikingly common for

people to list private e-mail addresses on their business cards.

Without precautions, this kind of thing could become a systemic problem. A bank executive sitting in an office without a strong IT system, risk-management software or internal auditing department relies solely on reports from provincial managers. When those managers have wide latitude in how they classify loans, and an incentive to downplay their non-performing loan ratios, it's quite likely that risks will be underestimated by the executives - not to mention by regulators in faraway Beijing.

Worse, firms copy each other. If one bank gains a competitive advantage by creatively cutting corners - and seems to get away with it - others will catch on in

rapid succession. The variety of financial companies suffering significant losses because of poor internal controls in recent years suggests that these aren't isolated incidents.

The good news is that internal controls matter to markets. Investors seem to be pricing Chinese bank stocks on the low side, expecting additional unpleasant surprises or remaining skeptical of the official story on non-performing loans. And smaller banks, less able to hide losses with lower loan-to-deposit ratios, are showing higher levels of stress than large ones.

Even so, China's regulators need to do more. For starters, they should require improved financial reporting and auditing. Every Chinese bank that sells shares in Hong Kong

readily concedes that regulatory standards - from loan classifications to accounting guidelines - are different on the mainland. The problem at Minsheng was reportedly only detected when the head office got a phone tip, not through internal mechanisms designed to prevent mismanagement. If that's a problem at Minsheng, which is known for good management and technology, it's a safe bet that other banks are doing worse.

When Beijing instituted regulations on government travel not long ago,

as part of an anti-corruption campaign, it quickly got things under control: Spending has risen by only 0.3 percent since 2011, and is budgeted to fall in 2017, thanks to improved internal controls. The same could happen in the private sector with better accounting and auditing standards. That would bring more transparency to China's markets. And transparency will set you free. **Bloomberg**

Youkyung Lee

POLITECHS

Taiwan's 'hacker minister' reshaping digital democracy

TAIWAN'S "digital minister" Audrey Tang, a computer prodigy and entrepreneur who taught herself programming at age 8, says she's a "civic hacker," who like a locksmith uses specialized skills to help rather than harm.

Appointed by leaders hoping to better connect with young voters who helped sweep independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen into office last year, 35-year-old Tang is using her expertise to more directly involve the public in policymaking, and to counter "fake news."

"Just by getting people to listen to the ideas that they don't like, basically, develops their immune systems," Tang said in an interview with The Associated Press while visiting Seoul for the annual Codegate international hacking competition.

"If people have already considered carefully even the position of people they don't agree with, they already have some kind of inoculation in their mind, so that they will not fall victim to rumors," she said.

Keeping the public engaged is crucial given Taiwan's status as a self-ruled democracy of 23 million people that separated from the Chinese mainland amid civil war in 1949.

Communist-ruled Beijing insists the two sides are part of a single Chinese nation. Public opinion on the issue is divided.

One of Tang's initiatives is an artificial intelligence-powered system called Pol.is that aggregates and shares public views on policy issues to help determine the exact degree of support for a particular position. The government can use that data, for example, in negotiations over



Audrey Tang

regulating Uber and other taxi services, Tang says.

The approach reflects an effort to encourage deep thinking and listening on a mass scale, unlike the fragmented and "half-baked" ideas often found in social media posts, said Ming-Yeh Rawnsley, a research associate at Centre of Taiwan Studies, SOAS University of London.

"It is important that Taiwanese government is thinking about practicing deliberative democracy," said Rawnsley. "While the explosion of social media platforms creates many exciting opportunities for public expression and mass participation, it also leads to a phenomenon where

everyone wants to talk, but few care to listen."

Tang's digital-friendly stance includes allowing top-level computer game players in Taiwan to serve an alternative form of the island's compulsory military service. That gives professional e-sports "League of Legend" players the same opportunities an Olympics medalist would get.

Next year, she plans to introduce classes on "information technology and media literacy" for all school years to help students learn to distinguish rumors and falsehoods from facts.

"The idea is not about spotting 'fake news' but about being able to make decisions ... so that peo-

ple don't get swayed in one way or another based on rumors," Tang said.

Taiwanese are keen on online forums like Twitter, whose 140-character limit for posts favors writing in Chinese ideograms that often can say more with fewer characters than in English.

Tang objects to the term "fake news," saying it's unfair to journalists. But she says she finds U.S. President Donald Trump's enthusiastic use of Twitter "refreshing."

Trump's short declarations, though often surprising, leave little leeway for misinterpretation, she contends.

"If I make all my messages self-contained and short, then there's no danger of being taken out of context. That's the basic thing I've learned," Tang said. "@realDonaldTrump uses Twitter ... the way it is meant to be (used)," she said.

Tang is Taiwan's first transgender government minister, a rarity especially in East Asia, where outspoken conservative groups often publicly condemn sexual minorities.

Not so in Taiwan, she says.

"I would say I'm just post-gender or post-genre, meaning that I don't think there should be things that only one gender should do," said Tang, who early on showed she has a mind of her own.

Seeking ways to streamline math calculations, she taught

herself computer programming while only 8. She dropped out of school by the time she was 14. By the time she was 20 she had already started a software company in Silicon Valley.

A dry wit, she quips that sometimes people mistake her height, 180 centimeters, for her apparently genius-level IQ.

Tang's involvement in politics took off during Taiwan's Sunflower movement of 2014, when she became well known for helping officials interact with citizens using the internet during the protests against a trade agreement with Beijing.

Given the ever-present risk of cyberattacks, as digital minister one of the first things Tang did after joining the Cabinet was to make government information systems more secure and then rigorously test them for loopholes.

"The utmost importance is to get people to still see the internet as a secure place ... so that people can still form communities where it is still possible to talk with strangers, to learn from strangers," she said. "Basically, if we don't do our job right on security on the internet, it becomes a fragmenting force instead of a community force."

The risk is that the online world would become a place where people live "essentially in their own realities, and that is as undemocratic and as non-humane as we can imagine," she said. **AP**

ECONOMY

Jack Ma sees decades of pain as Internet upends old model

ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd. Chairman Jack Ma said society should prepare for decades of pain as the internet disrupts the economy.

The world must change education systems and establish how to work with robots to help soften the blow caused by automation and the internet economy, Ma said in a speech to an entrepreneurship conference in Zhengzhou, China.

"In the next 30 years, the world will see much more pain than happiness," Ma said of job disruptions caused by the internet. "Social conflicts in the next three decades will have an impact on all sorts of industries and walks of life."

It was an unusual speech for the Alibaba co-founder, who tends to embrace his

role as visionary and extol the promise of the future. He explained at the event that he had tried to warn people in the early days of e-commerce it would disrupt traditional retailers and the like, but few listened. This time, he wants to warn against the impact of new technologies so no one will be surprised.

"Fifteen years ago I gave speeches 200 or 300 times reminding everyone the Internet will impact all industries, but people didn't listen because I was a nobody," he said.

Ma made the comments as Alibaba, China's largest e-commerce operator, spends billions of dollars to move into new businesses from film production and video streaming to finance and cloud compu-

ting. The Hangzhou-based company, considered a barometer of Chinese consumer sentiment, is looking to expand abroad since buying control of Lazada Group SA to establish a foothold in Southeast Asia, potentially setting up a clash with the likes of Amazon.com Inc.

Ma, 52, was also critical of the traditional banking industry, saying that lending must be available to more members of society. The lack of a robust credit system drives up the costs for everyone, he said.

The China Entrepreneur Club event is host to many of the country's startup founders, but even here Ma got a celebrity's reception. As he took the stage, the crowd surged closer and snapped selfies with

Ma in the background. During a Q&A session, people jumped up and down to get attention and then often used the time with a microphone to marvel at the opportunity to talk with him.

Ma was at times brutal in his criticism of companies that won't adapt. At one point, he said cloud computing and artificial intelligence are essential for business - and if leaders don't get that, they should find young people in their companies to explain it to them. Another time, he called for traditional industries to stop complaining about the internet's effects on the economy. He said Alibaba critics ignore that Taobao, its main online marketplace, has created millions of jobs.



Alibaba shares have outperformed this year on expectations it can withstand efforts by rivals such as Tencent Holdings Ltd. to capture digital ad spending and muscle in on its turf. The company is moving into untapped rural markets and investing in new sources of income, such as online media and cloud computing - one of its fastest-growing busi-

nesses in 2016.

He also warned that longer lifespans and better artificial intelligence were likely to lead to both aging labor forces and fewer jobs. "Machines should only do what humans cannot," he said. "Only in this way can we have the opportunities to keep machines as working partners with humans, rather than as replacements." **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Xi urges restraint on North Korea in phone call with Trump

CHINESE President Xi Jinping called for restraint on North Korea in a phone call with Donald Trump, who also spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as the U.S. and Japan began joint naval drills in the region.

Xi - in his second confirmed phone conversation with Trump since their summit this month - urged all parties to avoid any actions that might exacerbate tensions on the Korean Peninsula, state broadcaster China Central Television said yesterday. Abe told reporters following a separate call with Trump that he had praised the U.S. leader's policy of keeping all options on the table for countering the North Korean threat.

Abe said Japan had begun naval exercises with the USS Carl Vinson, an aircraft carrier leading a strike group into the region. South Korea is also considering whether to conduct drills with the U.S. naval flotilla, which embarked for the Korean Peninsula after initial confusion about an itinerary that first saw it bound for joint exercises with Australia.

Speculation is once again mounting over whether North Korea will conduct a sixth nuclear test today to mark a key date on the nation's calendar - this time the 85th anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

North Korea may have resumed work at its Punggye-ri nuclear test site, according to analysis of satellite imagery by 38 North, a program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies that studies the nation's nuclear activities.

"I said I had high regard for President Trump's ability to use actions and words to show that all options are on the table," Abe told media including public broadcaster NHK in Tokyo. "We were in complete agreement that we would need to continue to firmly urge restraint by North Korea, given that it has continued these dangerous provocations."

On Xi's call with Trump, he said China firmly opposed any action that violates United Nations Security Council resolutions, and called for regular China-U.S. contact in what he described as a

rapidly changing international situation, according to CCTV. Trump said he hopes to meet Xi in person again soon, following their summit at the Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, and looks forward to a state visit to China, CCTV reported.

Kim Jong Un's regime is seeking to develop the ability to fire a nuclear warhead as far as North America, justifying the program as a deterrent against attack. Trump has been trying to get China to do more to bring its neighbor and ally into line, saying last week that he had "absolute confidence" that Xi could help solve the issue.

China's willingness to press North Korea has sparked a battle between the nations' media outlets. Without referring to China by name, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said April 21 that "the country is talking rubbish that the DPRK has to reconsider the importance of relations with it" and that China was "dancing to the tune" of the U.S. DPRK is an abbreviation for North Korea.

In response, China's Communist Party-affiliated Global

Times newspaper wrote in a commentary that "no matter how many articles KCNA publishes, whatever future measures North Korea takes, Beijing's stance wouldn't be affected." If North Korea conducts a nuclear test, "Beijing will undoubtedly support the UN in adopting tougher sanctions against it, including oil embargo," said the newspaper, which is known for its nationalistic views.

KCNA also denounced the U.S.'s aircraft carrier deployment. "Such intimidation and blackmail can never frighten the DPRK," it said, adding that the country "will react to a total war with an all-out war."

Envoys from the U.S., South Korea and Japan are scheduled to meet in Tokyo on Tuesday to discuss ways to deter any additional provocation from North Korea and secure a constructive role for China, South Korea's foreign ministry said last week.

Meanwhile, reports emerged that North Korea had detained a U.S. citizen, bringing to three the number of Americans being held in the isolated country. **Bloomberg**



Mainland risks spoiling global markets party as stocks tumble again

While global risk appetite returned yesterday on the heels of France's presidential election, shares in China bucked the trend, dropping the most in three months. The Shanghai Composite Index has lost almost 5 percent since its mid-April peak, worse than all other national benchmarks in the world. The slump in Chinese stocks is deepening as authorities seek to reduce economic leverage and regulators intensify supervision on the country's financial sector. While the selloff has been relatively contained, with European politics taking center stage instead, investors may be forced to take note if the losses continue, as predicted by analysts. "We shouldn't forget what happened two years ago," said Mark Tinker, head of Axa Framlington Asia in Hong Kong, referring to 2015's dramatic collapse in Shanghai share prices. "The hope is that this is all just a preemptive strike from the Chinese government to make sure markets don't squeeze up too much. The risk of contagion is low as long as people don't start confusing the stock market with the economy."



Israel-China construction deal reportedly bans settlements

Israel and China have signed a deal to bring Chinese construction workers to Israel, but the workers will reportedly be barred from building in West Bank settlements at China's insistence. Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said the deal ensures they will work in areas "agreed upon by both sides that take into consideration their safety and well-being." He would not elaborate but Israeli media reported this as meaning the workers will not be working in territory Israel captured in 1967 that the Palestinians claim for a future state. The international community mostly views Israeli settlements there as illegal and an obstacle to reaching a two-state solution to the conflict. Israel says settlements along with other core issues like security should be resolved in peace talks.

Nicaragua once again blocks canal protest against Chinese company

The Nicaraguan government has once again blocked a planned protest by opponents of a Chinese company's project to build an interoceanic canal across Nicaragua. The country's National Police force said in a statement over the weekend that the protesters were disturbing the peace. A lawyer for the farm groups organizing the weekend protest in the central town of Juigalpa said at least one person was wounded. Monica Lopez Baltodano said about a dozen organizers had been detained by police. Sceptics have doubted whether the canal concession, granted in 2014 to a Chinese company, will ever be built. It has barely broken ground. Critics say the canal project threatens to displace rural communities and damage the environment. About 7,000 families living along the route face displacement.

AMERICAN SAMOA

Pence cites 'challenging times' to troops

Ken Thomas, Pago Pago

US Vice President Mike Pence has thanked U.S. service members based in American Samoa, citing "challenging times" for the military in the Asia-Pacific.

Completing a visit to the region and en route back to the United States, Pence addressed some 200 soldiers during a refueling stop in Pago Pago. He told the troops the Trump administration was seeking a large increase in military funding.

During his stop, Pence also dedicated a sign that will greet visitors at a veterans clinic. He met with American Samoan officials and troops on his way to Hawaii at the end of his tour that included a visit to the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea.

The trip offered evidence that Pence has become one of President Donald Trump's chief emissaries on the world stage, patching up relations, reassuring allies still wondering what to expect from Trump and diving into

international crises like North Korea.

Meanwhile, it was revealed that the vice president was to shorten his visit to Hawaii ahead of a busy week for the administration in Washington.

Pence's office said he would depart Hawaii today [Macau time] after meeting with U.S. Pacific Command leaders and troops stationed in Honolulu. Plans for a visit to the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor have been postponed, Pence's office said.

Pence's trip to Asia was planned weeks ago. But it dropped him in South Korea just in time to deliver North Korea a stern warning from the U.S.: that "all options are on the table" when it comes to curbing the North's nuclear ambitions, and that the Trump administration will seek support from its allies to pressure Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

His foray into the DMZ and his meetings with South Korean and Japanese leaders allowed Pence

to shape a key American foreign policy issue, presenting a new challenge for a politician whose prior foreign policy experience was limited to trips to the Middle East as a congressman and trade missions to Japan, China, Israel and Europe as Indiana's governor.

Pence's early foreign travel schedule contrasts sharply with a mostly homebound Trump, who is not scheduled to travel overseas until late May for NATO meetings in Belgium and a gathering of the Group of Seven major industrial nations in Italy. Pence partly covered that ground when he visited Germany and Belgium in February.

Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, had visited nine countries by late April 2009, his first three months in office, checking in with allies such as Canada, Britain and Germany. The last first-term president to wait until May to take his first foreign trip was Jimmy Carter in 1977.

Enter Pence, whose still-evolving diplomatic playbook inclu-



des several components, all steeped in humility, personal ties and his religious faith.

In some ways, Pence is the advance team: His earlier trip to Europe and his Asia trip that ends tomorrow are partly laying the foundation for journeys being

planned for Trump. In other ways, Pence is the face of reassurance, offering in-person outreach to world leaders Trump has clashed with or who have doubted Trump's commitment to them at the start of his presidency. AP

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KOREAS TENSION

South, allies brace for North follow-up act

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

FRESH off an immense North Korean parade that revealed an arsenal of intercontinental ballistic missiles, rival South Korea and its allies are bracing for the possibility that Pyongyang's follow-up act will be even bigger.

North Korea often marks significant dates by displaying military capability, and South Korean officials say there's a chance the country will conduct its sixth nuclear test or its maiden test launch of an ICBM around the founding anniversary of its military today.

Such moves could test the developing North Korea policies of President Donald Trump, who has reportedly settled on a strategy that emphasizes increasing pressure on Pyongyang with the help of China, North Korea's only major ally, instead of military options or trying to overthrow the North's government.

Recent U.S. commercial satellite images indicate increased activity around North Korea's nuclear test site, and third-generation dictator Kim Jong Un has said that the country's preparation for an ICBM launch is in its "final stage."

Seoul's Defense Ministry has said the North appears ready to conduct such "strategic provocations" at any time. South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, the country's acting leader in place of ousted President Park Geun-hye, who has been arrested over corruption allegations, has ins-



tructed his military to strengthen its "immediate response posture" in case the North does something significant on the April 25 anniversary.

Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in a phone call yesterday, agreed to urge North Korea to refrain from what Abe called provocative actions. "The North Korean nuclear and missile problem is an extremely serious security threat to not only the international community but also our country," the Japanese leader told reporters afterward.

There's also a possibility that North Korea, facing potential changes in regional dynamics as Washington presses Beijing to pressure Pyongyang more aggressively, opts to mark the anniversary with a missile launch of lesser magnitude. North Korea separately fired what U.S. officials said were a Scud-type missile and a midrange missile ear-

lier this month, but the launches were analyzed as failures.

While Trump has dispatched what he called an "armada" of ships to the region, including an aircraft carrier, U.S. officials have told The Associated Press that the administration doesn't intend to militarily respond to a North Korean nuclear or missile test.

In a statement released last week, North Korea's Foreign Ministry accused Trump of driving the region into an "extremely dangerous phase" with his sending of the aircraft carrier and said the North was ready to stand up against any kind of threatened posed by the United States.

With typical rhetorical flourish, the ministry said North Korea "will react to a total war with an all-out war, a nuclear war with nuclear strikes of its own style and surely win a victory in the death-defying struggle against the U.S. imperialists."

Under the watch of Kim, North Korea has been aggressively pursuing a decades-long goal of putting a nuclear warhead on an ICBM capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

North Korea conducted two nuclear tests last year alone, which would have improved its knowledge on making nuclear weapons small enough to fit on long-range missiles. It also last year launched a long-range rocket that delivered a satellite into orbit, which Washington, Seoul and others saw as a banned test of missile technology.

On April 15, North Korea offered a fresh look at its advancing nuclear weapons and missiles program in a massive military parade in Pyongyang honoring late state founder Kim Il Sung, the grandfather of the current ruler.

The displayed military hardware included prototype ICBMs and new midrange solid-fuel missiles that can be fired from land mobile launchers and submarines, making them harder to detect before launch.

Trump and Abe, in a phone call yesterday, agreed to urge North Korea to refrain from provocative actions

The parade also featured previously unseen large rocket canisters and transporter erector launcher trucks, or TELs. This indicated that North Korea was developing technologies to "cold-launch" ICBMs, ejecting them from the launch tubes before they ignite in midair, which would prevent its limited number of ICBM-capable launcher trucks from being damaged and also allow the missiles to be fired from silos.

Analysts say that the North is also likely developing solid-fuel ICBMs, and that some of the canisters might have contained prototypes.

North Korea had earlier shown signs it was working on a new ICBM.

In March, the North's state media reported that the country successfully conducted a ground test of a new high-thrust rocket engine, which it said was a breakthrough for the country's space program and efforts to create "Korean-style strategic weapons." Kim was then quoted as saying "the whole world will soon witness what eventful significance the great victory won today carries."

While North Korea almost certainly needs more time to create a solid-fuel ICBM, test launches for its existing liquid-fuel ICBMs, including the KN-08s and KN-14s, could come much sooner.

Experts say these missiles could one day be capable of hitting targets as far as the continental United States, although North Korea has yet to flight test them. **AP**

Vietnam bank aims to fetch USD700m selling major stake



People sit along a waterfront as residential and commercial buildings stand in the background in Ho Chi Minh City

Mai Ngoc Chau

THE first Vietnamese bank granted government approval to sell a majority stake to a foreign investor could attract an investment of at least USD700 million.

Saigon Joint Stock Commercial Bank, the fifth-largest by assets, said it's in talks to draw that investment by selling a controlling stake to a sole foreign investor. The funds will help strengthen its financial products and speed up the resolution of remaining bad debt.

Saigon Commercial

Bank, or SCB, plans to sell more than half of the bank at par value through the issuance of new shares, Chief Executive Officer Vo Tan Hoang Van said.

"We're really looking for a partner who would not only put money into the bank but also has the same vision about this market," Van said in an interview at the bank's Ho Chi Minh City headquarters, adding that he wants an investor to help grow the bank. "More importantly, they need to help our clients to complete their real estate projects so that we can solve the bad

debt issue in a shorter time."

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said in a Bloomberg Television interview in January he plans to increase the government's 30 percent cap on total foreign ownership in banks to hasten the overhaul of Vietnam's banking system. He singled out Ocean Bank, taken over by the State Bank of Vietnam in 2015, as a weak institution the government is willing to sell immediately to a foreign investor.

Saigon Commercial Bank has been in talks with six investors, including banks, equity funds and insurance companies from Norway, Indonesia, Taiwan and China, Van said. An unnamed foreign invest-

ment fund earlier this year offered to buy a 15 percent stake, according to Van. The bank also expects intensifying negotiations with two potential investors from China and Indonesia.

The lender aims to submit its stake sale plan to the central bank for approval early next year and expects to close the deal in mid-2018, Van said. The bank plans to hire an international bank as a consultant, he said, adding that the prime minister must ultimately sign off on the deal.

The sale of a majority stake may also affect plans for a listing after 2019 when its restructuring process, which began in 2012, is completed, Van said. **Bloomberg**

Sylvie Corbet & Elaine Ganley, Paris

FRANCE

Vote for Macron, Le Pen shuts out mainstream politics

FRENCH voters shut out the country's political mainstream from the presidency for the first time in the country's modern history, and yesterday found themselves being courted across the spectrum for the runoff election.

The May 7 runoff will be between the populist Marine Le Pen and centrist Emmanuel Macron, and French politicians on the moderate left and right immediately urged voters to block Le Pen's path to power.

The defeated far-left candidate, Jean-Luc Melenchon, pointedly refused to do the same, and Le Pen's National Front is hoping to do the once unthinkable and peel away voters historically opposed to a party long tainted by racism and anti-Semitism.

"The voters who voted for Mr. Melenchon are angry voters. They can be in agreement with

us," said Steeve Brios, a vice president of Le Pen's National Front party. He said they express a choice "outside the system."

Choosing inside the system is no longer an option for French voters, who rejected the two mainstream parties that have alternated power for decades in favor of Le Pen and the untested Macron, who has never held elected office and who founded his own political movement just last year. Turnout was 78 percent.

Socialist candidate Benoit Hamon, whose party holds a ma-

majority in the legislature and whose President Francois Hollande is the most unpopular in modern French record-keeping, got just 6 percent. The conservative candidate fared marginally better, coming in third with just shy of 20 percent of the vote.

"We are in a phase of decomposition, demolition, deconstruction," said former Socialist prime minister Manuel Valls. "We didn't do the work — intellectual, ideological and political — on what the left is, and we paid the price."

Both center-right and center-

left fell in behind Macron, whose optimistic vision of a tolerant France and a united Europe with open borders is a stark contrast to Le Pen's darker, inward-looking "French-first" platform that calls for closed borders, tougher security, less immigration and dropping the shared euro currency to return to the French franc.

European stock markets surged on the open as investors welcomed the first-round results, with Macron favored to win. German Chancellor Angela Merkel wished Macron "all the best for

the next two weeks."

Merkel's chief of staff, Peter Altmaier, tweeted that "the result for Emmanuel Macron shows: France AND Europe can win together! The center is stronger than the populists think!"

Le Pen's father, Jean-Marie, made it to the second round against Jacques Chirac in 2002 and was crushed. Many commentators expect the same fate for his daughter, but she has already drawn far more support than he ever did and she's transformed the party's once-pariah image. ►►

ANALYSIS

France discards the politics of left and right

Therese Raphael

FOR globalists rattled by Brexit and Donald Trump, the first round of the French presidential race was a relief. They should savor it. It probably won't last.

Turnout was nearly 70 percent. I live in one of France's most important political centers - London - and here voters queued for hours (in polite English fashion) to cast their ballots.

And this time, pollsters got it right: The hypernationalist Marine Le Pen will face a 39-year-old centrist reformer, Emmanuel Macron, from a political party that didn't exist one year ago, in the final round of the contest on May 7.

That's a big change for France, which left its long-dominant political parties of both left and right gasping by the side of the road. But there won't be an apocalyptic, turn-out-the-lights-as-you-leave-the-world second-round showdown between Le Pen and the anti-market statist Jean-Luc Melenchon. Both campaigned to substantially rewrite France's relationship with Europe and the rest of the world, something Macron does not propose to do.

Instead of this doomsday scenario, the largest share of the vote went to Macron, a blue-eyed reformer who's easy to like. He is, without a doubt, a political phenomenon. Once part of a So-

cialist government that has been thoroughly rejected by voters, he launched an independent party he called En Marche!, styled himself as non-establishment, and campaigned as a change-maker who could bring in outsiders and parley with insiders. His success on Sunday is a salve to markets and a sign that the natural order of things hasn't been entirely disrupted.

Instead of this doomsday scenario, the largest share of the vote went to Macron, a blue-eyed reformer who's easy to like

"Foreign business chiefs swoon over this young, modern, dynamic minister. A French Justin Trudeau," wrote Gerard Davet and Fabrice Lhomme in their book about his mentor, President Francois Hollande, who tolerated Macron's political freelancing without suspecting that it would push his



own party aside.

The Le Pen-Macron victories amount to the complete rejection of the rigid two-party system that has dominated French political life for over half a century. Grandees from the Socialist Party and the main party of the right (currently the Republicans) grew accustomed to gobbling up talent from France's best universities, clashing swords, handing off the Elysee Palace to one another and essentially deciding the terms of debate and the course of policy in the world's sixth largest economy. In 1956, they together got 76 percent of the total vote; in 2012 it was 56 percent in the first round. On Sunday it was 26 percent.

The biggest hemorrhaging came from the Socia-

list Party, whose hapless candidate, Benoit Hamon, barely surpassed 6 percent. Hamon's candidacy was rejected even by the Socialist Party prime minister; his proposal to tax robots and his advocacy of a universal basic income and a range of hard-left policies struck voters as out of touch, as it was. Imagine if the U.S. Democrats had chosen Bernie Sanders to lead them and he had received 6 percent of the vote last November (with a Democrat in the White House at the time). It's about that dramatic a result.

France's right fared better. Francois Fillon, a Thatcherite conservative to the right of his party, finished third with nearly 20 percent of the vote; at a time when voters had finally tired of the

country's endemic political scandals, he was hurt by allegations that he misused party funds to employ family members. But his surprise selection in a first-ever Republican primary was only begrudgingly accepted by party leaders. His party may do better in the June parliamentary elections, but there is likely to be a vigorous debate over what exactly it stands for.

France now has one presidential candidate, Le Pen, whose promises of expanding the already-robust welfare system coupled with xenophobia and contempt for the European Union justifies her claim to be both left and right. Macron, by contrast, claims to be neither. We can safely say that those labels no longer apply in France, just as

they are becoming blurred elsewhere.

Instead, as in the U.S. and U.K., France is fractured by education and by geography. Over 40 percent of the voters picked candidates, Melenchon and Le Pen, who represent the most extreme views. Replacing the old left-right divide, there are new battle lines drawn between those who want a more open, globalist France and those who see international ties as destructive of sovereignty. There are elements of the old left and the right in each of these camps.

On the economy, the division is between a vision of the state that focuses more on redistribution of wealth (Le Pen and much of the Socialist left) and one that, while embracing the centrality of the state in the French social contract, is focused on improving its efficiency (Macron and much of the center-right).

Even if Macron wins the May 7 runoff, he will need to find a way to widen the center and draw from both left and right in the parliamentary elections in June. Without a governing majority, or a coalition in parliament, he can say what he likes but he can do little of it.

Alexis de Tocqueville once said, "The most dangerous moment for a bad government is usually when it starts to reform." Voters have decided that France has had bad government long enough and are demanding change. The person who gets to try to deliver it has a most difficult job. The relief may last into May, but it could be a hot summer.

Bloomberg

Le Pen offers an alternative for anyone skeptical of the European Union and France's role in it, said Louis Aliot, the vice president of the National Front party.

"I'm not convinced that the French are willing to sign a blank check to Mr. Macron," he said.

But Macron's party spokesman, Benjamin Griveaux, said the far-right candidate is hardly a vector of change.

"She's been in the political system for 30 years. She inherited her father's party and we will undoubtedly have Le Pens running for the next 20 years, because after we had the father, we have the daughter and we will doubtless have the niece," he said. "So she is in a truly bad position to be talking about the elites and the people."

Macron came in first in Sunday's vote, with just over 23 percent; Le Pen had 21 percent; Melanchon and losing conservative candidate Francois Fillon each had 19 percent. Fillon, a former prime minister, bested the former Trotskyist by just 94,998 votes.

Protesters overnight burned cars, danced around bonfires and dodged riot police at the Place de la Bastille and Republique. Twenty-nine people were detained at the Bastille, where protesters waved red flags and sang "No Marine and No Macron!" in anger at the results. **AP**



Emmanuel Macron



Marine Le Pen



French stocks soar to near-decade highs as Macron tops poll

As relief rallies go, this may be as good as they come.

European markets have jumped higher, with France's main index hitting its highest level since early 2008, amid relief over the results of the first round

of the French presidential election.

Though Marie Le Pen of the far-right National Front came second with 21.5 percent of the vote and will contest the runoff on May 7, the favorite to be the country's next

president is the centrist Emmanuel Macron, who came top with around 24 percent.

Following Britain's vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's surprise victory in the U.S. presidential

election, the hope in the markets is that the rise of populism around the world — and the associated potential unpredictability in policymaking — may have peaked.

The prospect of a Macron presidency has cer-

tainly been viewed positively in the markets, with the CAC 40 stock index in Paris surging 4.5 percent in the morning session to 5,289, its highest level since early 2008.

Other European benchmarks have risen strongly as well — the STOXX 600 index of leading European shares was up 2 percent, while the euro struck five-month highs against the dollar of USD1.0937 as the results first emerged. It's since given up some of those gains but remains solid at \$1.0860.

"The first round of the French elections was unremarkable in one sense: the result came in very close to the indications from the opinion polls," said Steven Bell, chief economist at BMO Global Asset Management. "But the extent of the market reaction shows how nervous investors were, worried that the actual polls would deliver another shock result."

The result was very much in line with opinion polls, shoring up confidence in the markets that the pollsters' number-crunchers will get round 2 right, too, with Macron

winning by around 20 percentage points. Endorsements for Macron from the established French parties of the center-right and center-left will likely make it even tougher for Le Pen to get an absolute majority in the second vote.

"It would take a numerical shock perhaps 5-10 times larger than Brexit or Trump for Le Pen to win," said Jim Reid, a strategist at Deutsche Bank.

The view in the markets is that Macron, a 39-year-old former banker, will be a steadier hand at the tiller compared with Le Pen, who wants to clamp down on immigration, tighten borders in the wake of a wave of terrorist attacks and has proposed pulling France out of the European Union and its euro currency.

Macron was an economy minister in Socialist President Francois Hollande's administration but grew frustrated at his inability to push through the reforms that he thinks are necessary to get the economy and public finances in better shape. He's also strongly in favor of keeping the country open and is pro-EU. **AP**

what's ON



KUNG FU PANDA ADVENTURE ICE WORLD - ICE WORLD EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am -8pm (Last admission at 7:30pm)
UNTIL: July 9, 2017

VENUE: The Venetian Macao, Cotai Expo Hall F (temperature is -8°C inside the venue, thus hooded coats will be provided free of charge in limited quantities and sizes for children and adults)

ADMISSION: MOP120 (for one adult and one child aged 3 to 12),

MOP312 (for three family members and one child aged 3 or above)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

LOVE OF MACAO - PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM

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

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

ARTEFACTS OF EXCELLENCE - SEAL CARVINGS BY LUO SHUZHONG FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: July 2, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP

TIME: 10:30am-7pm daily (Closed on the first Monday of every month)

VENUE: No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MACAO ARTIST SOCIETY YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBER'S EXHIBITION 2017

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: June 25, 2017

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery - S1 Room, Anim' Arte Nam Van

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

PUERTO RICO BANK ROBBER FLEES ON BICYCLE, ELUDES POLICE

It wasn't a 10-speed, but a bank robber in Puerto Rico was still able to elude police Friday by fleeing on a bicycle.

Authorities said the unidentified suspect stole some USD3,000 from Banco Popular after handing a teller a note that suggested he was carrying a weapon.

The incident occurred in the Rio Piedras suburb of the capital of San Juan.

Police said they believe the suspect is the same man who robbed another bank last week, although he did not flee on a bicycle that time.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:40	Nos League: Porto - Feirense (Repeated)
16:10	Documentary Serie
17:10	Revenge S1
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S2
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

25 APR



THE BOSS BABY

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:00, 8:00pm

Director: Tom McGrath

Starring: Alec Baldwin, Steve Buscemi, Jimmy Kimmel

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 97min



SHOCK WAVE

ROOM 1

5:45, 9:45pm

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Andy Lau, Jiang Wu, Philip Keung, Ron Ng

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 119min

FAST & FURIOUS 8

ROOM 2

(2D) 2:15, 4:45, 9:45pm

(3D) 7:15pm

Director: F. Gary Gray

Starring: Vin Diesel, Jason Statham, Dwayne Johnson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 136min

MACAU TOWER

13 APR - 26 APR



FAST & FURIOUS 8

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

Director: F. Gary Gray

Starring: Vin Diesel, Jason Statham, Dwayne Johnson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 136min

this day in history



General Francisco da Costa Gomes

1974 REBELS SEIZE CONTROL OF PORTUGAL

Army rebels are in control of Portugal tonight after an almost bloodless dawn coup ended nearly 50 years of dictatorship.

Shortly after midnight, tanks rolled into the centre of Lisbon. The Salazar Bridge over the River Tagus was seized and the airport, radio and television centres were taken.

Troops armed with machineguns stormed the barracks where the Prime Minister, Dr Marcello Caetano, and several of his ministers had taken refuge.

The former deputy armed forces minister, General António de Spínola, received the surrender of the prime minister, who has now fled into exile to the Portuguese island of Madeira.

By sunrise the Movement of the Armed Forces, or MFA, was in control. It issued an immediate proclamation appealing for calm and patriotism.

After almost five decades of dictatorship, it promised to restore civil liberties and hold general elections to a national assembly as soon as possible.

The MFA condemned Portugal's foreign policy. After 13 years of fighting, it said, Portugal had been unable to achieve peace "between Portuguese of all races and creeds".

It also called for a clean-up of state-run institutions which had legitimised the abuse of power.

A seven-man junta, led by General Spínola, would oversee the transition period until democracy could be established.

General Spínola and his troops received a hero's welcome from crowds, who gave them cigarettes, food, newspapers and carnations which were in full bloom at the time.

In one violent outburst, up to six civilians were killed after shots were fired from the headquarters of the police station - and troops responded by storming the building.

The Democratic Elections Commission group, which contested last year's parliamentary elections against the Government, issued a statement today saying that the group considered as positive "an act which could lead to the overthrow of a regime which for 50 years has oppressed the people of Portugal."

The majority of Portuguese troops, nearly 140,000 out of 204,000, are posted overseas, propping up Portugal's tottering colonial empire in Angola, Guinea and Mozambique.

General Spínola was sacked from his job as deputy armed forces minister last month after writing a book, Portugal and the Future, in which he argued that the Portuguese could not win its African wars by military means alone.

He was Governor and Commander in Chief of Portuguese Guinea between 1968 and 1972 and was widely respected for trying to win over the hearts and minds of the local population.

His book was regarded as heretical by the country's right-wing establishment - in particular his stated claim that Portugal was not defending the West and its civilization by colonising African states.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 25 April coup became known as the Carnation Revolution. It ended the longest dictatorship in Europe, the Estado Novo.

The new regime pushed through a rapid and hasty programme of decolonisation. Over the next few years Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde Islands, Sao Tome and Principe, and Angola all became independent.

General Spínola served briefly as interim president and was succeeded by General Francisco da Costa Gomes.

Between them they nationalised about 60% of the economy and carried out a major redistribution of land.

Hundreds of political prisoners were released.

Over the course of the next decade a stable [multi] party system was established.

Caetano spent the rest of his life in exile in Brazil.

Freedom Day is now celebrated as a national holiday on 25 April.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Right now, you're absolutely unstoppable in the career department.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Two giant personalities are not getting along, and you might be asked to choose sides.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 A nagging problem at work or school deserves all your attention as early as possible today.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The key to your happiness right now has everything to do with money - but probably not in the way you think.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Meeting someone new - who has a lot to say about very controversial matters - will tap into a seldom-used area of your brain.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your mind is really buzzing today, and it's creating tons of great ideas on how to better organize things.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Today you may feel a strong intellectual connection with someone who everyone says is an awful lot like you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Any problems you've been having at home are starting to be resolved - and by the end of today, harmony should be in sight.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If you want to impress someone, today is a great day to finally show off exactly what you're made of.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The stress caused by always trying to dress the right way, say the right thing and be the right kind of person takes a lot of energy out of you.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your vision for the future is something that people need to know about as soon as possible.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 The strict regimen you've been on lately may have yielded some impressive results at work or at school.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

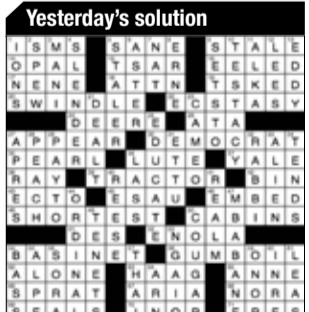
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Pub potables; 5- Henry VIII's sixth; 9- Chest or closet material; 14- Trevi Fountain site; 15- "What I Am" singer Brickell; 16- Consumers; 17- Off-Broadway theater award; 18- Badgers; 19- Bowling alley button; 20- Woman who works; 23- Terre Haute sch.; 24- Fannie ...; 25- 24 hour periods; 27- Chart anew; 31- Rushed, drove too fast; 33- Court org.; 37- Subsidies; 39- Verse starter?; 40- Vegas gas; 41- In spite of; 44- Choir member; 45- DDE's rival; 46- One that lends; 47- Wedding cake feature; 48- ... Little Tenderness; 50- Skeptical; 51- Leg joint; 53- Tit for ...; 55- Ave. crossers; 58- Unhealthful; 64- Tribal symbol; 66- New Rochelle college; 67- Asian inland sea; 68- Go off-script; 69- Very, in Versailles; 70- Actress Sofer; 71- High times?; 72- Mature male European red deer; 73- Continue;

DOWN: 1- Get one's ducks in ...; 2- Timber wolf; 3- Chieftain, usually in Africa; 4- Go after; 5- Contour feather; 6- Sayings; 7- Diana of "The Avengers"; 8- Residing; 9- Like Shirley Temple's hair; 10- End for Siam; 11- Arnaz of "I Love Lucy"; 12- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 13- Queue after Q; 21- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame architect; 22- Tire type; 26- Ice cream topped with syrup; 27- Charged; 28- Levi's "Christ Stopped at ..."; 29- Dull finish; 30- On the job; 32- Kitten; 34- Paris divider; 35- Office solution; 36- Wrathful; 38- ... Island Ferry; 42- By means of this; 43- Nick of "Cape Fear"; 49- Yom Kippur observer; 52- Deadens; 54- As ... resort; 55- Ollie's pal; 56- Brouhaha; 57- WWII battle site; 59- Israeli dance; 60- Puppeteer Tony; 61- Twistable cookie; 62- Look ... hands; 63- Dash; 65- Ich bin ... Berliner;



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- 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
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Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

FOOTBALL

Messi gets 500th goal for Barca in 3-2 win vs Madrid

LIONEL Messi scored his 500th career goal for Barcelona to give the Catalan club a dramatic 3-2 win in injury time against 10-man Real Madrid in the "clasico" yesterday, leaving the Spanish league title race wide open.

Messi netted his milestone goal — his second of the night — with a low left-foot shot from inside the area after a cross by Jordi Alba two minutes into stoppage time.

That goal left the two rivals level at the top on 75 points. Barcelona leads on the head-to-head tiebreaker but Madrid has six games left — one more than Barcelona.

It was the second consecutive win by Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, coming after a 4-0 rout last season that put Madrid in crisis and eventually led to the replacement of coach Rafa Benitez by Zinedine Zidane.

This year's victory could keep Madrid from winning the league title for the first time since 2012, and give the Catalan club its third straight La Liga trophy. "We can't be happy," Zidane said. "When you don't put the game away, things like this can happen. We are disappointed because we didn't deserve to lose."

It was another outstanding performance by Messi, who played part of the game with a bloodied mouth after colliding

with Madrid left back Marcelo's elbow.

"He is the best player in history," Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said of Messi. "He makes the difference."

Messi's winner at the Bernabeu came after Sergi Roberto made a great run from Barcelona's defense, leading to Alba's low pass across the area as Messi came charging to one-touch the ball into the corner past the diving Keylor Navas.

Messi's first goal came after he got past Luka Modric and Dani Carvajal with a run inside the area after picking up a pass by Ivan Rakitic outside the box in the 33rd.

Messi is the all-time leading scorer in the clasico with 23 goals.

He has scored 14 goals in his last 10 league matches, and is the competition's leading scorer with 31 goals, seven more than teammate Luis Suarez. The Argentine playmaker has 47 goals with Barcelona in 46 games this season.

It was a thrilling match at the Bernabeu, with the teams attacking from the start and giving both goalkeepers plenty of

work.

Casemiro had put the hosts ahead from close range after Sergio Ramos struck the post in the 28th. After equalizing five minutes later, Messi also helped set up Barcelona's go-ahead goal by Rakitic in the 73rd, a powerful left-footed shot from outside the area.

Ramos was sent off with a straight red card in the 77th after a foul on Messi to stop the playmaker from a one-on-one situation in a breakaway. Despite that, Madrid still found the strength to equalize in the 85th with substitute James Rodriguez. He redirected a cross by Marcelo only three minutes after he had entered the match to replace Karim Benzema.

"We weren't smart after we equalized," Zidane said. "We thought we could score the third goal, but it's dangerous to press up front when you are playing with 10 men."

Navas made three remarkable saves in the second half alone — on a close-range header by Gerard Pique, a shot by Luis Suarez and another strike by Pique.

Barcelona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen also came up with big



AP PHOTO

stops, including a header by Benzema and a shot by Marco Asensio.

"It was a match between two teams that went for the victory," Luis Enrique said. "Either one could have won it."

Cristiano Ronaldo had a few good chances but was not able to capitalize on them.

Madrid forward Gareth Bale, who was doubtful before the

game, came off the field injured again in the 39th.

Ramos left the pitch exchanging words with Pique, adding to the ongoing spat between the veteran Spain defenders.

Wearing the green jacket from his first career major victory at Augusta earlier this month, Masters champion Sergio Garcia performed the honorary kickoff before the game. **AP**

RUGBY

Highlanders, Crusaders, Chiefs win in Super Rugby

NEW Zealand's Crusaders overwhelmed South Africa's Stormers 57-24 to stretch their winning start to Super Rugby to eight matches this weekend.

The New Zealand teams, who will welcome the British and Irish Lions in June, enjoyed another clean sweep.

The Dunedin-based Highlanders ran through Japan's Sunwolves 40-15, and the Hamilton-based Chiefs eked out a scratchy 16-7 win over the Western Force in Perth.

The Hurricanes beat the ACT Brumbies, and the Auckland-based Blues had a bye.

The Crusaders have made an 8-0 start to the season for only the third time — having previously done so on the way to championships in 2002 and 2006 — and remain unbeaten in 10 home matches against the Stormers.



Stormers Eben Etzebeth attempts to break tackles of Crusaders defenders during their super rugby match in Christchurch, New Zealand

mers.

After the Stormers managed only a penalty from early dominance, winger George Bridge scored a hat trick of tries in a 20-minute spell in which the Crusaders showed sublime handling and passing skills.

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All Blacks captain Kieran Read, who played only 40 minutes before being subbed, also scored two tries, and although the Stormers came back strongly in the second half, the Crusaders added

three further tries to post their highest score against the Stormers.

"It was great to see the boys using their heads and playing smart," Crusaders captain Sam Whitelock said.

Defeat for the Stormers allowed the Bulls to narrow the gap at the top of the Africa 1 conference, as they came back to beat the Cheetahs 20-14 in Pretoria.

Although the Cheetahs opened the scoring through Paul Schoeman in just the fifth minute and led 11-3 at halftime, Jacques Potgieter hit back for the home side and a well-crafted counterattack saw Jesse Kriel score the winning try with seven minutes remaining.

The result cut the Stormers' conference lead over the second-placed Bulls to 12 points, while the Cheetahs sit four points back in third.

The Sharks lost ground to the Lions in the Africa 2 conference when they were held to 9-9 by the Melbourne Rebels in a dismal game in Durban.

Both teams had a player sent off: Sharks center Andre Esterhuizen received a straight red card for a dangerous tackle after 17 minutes, and Rebels captain Nic Stirzaker was issued a second yellow card with 10 minutes remaining.

The Sharks trail the Lions, who pipped Argentina's Jaguares 24-21, by eight points.

The Rebels remain bottom of the Australian conference with one win from their seven matches.

Earlier, center Matt Faddes scored two second-half tries to help the Highlanders see off the Sunwolves.

Faddes scored immediately after halftime from a brilliant angled run and

again in the 50th from an intercept to give the Highlanders a 35-3 lead and put the match beyond doubt. Even so, the Sunwolves proved competitive for long periods, holding at least even shares of possession in both halves.

The Chiefs needed three penalties from Aaron Cruden, the only points of the second half, to subdue the Force after the teams were 7-7 at halftime.

Liam Messam scored an early try for the Chiefs and they seemed set to dominate but Matt Hodgson replied with a try from a lineout drive for the Force, who defended stoutly.

Cruden's three penalties after halftime clinched the Chiefs' win and denied the Force a valuable bonus point. The Chiefs also had three tries disallowed in a match which was spoiled by handling errors. **AP**

opinion

Our desk
Lynzy Valles



A LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND THAT

There is always a lack of something here. The region is a victim of scarcity; whether it's in activities over the weekend, entertainment, public parking, lack of regulation over ridesharing and most of all, lack of professionals in several industries.

A lack of experts in the fields of IT, medical and inclusive education is one of the obvious problems that the region is facing – but to be fair, several countries around the globe are also facing a crisis in terms of the lack of qualified professionals.

In Macau, it seemed like we already had a complete package of offerings to residents and guests, such as the Cotai Strip and Macau's Unesco heritage sites. However, it feels like it does not provide enough satisfaction to residents.

Speaking of ridesharing, thousands still support the ride-hailing app Uber despite it being illegal in the region.

Surprisingly, even though there are over 100 jurisdictions globally that have implemented ridesharing regulations, it feels like Macau does not understand this trend, citing security issues.

Anyway, as mentioned, maybe the region could have lacked infrastructure over how it resolves the shortage of qualified experts in many industries in the region.

There has always been a mounting gap between the skills that are supplied and those that are required by the labor market.

It cannot be about "protecting local workers' employment" all the time as it is palpable that Macau is in dire need of imported professional labor.

It does not feel right that while several industries continue to thrive, some industries are subtly failing.

The medical industry is an example: it is no secret that local hospitals are sending patients to Hong Kong due to the lack of infrastructure and specialists in the territory.

Although it is just an hour's ferry ride away, these residents could have opted to acquire medical services in one of the region's three hospitals.

A report by a Hong Kong media outlet revealed that in 2014, the Macau public hospital sent 2,000 public patients to Hong Kong for treatment, adding that such trips cost the region some HKD200 million a year overall.

Although Hong Kong's Hospital Authority does not keep record of the number of Macau residents being treated at its facilities, they are classified as non-local patients, paying HKD4,680 per day for a hospital stay instead of the HKD100 a day paid by its residents.

It could be quite discouraging that residents distrust their own hospitals and specialists, but that is because it fails to cater to a wide spectrum of their healthcare needs.

These issues are not something new and yet it is still uncertain on how authorities are tackling this problematic matter.

The local government, however, should be commended on how it provides a lifelong learning program, issuing subsidies to local residents who wish to enhance their learning. But can several industries, in this case the medical field, benefit from these kinds of schemes?

The same goes with the conditions faced by the IT and special education industry: particularly IT micro companies that are supplying a large demand of services to enormous integrated resorts.

When the number of trained professionals remains low, it is likely to put businesses in vulnerable positions: providing a mediocre service.

There may still be a long way to go to continually encourage residents to take part in educational and training programs.

With the region's aim to become a tourism hub, it should be ready to provide a high level of service and offerings, not only to its overflowing visitors but to its residents.

THE TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY:
BUZZ THE 100-DAY MILESTONE

For a little over 100 days, President Donald Trump has rattled Washington and been chastened by its institutions.

He's startled world leaders with his unpredictability and tough talk, but won their praise for a surprise strike on Syria. He's endured the steady drip of investigations and a seemingly endless churn of public personnel

drama.

"It's a different kind of a presidency," Trump said in an Oval Office interview last week with The Associated Press, an hourlong conversation as he approached last Saturday's key presidential benchmark.

The full transcript of the interview is available on macaudailytimes.com.mo.

EXCLUSIVE

The sad saga of North Korea's ATMs



A Ryugyong Commercial Bank ATM at the Sunan International Airport in Pyongyang

NO modern airport terminal is complete without an ATM, and Pyongyang's now has two. But they don't work – because of new Chinese sanctions, according to bank employees – and it's not clear when they will.

ATMs are an alien enough concept in North Korea that those in the capital's shiny new Sunan International Airport have a video screen near the top showing how they work and how to set up an account to use them. The explanatory video is in Korean, but the machines, which are meant primarily for Chinese businesspeople and tourists, don't give out cash in the North Korean currency.

ATMs are not entirely new to the North.

Years ago, the Ryugyong Commercial Bank installed one in a midrange tourist hotel in central Pyongyang frequented by Chinese. Another ATM was spotted at the airport last year, but it never appeared to be turned on. Additionally, customers who flash the bank's gold or silver ATM cards at two upscale stores that sell a wide array of imported foods and luxury items qualify for discounts.

How much North Korea's ATMs have actually been used is a matter of debate.

Booking office employees said the ATMs at the airport's international terminal were installed a few months ago but are still in

a "test phase." According to tellers at the bank's small office in the hotel where it has its other ATM, none of the machines are working because of Chinese sanctions that they said kicked in last month.

The Ryugyong Commercial Bank isn't a very well-known entity outside of North Korea. According to Curtis Melvin, a senior fellow at the U.S.-Korea Institute at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and a frequent contributor to the North Korea-watching "38 North" website, it is part of a larger conglomerate of entities that includes the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory, the Ryugyong Household Goods Factory and the Ryugyong Electric Appliances Factory, along with a popular fitness center and spa in Pyongyang.

China's banking regulator did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment on whether China has imposed restrictions on Chinese bank users' ability to make transactions at the ATMs in Pyongyang.

If sanctions are in fact why the ATMs aren't working, that could be a sign that Beijing is squeezing Pyongyang over its nuclear weapons and long-range missile programs. China is isolated North Korea's main economic lifeline and has been under

increasing pressure from President Donald Trump to do more to rein in its neighbor. The North's finance and banking sectors are major targets.

But how much Chinese policy toward North Korea has changed is hard to gauge.

Though China banned coal imports from the North in February, overall trade between the two countries has grown in recent months. Trade in the first quarter was actually up 37 percent from the same period in 2016, reaching USD1.2 billion. About \$720 million of that were exports from China to North Korea.

In any case, there will likely soon be fewer Chinese tourists for the ATMs to serve.

Several Chinese tourism companies are eliminating or offering fewer North Korea tours because of increasing tensions on the Korean Peninsula and sagging demand amid safety fears. Air China also announced this month that it has discontinued its underperforming Beijing-Pyongyang route.

That leaves North Korea's Air Koryo as the only airline regularly flying into and out of Pyongyang's international airport.

Most foreigners arriving at the airport are whisked out of the terminal lobby before they have time to notice the ATMs anyway.

But now, at least, they're plugged in. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	50-70 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	
Ambient	50-70 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA U.S. officials say the Trump administration issued new sanctions against Syria part of its ongoing crackdown on the Syrian government and those who support it. Two officials say that the sanctions are part of a broader effort to cut off funding and other support to President Bashar Assad (pictured) and his government amid the country's escalating civil war.

EU-FRANCE EU's head office has thrown its weight behind Emmanuel Macron in the French presidential runoff against Marine Le Pen, arguing it is a choice between the defense of the EU or those seeking its destruction. The European Commission also said it would vet campaign arguments and counter them if they told lies about the EU. More on p14-15



POLAND Thousands of people from around the world, many of them young Israelis, paid homage to the millions who perished in the Holocaust at the former Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz. The 'March of the Living,' is a somber memorial march of about three kilometers from the original Auschwitz camp to Birkenau, a much larger death camp in German-occupied Poland.



BOXING Manny Pacquiao says his July 2 world title bout with Jeff Horn is his chance to tell the boxing world "I'm not done yet." The Pacquiao, 38, an 11-time champion across eight weight divisions and now a member of the Philippines senate, had intended the WBO world welterweight title fight in Brisbane with school teacher Horn, 29, to be a stepping stone to a more lucrative bout with former welterweight world champion Amir Khan.