



MACAU COULD BE 'COLLATERAL DAMAGE'
Nelson Rose, an expert on gambling law, claimed that the ascendance of Trump could have consequences for Macau

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POLICE OFFICERS ARRESTED IN BRIBERY CASE
The officers are suspected of taking bribes to facilitate the entry of illegal immigrants

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HO CHIO MENG APOLOGIZES FOR 'IRREGULARITIES,' DENIES CRIMES

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WORLD BRIEFS



HONG KONG Authorities have rejected asylum requests from a group of refugees who sheltered Edward Snowden four years ago, in what their lawyer said is retaliation for helping the former NSA contractor. Immigration officials denied the applications by the four adults and three children from Sri Lanka and the Philippines. **More on p10**

PHILIPPINES Lawmakers yesterday killed an impeachment complaint accusing President Rodrigo Duterte of crimes against humanity for the thousands of people who have died in his anti-drug crackdown. The decision to stop the impeachment complaint, which also accused Duterte of murder, corruption and unexplained wealth, was expected. **More on p13**



NORTH KOREA yesterday boasted of a successful weekend launch of a new type of "medium long-range" ballistic rocket that can carry a heavy nuclear warhead. **More on p12**

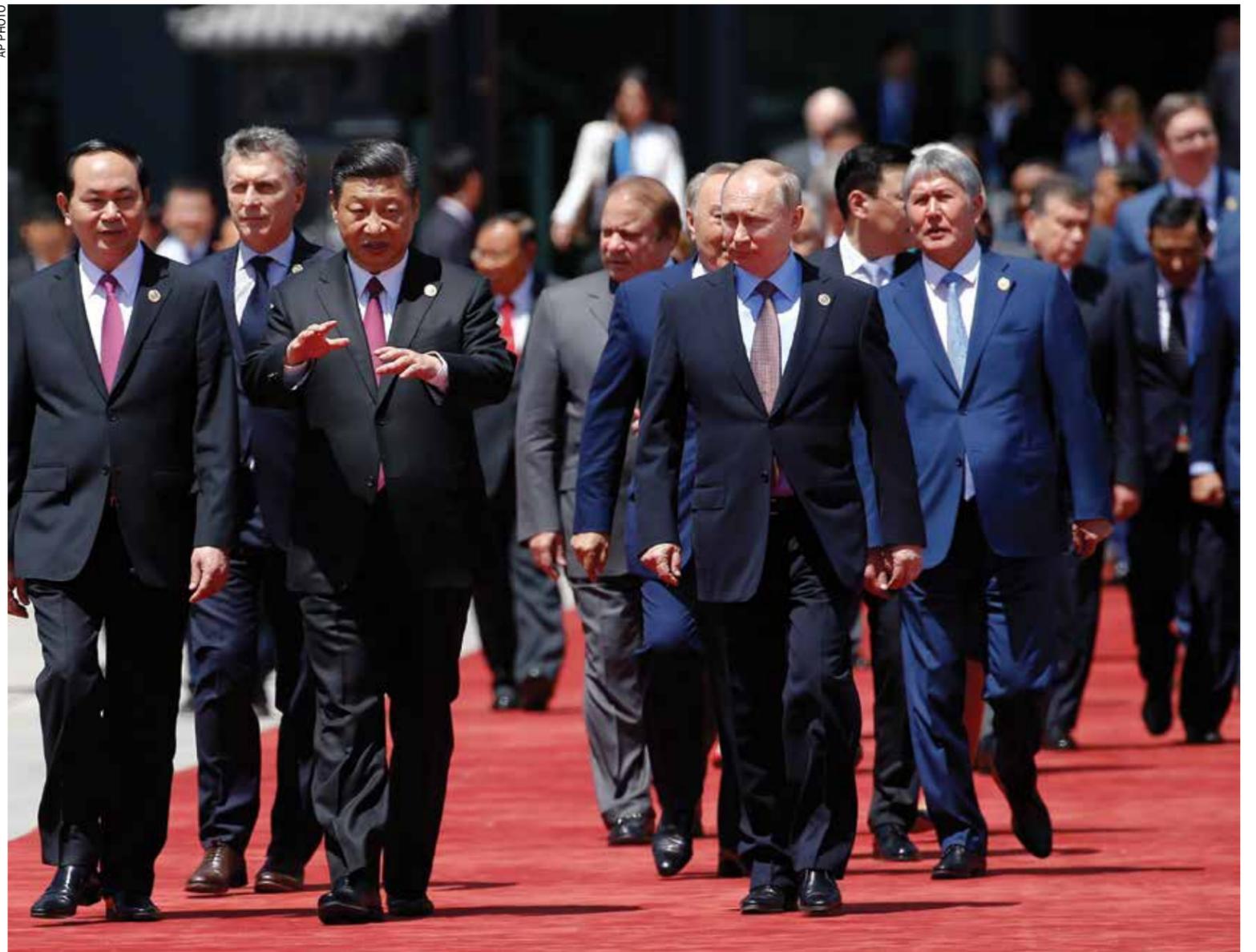
IRAN A conservative candidate dropped out of Iran's presidential election yesterday to back a hard-liner, state television reported, narrowing the field of those hoping to unseat moderate President Hassan Rouhani.

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LIVE CHICKEN BAN

IACM reaches tentative deal with poultry traders

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Xi Jinping says Silk Road plan has 'no political agenda'

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GAMING

Trump connections may make Macau 'collateral damage' in potential trade war

Daniel Beitler

A world-renowned expert on gambling and gambling law claimed yesterday that the ascendance of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency could result in the MSAR becoming collateral damage in a potential trade dispute between China and the U.S.

[In Macau] the regulation of the players is more important than the regulation of the casinos.

NELSON ROSE
GAMBLING LAW EXPERT

Speaking at the 6th Annual Review of Macau Gaming Law, hosted yesterday evening at the Rui Cunha Foundation, Nelson Rose said that the threat of escalation between the U.S. and China is very real and, "for Macau, this means that there is inevitable clash coming."

"What will the escalation lead to?" asked Rose yesterday



Nelson Rose

day during his presentation, titled "The Impact of the U.S. Election on Tourism, Trade and Possibly World War III." "One possibility is an actual shooting war [but] I think [it is more likely] that there will be a trade war. If there is a trade war, will it mean visa restrictions on Chinese [nationals] re-imposed?"

Rose argued that the gaming sectors of Nevada and Macau would be attractive targets for China if the mainland decided to retaliate against Trump's rhetoric.

He said that if China wants to retaliate against Trump's policy, the gaming industry would "be a natural fit" given Trump's connections to this

sector and the fact that he draws significant support from benefactors Steve Wynn and Sheldon Adelson.

"If China wanted to send a message [...] it would be really simple for them to impose visa restrictions on Chinese citizens preventing them from traveling to Nevada and Macau."

The gaming expert said that Chinese tourism today has been made possible by a policy decision in 2004, which permitted mainland Chinese nationals to travel individually, without requiring them to join a travel group.

"What this did was to open the world to Chinese tourists," said Rose. "By far they are the largest number and spenders

of any country in the world – not even counting Hong Kong which is now [itself] 10th on the list of world spenders."

"The danger is that Macau is obviously vulnerable. This is a gambling jurisdiction where the regulation of the players is more important than the regulation of the casinos."

"Las Vegas is now falling into the same situation – and with the same Chinese patrons," he added.

Rose claimed to have undertaken research on the impact of Chinese visitors to Las Vegas. He measured the revenue generated by Blackjack tables and compared that to the revenue from Baccarat tables – by far the favorite game of Chinese gamblers.

What Rose found, he explained during yesterday's pre-

sentation, was that although there are nine times as many Blackjack tables as there are Baccarat tables in the state of Nevada, the revenue generated by the latter was around 150 percent of the Blackjack tables' revenue

According to Rose, this demonstrates the growing dependency of the Las Vegas gambling scene on Chinese visitors, which may make the industry in the U.S. vulnerable to policy-making in mainland China.

The Annual Review of Macau Gaming Law is now in its sixth year, having been hosted by the Rui Cunha Foundation for the last three consecutive years. Prior to the Rui Cunha Foundation hosting the event, it was based at the former campus of the University of Macau.

CORREIA: SUB-CONCESSIONAIRES MUST GO

DURING THE Annual Review of Macau Gaming Law held yesterday at the Rui Cunha Foundation, Macau-based lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia reiterated concerns over the legality of the sub-concessionaires, as reported by the Times earlier this month. He said that Law 16/2001 does not provide for the existence of gaming sub-concessionaires, which are legally only used for public works and public services. "We

need to put an end to the sub-concessionaire system as it creates conflicts of interests and other corrupt practices," said Correia. "It is not acceptable to have sub-concessionaires and junkets acting as [gaming] concessionaires, according to what is outlined in the law." Instead, Correia proposes expanding the number of concessionaires to six ahead of the termination of their contracts between 2020 and 2022.

Police officers arrested in bribery case allowing entry of illegals

THREE police officers have been arrested on suspicion of bribery in an operation conducted last Saturday. The officers are suspected of taking bribes to facilitate the entry of illegal immigrants in a scheme that a Judiciary Police (PJ) source said involved a total sum of at least MOP39 million.

According to the same source, the three police of-

icers were among a group of 11 people captured by the PJ in the Cotai area. The other detainees were illegals from mainland China and Taiwan.

Aside from the suspicions of bribery, the group is also accused of being members of a criminal organization involved in other crimes. A report from TDM Chinese Channel added that the PJ also

found drugs and money in a hotel room where the alleged accomplices were lodging.

The same news source added the police officers, in addition to being offered sums of cash, were offered expensive alcohol and prostitutes.

The Office of the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak reacted promptly with a statement which

acknowledges the involvement of the officers, calling on from the police forces, namely the PJ, to discover the whole truth.

In the statement, the secretary expressed "surprise and deep regret to have acknowledged another case of criminal and abuse of power acts perpetrated by police officers," adding that he had already instructed the Commander



RENATO MARQUES

of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) to "immediately start disciplinary proceedings against the officer involved."

Wong also remarked that such actions are "intolerable" and will be subjected

to "heavy punishment," urging leaders of the police forces to continue to pursue improvement so that similar situations do not occur again, for the good of social stability in the region. **RM**

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | **SECRETARY** Yang Dongxiao army@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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LIVE POULTRY TRADERS

IACM claims to have reached compensation deal

THE Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) claims to have brokered a deal with a group of live poultry traders who, starting from this month, have had their profession permanently banned in the MSAR.

The group, which met with the IACM yesterday, was promised about MOP14 million in compensation on top of a previous reimbursement agreement, according to the government department.

"We will pay 154 of them, excluding non-resident workers, almost 14 million patacas," IACM president Jose Tavares said yesterday, as cited by public broadcaster TDM.

"We're [also] going to issue an additional two months' special fund on top of the previous announcement of 200 patacas per head per day [to each of the



Yesterday's meeting between IACM and representatives of poultry traders

affected persons] between February and April," added Tavares.

The live poultry market was banned in Macau following scares of avian influenza on multiple occasions earlier this year. A re-

presentative of IACM said earlier this month that the ban was "due to the consideration of public hygiene and the actual needs of epidemic prevention."

The poultry traders have previously expressed dissa-

tisfaction toward the compensation packages promised by the government.

At the start of the month, the chairman of the Live Poultry Association, Leong Meng Lap, said that they wouldn't accept the previous recompense arrangement. Claiming to represent some 250 poultry traders, Leong said: "Of course we don't accept [this], but what can we do? We're not the government with ultimate power. But we are not afraid of them. We only have one life and a job to fight for."

It remains unclear whether the group has accepted this latest compensation deal, however Tavares yesterday insisted, "they basically accept our proposal for now."

Discussions with representatives of the sector will continue next Monday, the IACM informed.

Forex reserves reach USD19.2 billion

Macau's foreign exchange reserves reached MOP154.1 billion (USD19.24 billion) at the end of April, the region's monetary watchdog said yesterday. The Monetary Authority of Macau announced that the preliminary estimate of MSAR's foreign exchange reserves decreased by 0.6 percent from the revised value of MOP155.1 billion (USD19.38 billion) for the end of March. The trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca dropped 0.45 points month-to-month but rose 3.68 points year-on-year to 108.6 points in April 2017, suggesting that overall, the exchange rate of the pataca declined against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners on a monthly basis, but increased on an annual basis.

Macau and Mongolia sign draft agreements

Macau and Mongolia have signed two draft agreements on criminal judicial cooperation following successful negotiations. The two draft agreements were signed by the director of the MSAR's Department of Justice Affairs Liu Dexue, and Samdan Erdene, consul general of the Mongolian Consulate General to Hong Kong, last week. The two draft agreements cover elements such as the service of legal documents, obtaining of evidence, research, acquisition of criminal tools, and the handing over of sentenced persons. According to article 94 of the Basic Law of the MSAR, the two draft agreements will be sent to the central government for their authorization before they are officially signed.

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Brexit: Britain likely to face setbacks over trade deals

Lynzy Valles

AN absence of trade experts based in the United Kingdom (U.K.), due to the fact that since Britain joined the European Union (EU) in 1973 trade terms have been negotiated solely by the EU, is likely to cause a hitch during the negotiations over Britain's departure from the international organization.

This was the point stressed by Martin Holland, director of the National Center for Research on Europe, who was invited by the European Union Academic Programme in Macau (EUAP-M) to take part in its "Speakers' and Visiting Speakers' Series." Holland explained that Britain currently lacks trade expertise and competence, which has resulted in a global campaign to bring back its citizens who are experienced in negotiating trade deals.

"They don't have human resources. Even when Britain wants to have trade deals and doesn't have difficulties, it's a matter of human resources," said the expert who is also a professor at



the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. "How can [Britain] negotiate with America and the EU simultaneously?" Holland asked.

Holland, speaking on the sidelines of the event, told the Times that Britain might in fact lose some of its investors if the country fails to adequately negotiate bilateral trade arrangements.

"It's probably a 10-year process for Britain to negotiate its own bilateral trade affairs once it leaves the EU. Investors don't like uncertainty," Holland suggested.

In response to a question as to what trade model the U.K. would follow in terms of its post-Brexit trade deal, the professor briefly said, "it's still a question mark."

Essentially, the U.K. aims to pursue a liberal free trade agreement, which means free trade and the reduction of tariffs, yet the process will take some time.

As there are 163 countries in the World Trade Organization, the transition is likely to be a generational process.

David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union in Prime Minister Theresa May's government, has declared that the country will refuse to accept attempts on the part of the EU to maintain the authority of European judges to arbitrate on the rights of citizens residing in the U.K. following Brexit.

According to U.K. reports, workers from other European countries would continually receive benefits and pensions if they are British residents, but would lose 'citizenship' rights, including the ability to vote in general elections.

On this subject, Holland argued, "the outcome would be what the EU wants it to be," as the EU is in the driving seat.

"It's very clear that EU has rules, laws, treaties and obligations and those things are not flexible or negotiable. The U.K. has to respect and respond to those," he noted.

The scholar is optimistic that British-European nationals in the U.K. would have their rights protected, as will the 1.3 million British residents residing in mainland Europe.

Holland then contended that the only way for the Brexit process to be pleasant is if the country is prepared to compromise on some of its "red lines" - matters such as the price of departure, or the so-called divorce bill.

The country is currently gearing up for disputes with the EU over the structure of divorce talks and the future role of the European court within Britain.

Complex negotiations for Britain to leave the EU are due to commence next month - negotiations that technically should have started six weeks ago.

"The actual negotiations can take off and begin after the British election but again it will be rather provisional because nothing is going to happen seriously until after the German election," the scholar noted.

As the election in Germany will be on September 23, negotiations are unlikely to take place before October.

Residents hope for more measures to revamp old district

SEVERAL residents have suggested that the government further contemplate on construction in the old part of the city, according to a report by TDM.

About 30 residents attended a meeting organized by the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) which discussed the city's communities.

IACM introduced a se-

ries of municipal construction plans and engineering programs to take place within the area of Freguesia da Sé, including the construction of a sewage system in the Macau Tower square to filter oils from sewage, renovating the Mercado Municipal Horta da Mitra and rebuilding the pavement of Praceta 24 De Junho.

One resident expressed

his dissatisfaction with the government's decision to prioritize developments in the central district, while ignoring the development of the Praça de Ponte e Horta garden and other older parts of the city. This resident was particularly concerned about the development of the social environment, suggesting that the government

should think more about public facilities in said areas.

Another resident expressed hope that the government would follow up on the issues of falling concrete in buildings at the Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo, further stating that more compact trash collectors should be installed in the old part of the city.



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COURT

Ho apologizes for 'administrative irregularities,' denies crimes



Julie Zhu

DURING yesterday's 'closing arguments' session of the trial of Ho Chio Meng, the former Prosecutor General had a chance to speak for himself and made an emotional appeal, denying all charges against him.

Following the end of his lawyer's closing statements at the Court of Final Appeal, and after a short period of debate between the prosecution side and his lawyer, Ho said he did not give orders to any parties in order to establish criminal groups, and that he did not receive economic benefits from any of the cases mentioned by the prosecution. Ho added that the accusations made against him did not match the truth.

The former top prosecutor was accused of various charges following an investigation led by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) and his arrest. In his appeal, he said that there were four flaws in his investigation and trial: "unfair charges, made up facts, presumption of guilt, [and] reaching a conclusion without hearing the facts."

In accordance with previous statements made by Ho during the trial, he reiterated that he did not attempt to escape Macau on the day of his arrest.

In particular, Ho denied that his actions led to losses to the Macau government, and that he damaged the country's image due to the way he handled the case of the city's former Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Ao Man Long.

■ The former top prosecutor cried in court while speaking about his children

Regarding the recovery of Ao's overseas money, Ho said that he "does not ask for merits, but begs for innocence." Nevertheless, Ho accused MP of having "firstly convicted him, then looked for evidence."

The former prosecutor continued denying that he used the MP money to rent the Cheoc Van Villa, or that he used the MP's money to rent the "teachers' resting room", which he is accused of having used for personal purposes.

"Deceit, loss, and improper benefits" are the three things Ho claimed to have not been guilty of engaging in or collecting.

On multiple occasions, Ho has argued that he "did not

organize criminal groups, nor receive money."

When explaining the instances when he wrongly declared his properties to the government, Ho said that "there were mistakes in the declaration of properties, but the properties were legal."

Ho's wife is also accused of problematic property declaration. "The mistake was on me, there was nothing related to my wife," said Ho, adding that he dragged his family into his case.

"I did not commit crimes, did not cause MP's loss," said Ho, adding that he never refused to confess to or cooperate with CCAC and MP's investigation.

"There is nothing I can admit about the criminal groups, fraud, money laundering, [...] I can't admit that, they are not true," declared Ho, adding that he still has "a trace of hope, and belief that the court will make a fair ruling."

"Not guilty is not equal to not having made mistakes," Ho remarked before apologizing and bowing twice to the court.

The former prosecutor apologized for his administrative mistakes in the involved cases.

In his conclusion, Ho stated that he had contributed to the Macau SAR for 27 years, and had worked as the Prosecutor General for 15 years, never receiving any disciplinary reprimands.

The former top prosecutor cried in court while speaking about his children.

He also asked the court to issue a lenient punishment while taking into consideration his contribution to the city, his age, and his family situation.

The court will have one closed-door session on May 18.

Oriana Pun discards evidence

YESTERDAY, the prosecution pointed out that Ho Chio Meng is accused of having used public money from the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) to cover payments for a trip with his family, including one to northern Europe when he had been invited to attend a Public Prosecutors Conference in Denmark. Ho's lawyer, Oriana Pun, pointed out that this case traces back to the year of 2005, and since it happened more than 10 years ago, it is beyond the regular prosecution period.

Pun argued that the court should take this fact into consideration when ruling on charges related to the

northern Europe trip.

Furthermore, Pun noted that the defence had questioned the then-Chief Executive (CE) about the matter. The previous CE, Edmund Ho, issued a written reply, claiming that he has forgotten whether he signed an approval allowing Ho and his wife to attend the conference together.

According to Pun's opinion, Ho did not deny that Ho's wife was invited to attend the conference in Denmark, and as such, Ho should not be considered guilty for fraud in relation to this event.

Concerning the trip, Ho is charged with having separated payment instalmen-

ts for the Denmark trip, behaviour that Pun deems, at most, as an administrative offense.

In regard to shell companies allegedly established by Ho, Pun said that the involved companies are not common shell companies because they paid taxes and social welfare, had employees, and contributed services to the contracts received from the MP.

Last Friday, Pun accused the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) of conducting a biased investigation against Ho. As she had done in previous closing arguments, Pun once again expressed her disgust

towards the investigation led by the CCAC, during which the department monitored Ho's mobile phone. Pun considered that some of the CCAC's monitoring records cannot verify that the identity of the person in the records is Ho.

In the same session, the prosecution side said that Ho should be sentenced for 1,359 crimes because each problematic contract outsourced should be considered a single crime.

Ho is charged with fraud for these contracts.

Regarding these alleged 1,359 crimes, yesterday, Pun noted that "the services were done nicely and the works were completed."

Pun said that if anybody was cheated, it would be Ho.

"The company lied to Ho, and the subordinate [from the MP] lied to Ho," said Pun, according to whom, if Ho had cheated any party, he would "have cheated himself."

In addition, the lawyer claimed that in case Ho has cheated anyone, he should not be considered to have committed fraud.

The shell companies were accused of providing poor services or simply not providing services to the MP at all.

In Pun's words, Ho "did not know what contracts were outsourced, did not know how many companies [attended MP public tenders], did not know whether the alleged shell companies were involved,

and did not know that there were sub-concessions."

Ho is also accused of having used MP money to pay for hotels and flight tickets to non-MP employees, all of whom according to the MP, were women. Pun denied this claim, saying that there were men present as well.

Moreover, she said that it was Ho Chio Meng's subordinate who processed the payment, not Ho. "This is not shirking the responsibilities," clarified Pun.

Pun mentioned that it had been Ho's subordinates who took care of the financial process, and that it could not be proved that Ho committed fraud.

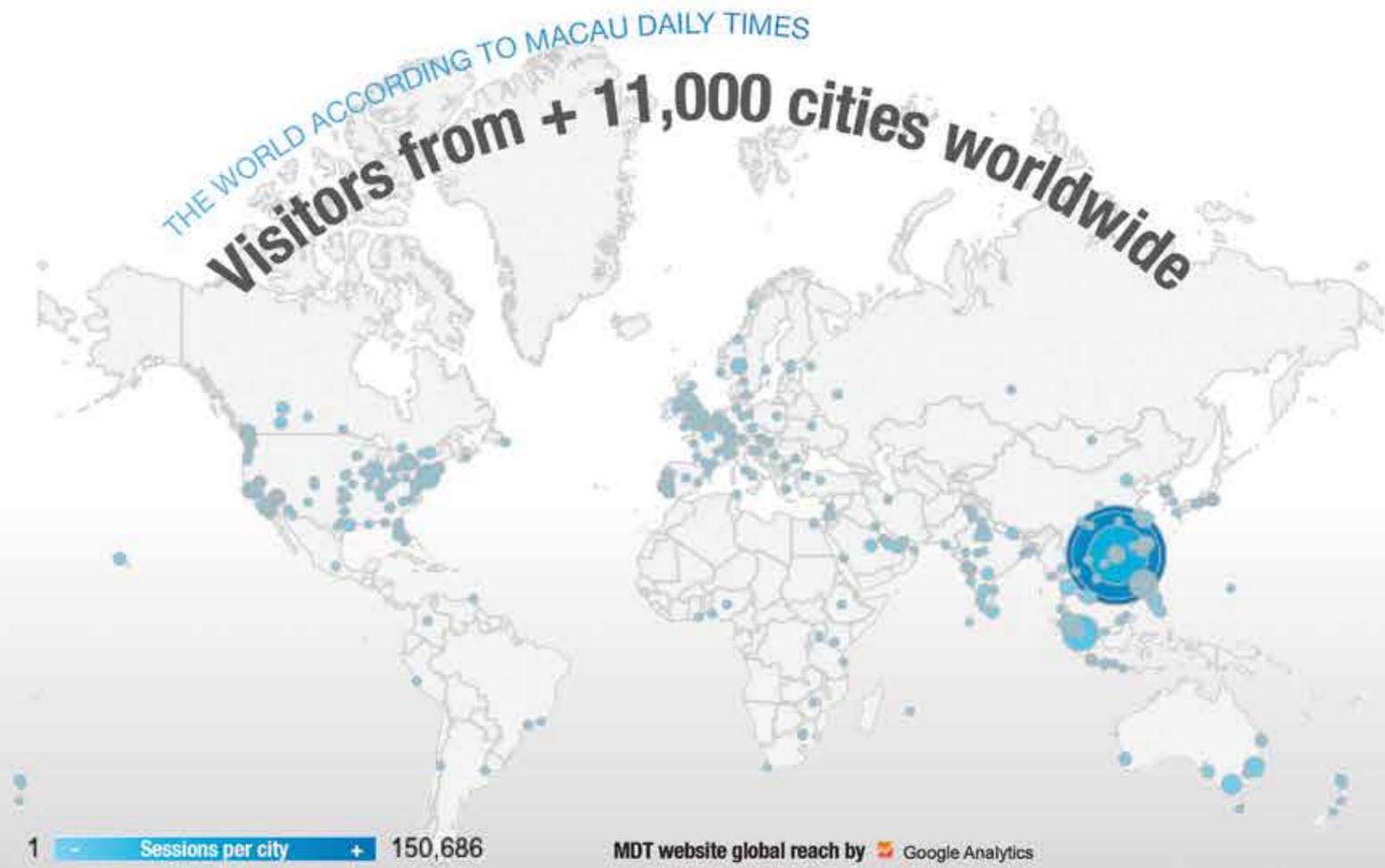
"Ho did not commit fraud, did not reap benefits and did not abuse his power," declared Pun.

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CRIME

Authorities involved in several cases of fake IDs

Renato Marques

DURING the last few days, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) found several cases relating to identification documents forgery, the PSP spokesperson said in a press conference held yesterday.

In the first case reported, the police found three men, between the ages of 30 and 50 years, in activities deemed suspicious by the officers patrolling the Rua Norte do Patane on May 11 around 6.25 p.m.

Questioned and asked to present identification documents, the men produced six documents (three Macau IDs of non-permanent residents and three Construction Safety Cards issued by the Labor Affairs Bureau).

The officers were suspicious of the documents, as their print quality was poor.

Further questioning revealed that all of the documents

presented to the police officers were fake and had been obtained a few days earlier through a person in mainland China who charged them RMB200 each for the forgeries.

The men also told the police that the purpose of obtaining such documents was to be able to come to Macau to gamble.

In a separate case, the PSP encountered a case of a forgotten identification card, this time of a Hong Kong resident aged 40.

The case unfolded when the police were called to intervene in a dispute between two people at the Avenida da Ponte da Amizade.

Arriving at the location, officers requested identification from the parties involved which was when they spotted a Hong Kong ID card that appeared to be of poor quality and was consequently suspected of being a forgery.

Further investigation led to the suspect's acknowledgment that the card was in fact

a forgery that he had acquired it with the help of a man he had met online on a social media platform for the amount of HKD600.

Although it was not clear why the neighboring region resident



decided to acquire a forged ID, the man has allegedly justified such actions with the fact that

he wanted to come to Macau to gamble and he had lost his own Hong Kong ID.

Old swindling case finally closed

AJudiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson claims that a case dating back to 2012 has finally come to an end with the arrest of the ringleader of a group responsible for several scams involving local residents.

The case from early 2012 involved a total of six women from mainland China who attracted local residents to the scam by claiming to have received a large inheritance from family members in the mainland and deciding to create an investment fund for charitable purposes.

Investors in such funds would be able to capitalize their investment tenfold.

The scam was said at the time to have granted the ringleaders earnings of about MOP7.6 million.

From January to September of 2012 the PJ

detained and brought to justice five of the women involved, however the ringleader managed to escape to the mainland.

The women were all tried in Macau and sentenced to over four years' imprisonment.

One of the suspects was tried in absentia and received a similar sentence.

On May 12 - almost five years after authorities began their search - the leader was finally found in Zhuhai due to a complaint made by a local resident. The woman had tried once again to perform the scam, but on mainland targeting local residents.

In cooperation with the Zhuhai authorities and through the mechanism of cooperation between the judiciary authorities of both sides, the woman was arrested and finally delivered to local authorities.

MOTORSPORTS

Ávila gets podium finish; Couto finishes 10th in season kick-offs

MACAU driver Rodolfo Ávila had a strong start to the 2017 season of the China Touring Car Championship (CTCC), at the wheel of the Lamando GTS from Team SAIC Volkswagen 333 Racing.

With two back-to-back races in the neighboring city of Zhuhai, Ávila managed to score the first points in a championship that promised to be very competitive.

Rising from the ninth position on the grid in the first race, the local racer managed an impressive climb to third place, earning himself a position on the podium.

Due to a grid penalty, Ávila began his second race further back in the 13th position, but finished the race in seventh place.

Ávila was happy with the results achieved at the end of the race, saying: "To stand on the podium in the opening race of the China Touring Car Championship is great. I had two back-to-front races - from P9 to P3, and from P13 to P7. Thanks to SAIC Volkswagen for the opportunity. We will



Rodolfo Ávila



André Couto

now head to GIC [Guangdong International Circuit] and try harder."

Wang Rue, Ávila's teammate at Team SAIC Volkswagen 333 Racing, and Haima's driver Zixian He were the victors of the first and second races, respectively. Wang, who was already on pole position for the race, led the score table with 25 points, with Ávila sharing the fourth position with Britain's Daniel Lloyd racing for Changan Ford team.

The next round of CTCC will be held at GIC, Zhaoqing, Guangdong on June 4 where Ávila will race the full season of CTCC.

Ávila is optimistic for the

season, as he has noticed "the clear improvements in terms of reliability and performance" of the car he drove in two rounds of the championship last year.

Meanwhile, André Couto has begun a busy racing season where he will compete in both China's GT Championship and the Japanese Super GT Championship, and has taken the wheel of the Spirit Z team Nissan GT-R Nismo. He partnered with Singapore's Yuey Tan for the kick-off of the Chinese GT series, which took place over the weekend at Goldenport International Circuit, Beijing.

The first two races of the season, Couto and Tan placed 10th overall (in race 1 and 2) in the GT3 category, as Kings Racing's Xu Jia claimed a double win during the opening rounds in an Audi R8 LMS.

The upcoming rounds of China GT Championship will take place at the Ordos International Circuit on July 8 and 9.

Couto will take to the track again this weekend at Autopolis for Round 3 of the Japanese Super GT championship, where he will drive a Porsche from D'Station racing team. **RM**

SURVEY

More vocational training courses in 2016

THERE were 51 institutions offering vocational training courses in 2016, an increase of nine institutions year-on-year, according to the survey on vocational training, the results of which were revealed yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The survey results indicate that a total of 1,718 courses were organized, an increase of 11.8 percent year-on-year.

The data released by DSEC indicates that most courses registered an increase in participants. The bureau attributes the increase to the fact that "residents grasped the chance to enjoy the benefits of the Continuing Education Development Plan in 2016, which was the last year of the Plan's second phase."

Analyzed by course type, Business & Administration courses had the highest number of participants, accounting for 30.8 percent (20,271) of the total, followed by Computing courses at 12.5 percent (8,223) and Language courses at 11 percent (7,255). The course completion rate was 84.6 percent, down by 3.4 percentage points year-on-year.

Among the 1,718 vocational training courses, 681 were organized for enterprises or institutions by 19 training institutions.

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Honda Macau



Li to consider selling Hutchison

Jonathan Browning

BILLIONAIRE Li Ka-shing is exploring options for his Hong Kong fixed-line phone business including a potential sale, according to people familiar with the matter, following a similar move by local property tycoon Peter Woo.

Hong Kong's richest man is gauging interest from potential buyers for Hutchison Global Communications Ltd., the people said, asking not to be identified because the discussions are confidential. The company, which offers services for corporate customers over its fiber-optic network in the former British colony, may fetch at least USD\$1 billion, the people said.

HGC is owned by Hutchison Telecommunications Hong Kong Holdings Ltd., a listed arm of Li's CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. conglomerate. There's no certainty the deliberations will lead to a transaction, and Li may decide to keep the business, the people said. A representative for Hutchison Telecom declined to comment.

Shares of Hutchison Telecom, which has a market value of \$1.4 billion, have lost more than half their value since their May 2013 high. The company said in February it will seek to penetrate new industry segments and tap its data-center expertise as it grapples with declining residential sales. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization at Hutchison Telecom's fixed-line operations fell 2 percent last year to HKD1.25 billion (\$161 million).

"The peak of the business has passed," Castor Pang, head of research at Core-Pacific Yamaichi in Hong Kong, said by phone yesterday. "Further investment in the business might not bring in a reasonable return for the firm."

The potential disposal follows the



Li Ka-shing

sale of a Hong Kong internet provider owned by Woo's Wharf Holdings Ltd. for \$1.2 billion to a private-equity buyer group last year. The consortium of MBK Partners and TPG Capital beat out other suitors including HKBN Ltd. and SmarTone Telecommunications Holdings Ltd., people with knowledge of the matter said earlier.

HKT Ltd., a competitor to HGC that has the biggest market share in Hong Kong, warned in January of the "difficult operating environment" in the local telecommunications market. Competitors' discounting is driving down prices, the former phone monopoly said in a presentation after announcing its 2016 results.

HGC serves nine of the top 10 global investment banks, as well as a majority of Hong Kong government departments and public hospitals, and is an accredited service vendor with the city's stock exchange, its website shows. The company's fiber-optic broadband network covers more than 1.8 million households and also carries traffic for wireless customers, according to Hutchison Telecom's annual report. **Bloomberg**

Japan megabanks forecast a fourth straight combined profit fall

Gareth Allan, Shingo Kawamoto

EARNINGS reports by Japan's three megabanks yesterday pointed to a fourth straight fall in combined annual profit, even as the impact of negative interest rates begins to ease.

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc., Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc., and Mizuho Financial Group Inc. forecast a 4.8 percent drop in combined net income to 2.13 trillion yen (USD18.8 billion) in the fiscal year ending March 2018 from the previous 12 months.

MUFG, Japan's largest bank, painted a rosier picture than its peers in forecasting a 2.5 percent profit increase. Sumitomo Mitsui projected an 11 percent fall, while Mizuho sees net income dropping 8.9 percent.

MUFG's overseas exposu-



BLOOMBERG

re, including its holding in Morgan Stanley, helped it forecast a rise in profit, said Michael Makdad, a bank analyst in Tokyo at Haitong International Securities Group Ltd. "It's also a function of their conservative guidance last year," he said. Rie Nishihara, a senior analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Tokyo, wrote in a report leading up to the results that the short-term impact of shrinking margins had more-or-less run its course, although uncertainty over factors such as geopolitical risk still weighed on the lenders.

Toyoki Sameshima, a se-

nior analyst at BNP Paribas SA in Tokyo, said before the results that top-line profit can't be expected to grow while the effects of negative interest rates remain.

"The past year has been about weathering the storm with headwinds both in Japan and overseas," Sameshima said. He said negative interest rates and low share prices hit Japanese banks' retail and corporate business, and their overseas operations were affected by factors including the yen's strength in the first half and the U.K.'s vote to leave the European Union. **Bloomberg**

GM's Maven car-sharing launches in New York



AP PHOTO

GENERAL Motors is launching its Maven car-sharing service in New York City.

The service lets members rent GM vehicles for up to 28 days at a time.

Maven will park 80 vehicles around Manhattan. Using Maven's smartphone app, members can reserve a time and unlock and start

the car when they arrive.

Prices vary by vehicle, but it will cost about USD100 to use a Chevrolet Cruze for a full day. Maven takes care of the insurance and fuel costs.

Maven started a year ago with a small fleet of cars in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The service now has 35,000 members and more than 530 cars on the road in 13 U.S. cities and Kitchener, Ontario.

Until now, Chicago, San Francisco and Washington D.C. have been Maven's biggest markets.

corporate bits

CTM, CARITAS CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY



In celebration of Mother's Day, CTM's volunteer team and Caritas Macau jointly co-organized a Mother's Day activity, inviting parents and children together to celebrate the annual event.

According to a press release, the event on May 13 attracted 200 parents and children at Pousada Marina Infante Hotel. The company held a handset purchase donation scheme to

support local social welfare organizations.

From late April until May 12, CTM donated MOP50 for each purchased iPhone 7. The donation received totalled MOP88,800.

During the event, volunteers brought several games and performances to the children and parents, in addition to setting up a tea party.

CESL ASIA TEAM HOLDS BLOOD DONATION ACTIVITY

António Trindade, the president and CEO of CESL Asia, led the company's Social Investment Team to the Macao Blood Transfusion Service Centre on May 13 for blood donation, encouraging the life-saving voluntary act, and ensuring sufficient blood supplies for the city. This activity was held for the fourth consecutive year, in which more than 20 CESL Asia members and their families supported the event.

According to CESL Asia, it continues its efforts in contributing to the community and helping the needy through blood donation.

To promote the intellectual, social, cultural and physical wellbeing of the community,



CESL Asia initiated the non-profit "CESL Asia Social Investment Fund" in 2000.

Over the years, the company has organized a variety of Social Investment Programs and works closely with staff members, clients and likeminded entities to advance local community development.

LAWRENCE HO DONATES TO A HAINAN SCHOOL

Melco Resorts & Entertainment announced that its chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho has donated RMB1.5 million to fund the construction of a teaching complex for Guangnan Primary School in Hainan.

A presentation ceremony was held yesterday at the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macau.

According to a statement issued by Melco, the current teaching facilities of Guangnan Primary School were inadequate and the lack of a library and computer facilities hampers students' learning.

Melco's donation will be used to build a three-storey teaching complex for Guangnan Primary School. The



building, to be named Melco Teaching Complex, will house a library, a computer room and other multi-purpose teaching facilities.

Ho pledged that Melco will continue to support the development of youth education in China.

CYBER CHAOS SPREADS TO ASIA

Over 29 thousand Chinese institutions attacked

Yuri Kageyama & Louise Watt, Tokyo

GLOBAL cyber chaos was spreading yesterday as companies booted up computers at work following the weekend's worldwide "ransomware" cyber-attack.

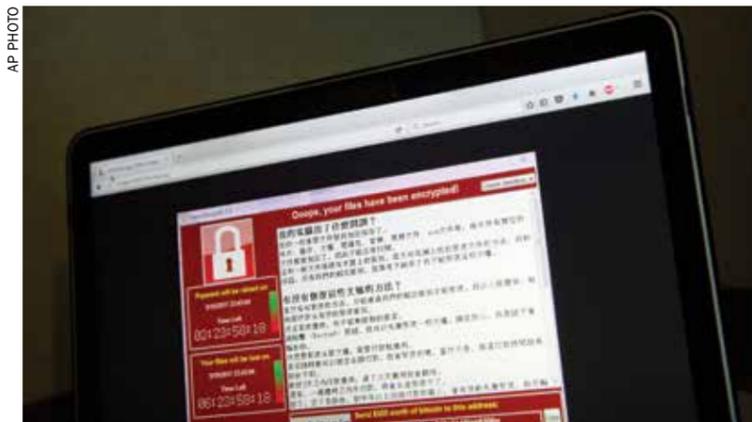
The extortion scheme created chaos in 150 countries and could wreak even greater havoc as more malicious variations appear. The initial attack, known as "WannaCry," paralyzed computers running Britain's hospital network, Germany's national railway and scores of other companies and government agencies around the world.

As a loose global network of cybersecurity experts fought the ransomware hackers, Chinese state media said 29,372 institutions there had been infected along with hundreds of thousands of devices.

The Japan Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center, a nonprofit providing support for computer attacks, said 2,000 computers at 600 locations in Japan were reported affected so far.

Government agencies said they were unaffected. Companies like Hitachi and Nissan Motor Co. reported problems they said had not seriously affected their business operations.

In China, universities and other educational institutions were among the hardest hit,



A screenshot of the warning screen from a purported ransomware attack, as captured by a computer user in Taiwan

about 15 percent of the internet protocol addresses attacked, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

That may be because schools tend to have old computers and be slow about updates of operating systems and security, said Fang Xingdong, founder of ChinaLabs, an internet strategy think tank.

Railway stations, mail delivery, gas stations, hospitals, office buildings, shopping malls and government services also were affected, Xinhua said, citing the Threat Intelligence Center of Qihoo 360, a Chinese internet security services company.

Elsewhere in Asia, officials in Japan and South Korea said they believed security updates had helped ward off the worst of the impact.

The most public damage in

South Korea was to cinema chain CJ CGV Co. It was restoring its advertising servers at dozens of theaters after the attack left the company unable to display trailers of upcoming movies.

The attack was disrupting computers that run factories, banks, government agencies and transport systems in scores of countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Brazil, Spain, India and Japan, among others. Russia's Interior Ministry and companies including Spain's Telefonica, FedEx Corp. in the U.S. and French car-maker Renault all reported troubles.

Experts were urging organizations and companies to immediately update older Microsoft operating systems, such as Windows XP, with a patch released by Microsoft Corp. to limit vulnerability to a more powerful ver-

sion of the malware — or to future versions that can't be stopped.

Paying the ransom will not ensure any fix, said Eiichi Moriya, a cyber security expert and professor at Meiji University.

"You are dealing with a criminal," he said. "It's like after a robber enters your home. You can change the locks but what has happened cannot be undone. If someone kidnaps your child, you may pay your ransom but there is no guarantee your child will return."

New variants of the rapidly replicating worm were discovered Sunday and one did not include the so-called kill switch that allowed researchers to interrupt its spread Friday by diverting it to a dead end on the internet.

Ryan Kalember, senior vice president at Proofpoint Inc. which helped stop its spread, said the version without a kill switch could spread. It was benign because it contained a flaw that prevented it from taking over computers and demanding ransom to unlock files but other more malicious ones will likely pop up.

Universities and other educational institutions were among the hardest hit

"We haven't fully dodged this bullet at all until we're patched against the vulnerability itself," Kalember said.

The attack held users hostage by freezing their computers, popping up a red screen with the words, "Oops, your files have been encrypted!" and demanding money through online bitcoin payment — USD300 at first, rising to \$600 before it destroys files hours later.

Just one person in an organization who clicked on an infected attachment or bad link, would lead to all computers in a network becoming infected, said Vikram Thakur, technical director of Symantec Security Response.

"That's what makes this more troubling than ransomware was a week ago," Thakur said.

The attack has hit more than 200,000 victims across the world since Friday and is seen as an "escalating threat," said Rob Wainwright, the head of Europol, Europe's policing agency.

"The numbers are still going up," Wainwright said.

Microsoft's top lawyer is laying some of the blame at the feet of the U.S. government. Brad Smith criticized U.S. intelligence agencies, including the CIA and National Security Agency, for "stockpiling" software code that can be used by hackers. Cybersecurity experts say the unknown hackers who launched this weekend's "ransomware" attacks used a vulnerability that was exposed in NSA documents leaked online.

It was too early to say who was behind the onslaught, which struck 100,000 organizations, and what their motivation was, aside from the obvious demand for money. So far, not many people have paid the ransom demanded by the malware, Europol spokesman Jan Op Gen Oorth told The Associated Press. AP

HONG Kong authorities have rejected asylum requests from a group of refugees who sheltered Edward Snowden four years ago, in what their lawyer said is retaliation for helping the former NSA contractor.

Immigration officials in the southern Chinese city denied the applications by the four adults and three children from Sri Lanka and the Philippines, Robert Tibbo said yesterday.

Snowden hid out in Hong Kong for two weeks in June 2013 after he leaked documents revealing extensive U.S. government surveillance.

His whereabouts were a mystery during that time and it was not until last year that the role Tibbo and his clients played in sheltering Snowden was revealed.

Tibbo said his clients will appeal the ruling, which

HONG KONG

Gov't rejects asylum for refugees who sheltered Snowden

leaves them at risk of being detained or deported to their home countries. They have also applied for refugee status in Canada.

He said he represents 50 to 60 other clients who are applying for asylum in Hong Kong, where cases typically take years to be processed. But so far only these cases have received a speedy decision from immigration officials — issued last Thursday — in a sign they have been targeted by authorities, Tibbo said.

The Hong Kong government "has repeatedly tried to question the four adults about their involvement with Mr. Snowden. For example, about how long had Mr. Snowden been staying with them, what was Mr. Snowden's mo-

vement in the territory, which is irrelevant to the [asylum] claims," he said.

Tibbo said that when they refused to answer the questions, their social assistance payments for rent and food were cut off.

The group includes Ajith Pushpakumara, a former Sri Lankan soldier; Vanessa Mae Rodel, who is from the Philippines and has a 5-year-old daughter; and a Sri Lankan couple, Supun Thilina Kellapatha and Nadeeka Dilrukshi Nonis, and their two children.

Tibbo decided to go public with their identities last year after learning that movie director Oliver Stone had found out about them and would incorporate their role into his film on Snowden, released in

October. The three families, who didn't realize they were harboring one of the world's most wanted figures at the time, said they feared being sent back.

"I'm an army deserter person," said Ajith, adding that if he returned to Sri Lanka, "I will be tortured again. I don't want to be tortured."

The Hong Kong government said in a statement that asylum claims are handled in a "fair, impartial and efficient manner," and that it found "no substantial grounds for believing that the claimants, if returned to their country of origin, will be subject to real and substantial risk of danger."

Rodel said she had no regrets helping Snowden,



Asylum seekers rejected by Hong Kong authorities

who gave her a hug when he left her tiny apartment four years ago.

"This guy is the most

wanted man in the world and he had a big hug with me," Rodel said. "I am very proud of that." AP

Joe McDonald & Matthew Brown, Beijing

BELT AND ROAD

Xi outlines plans for wide cooperation in trade plan

CHINESE President Xi Jinping expressed ambitious hopes yesterday for Asian and European governments to work closely on finance, law enforcement and a broad range of other issues under a Beijing-led trade initiative as leaders of 30 countries ended a meeting to promote the effort.

The "Belt and Road" project is China's biggest foreign initiative to date as Beijing looks for global stature to match its economic success. It calls for expanding trade across Asia, Africa and Europe by investing in ports, railways and other facilities, but governments including Russia, Washington and India are uneasy Beijing also is using it to gain political influence.

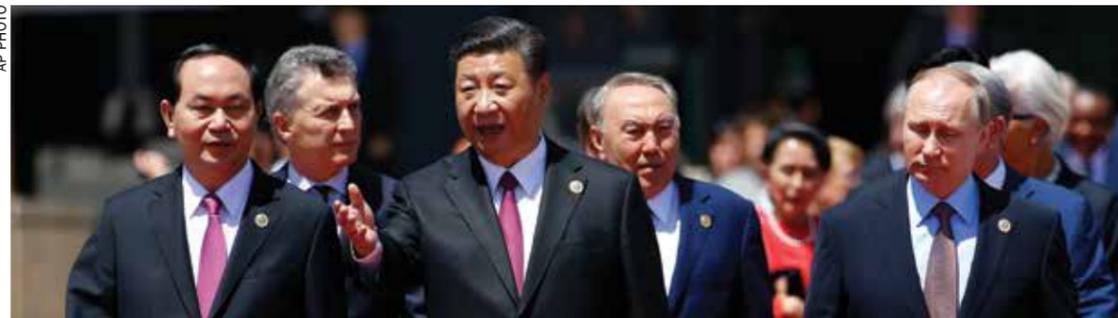
Xi said the project has "no political agenda." But he also expressed hope governments that participate will coordinate policy in areas from finance and law enforcement to technology and education.

"It is our hope that through the 'Belt and Road' development, we will unleash new forces for global economic growth," Xi said at a brief news conference at a conference center in the hills north of the Chinese capital.

The two-day meeting included Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and presidents or prime ministers from Italy, Hungary and Greece, as well as most of China's Asian neighbors, but no major Western leaders.

Britain, France and Germany were represented by finance or trade officials. The U.S. delegation was led by the Asia director of President Donald Trump's National Security Council.

Xi acknowledged the initiative is



Xi Jinping, (foreground center) walks with Vladimir Putin (foreground right) and other leaders as they arrive for a family photo session

in its early stages and faces daunting obstacles.

"One single feather does not make a bird fly high," he said.

The Chinese leader's declaration of plans to pursue cooperation in areas well beyond trade could increase potential obstacles.

Chinese officials insist the initiative is purely commercial, but foreign diplomats and political analysts also see an effort by the Communist Beijing government to promote its ambitions of rewriting global rules on trade and security and to reduce the U.S. presence in Asia.

Diplomats have expressed concern Beijing is promoting a vision of trading networks centered on "great powers" such as China, which would erode the rules-based system under the World Trade Organization in which all competitors are treated equally.

Trump's plan to focus on domestic issues and downplay foreign af-

fairs has given Beijing an opening to try to play a bigger leadership role in trade, climate and other global issues.

China is the biggest trading partner for all of its Asian neighbors and a growing investor. But other Asian governments are uneasy about Beijing's strategic ambitions, especially after it built artificial islands and military bases in the South China Sea to enforce its claim to most of the region.

Trump's decision to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a proposed regional trade pact, has left Asian governments that want to use ties with Washington to offset China's growing dominance off balance.

Xi said Beijing wants "Belt and Road" to improve cooperation in making industrial and financial policy, speed up development of infrastructure, make trade and investment flow more easily and improve interaction on education

and other "people-to-people ties."

Other governments welcome Chinese investment in a region that the Asian Development Bank says needs to spend USD7 trillion this decade on ports, railways and other trade-related facilities to keep economies growing. But governments have expressed concern Beijing might use "Belt and Road" to promote Chinese export-

ts by encouraging its neighbors to adopt China's industrial standards for railways and other goods.

Xi tried to mollify concern about a potential Chinese-dominated trade bloc by saying "Belt and Road" is meant to be an "open and inclusive platform for development."

Earlier yesterday, the Chinese leader appealed in a speech to the visiting foreign leaders to pursue "greater openness and cooperation" and to "reject protectionism."

China has promoted itself as a global champion of free trade in response to pressure in the United States and Europe for restrictions on imports, despite complaints by Beijing's trading partners that China is the most-closed major economy.

Also yesterday, the Philippine defense minister, who attended the Beijing meeting, said he signed a letter of intent with a Chinese military contractor to purchase weapons for Manila's army, navy and air force.

The minister, Delfin Lorenzana, said the Chinese government was offering a loan "at the tune of about \$500 million" to finance the purchases. Lorenzana said no decisions had been made about what arms might be bought or how much. AP

PUTIN SITS DOWN AT PIANO, PLAYS SOVIET SONGS

AFTER SPEAKING at Beijing's summit Sunday morning, Putin headed to meet President Xi Jinping at his residence. Putin is habitually late for meetings, but this time he was the one who was made to wait. So, Putin played some songs on Xi's piano. Russian state television showed excerpts of at least two tunes he played — "Moscow Windows" and "City on the Free Neva" — both Soviet classics.



Trade groups appeal to Beijing to postpone cybersecurity law

A coalition of 54 global business groups appealed to Chinese authorities yesterday to postpone enforcing a cybersecurity law they warned violates Beijing's free-trade pledges and might harm information security.

The appeal by groups from the United States, Japan, Britain and other countries adds to complaints Beijing is improperly limiting access to its markets for technology products, possibly to support its own fledgling suppliers.

In a letter to Chinese regulators and the ruling Communist Party's cybersecurity committee, the groups said the Cybersecurity Law due to take effect June 1 might violate Beijing's trade com-

mitments and make theft of information easier. It would limit use of foreign security technology and require data about Chinese citizens to be stored within the country.

Signers included the Business Software Alliance, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and trade groups for insurers, technology suppliers and manufacturers from Britain, Japan, Australia, Mexico and South Korea.

Many of them were among 46 groups that made a similar appeal in 2016 for changes in the cybersecurity law, which weren't made.

"We are deeply concerned that current and pending security-related rules will effectively erect trade



barriers," said the letter. "China's current course risks compromising its legitimate security objectives [and may even weaken security] while burdening industry and undermining

the foundation of China's relations with its commercial partners."

The groups appealed to Beijing to postpone enforcing the law until it can be made consistent with

Chinese market-opening commitments and World Trade Organization rules.

The complaint coincided with a trade forum in Beijing that began Sunday at which Chinese President Xi Jinping appealed to foreign leaders from two dozen countries in Asia, Africa and Europe to resist political pressure to limit trade.

Xi's government has promoted itself as a champion of free trade in response to calls in the United States and Europe to limit imports. Despite that, China's trading partners complain it is the most-closed major economy and business groups say Beijing is further reducing access to markets for technology and other products in which it is trying to develop its own suppliers.

Communist leaders say China needs the data controls to prevent terrorism and anti-government activity. But officials of Chinese

industry groups quoted in the state press have said previous restrictions on use of foreign security technology also were intended to shield the country's fledgling providers from competition.

Trade groups have previously said planned Chinese data storage rules do nothing to improve security and create market barriers for foreign providers.

They say the requirement for foreign e-commerce and other companies to store data about Chinese customers within the country would add to the cost and difficulty of doing business by requiring them to set up duplicate storage operations.

Restrictions on use of security technology in an earlier Chinese anti-terrorism law and rules for banks prompted a similar outcry from business groups that said they would prevent most use of foreign products. AP

NORTH KOREA

New long-range missile can carry heavy nuke

Foster Klug, Seoul

NORTH Korea said yesterday the missile it launched over the weekend was a new type of “medium long-range” ballistic rocket that can carry a heavy nuclear warhead. A jubilant leader Kim Jong Un promised more nuclear and missile tests and warned that North Korean weapons could strike the U.S. mainland and Pacific holdings.

North Korean propaganda must be considered with wariness — Pyongyang has threatened for decades to reduce Seoul to a “sea of fire,” for instance — but yesterday’s claim, if confirmed, would mark another big advance toward the North’s goal of fielding a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. Some experts, including officials in Tokyo, estimate that Sunday’s launch successfully tested a new type of missile in Pyongyang’s arsenal.

The test is also an immediate challenge to South Korea’s new leader, Moon Jae-in, a liberal elected last week who expressed a desire to reach out to North Korea. Pyongyang’s aggressive push to boost its weapons program also makes it one of the Trump administration’s most urgent foreign policy worries, though Washington has struggled to settle on a policy.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency called the missile a “new ground-to-ground medium long-range strategic ballistic rocket,” and said the “Hwasong-12” was “capable of carrying a large, heavy nuclear warhead.” Kim Jong Un witnessed the test and “hugged officials in the field of rocket research, saying that

they worked hard to achieve a great thing,” according to KCNA.

The rocket, “newly designed in a Korean-style,” flew 787 kilometers and reached a maximum altitude of 2,111.5 kilometers, the North said, and “verified the homing feature of the warhead under the worst re-entry situation and accurate performance of detonation system.”

South Korea’s Defense Ministry said more analysis is needed to verify the North’s claim on the rocket’s technological features. Spokesman Moon Sang Gyun said it’s still unlikely that North Korea has re-entry technology, which would return a warhead safely back into the atmosphere.

Japanese officials said the missile flew for half an hour and reached an unusually high altitude before landing in the Sea of Japan.

North Korea is not thought to be able yet to make a nuclear warhead small enough to mount on a long-range missile, though some outside analysts think they can arm shorter range missiles with warheads; each new nuclear and longer-range missile test is part of the North’s attempt to build a nuclear-tipped long-range missile.

Kim said the North would stage more nuclear and missile tests in order to perfect nuclear bombs needed to deal with U.S. “nuclear blackmail.”

The launch complicates the new South Korean president’s plan to talk to the North, and came as U.S., Japanese and European navies gather for joint war games in the Pacific.

Moon, South Korea’s first liberal leader in nearly a decade, said as he took his oath of office last



week that he’d be willing to visit the North if the circumstances were right.

The U.N. Security Council will hold closed consultations about the launch today, according to the U.N. Mission for Uruguay, which holds the council presidency this month.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said on ABC television that the United States has been working well with China, Pyongyang’s closest ally, and she raised the possibility of new sanctions against North Korea, including on oil imports.

The Security Council has adopted six increasingly tougher sanctions resolutions against North Korea.

President Donald Trump’s administration has called North Korean ballistic and nuclear efforts unacceptable, but it has swung between threats of mili-

tary action and offers to talk as it formulates a policy.

While Trump has said he’d be “honored” to talk with leader Kim Jong Un under favorable conditions, Haley seemed to rule out the possibility. “Having a missile test is not the way to sit down with the president, because he’s absolutely not going to do it,” she told ABC.

The launch came as troops from the U.S., Japan and two European nations gather near Guam for drills that are partly a message to North Korea. The USS Carl Vinson, an aircraft supercarrier, is also engaging with South Korean navy ships in waters off the Korean Peninsula, according to Seoul’s Defense Ministry. **AP**

AUSTRALIA SAYS CHINA RESPONSIBLE FOR N. KOREA

AUSTRALIA’S PRIME minister has called on China to use its leverage over North Korea to end the regime’s missile testing. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told reporters in Sydney yesterday that North Korea’s conduct was “reckless,” “provocative” and “unlawful.” Australia will work with the United States and other

countries to impose sanctions on Pyongyang. “The greatest responsibility for bringing North Korea to its senses [...] lies with China,” Turnbull says. “They have the overwhelming dominant economic relationship with North Korea and because they have the greatest leverage, they have the greatest responsibility,” he added.

HAWAII LAWSUIT

Another appeals court to weigh Trump’s revised travel ban

FOR the second time in a week, government lawyers will try to persuade a federal appeals court to reinstate President Donald Trump’s revised travel ban — and once again, they can expect plenty of questions about whether the ban was designed to discriminate against Muslims.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has scheduled arguments in Seattle over Hawaii’s lawsuit challenging the travel ban, which would suspend the nation’s refugee program and temporarily bar new visas for citizens of Iran,



Hawaii Attorney General Douglas Chin

Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Last week, judges on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals heard argumen-

ts over whether to affirm a Maryland judge’s decision putting the ban on ice. They peppered Acting Solicitor General Jeffrey

Wall with questions about whether they could consider Trump’s campaign statements calling for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S., with one judge asking if there was anything other than “willful blindness” that would prevent them from doing so.

The arguments mark the second time Trump’s efforts to restrict immigration from certain Muslim-majority nations have reached the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit.

After Trump issued his initial travel ban on a Friday in late January, bringing chaos and protests

to airports around the country, a Seattle judge blocked its enforcement nationwide — a decision that was unanimously upheld by a three-judge 9th Circuit panel.

The president then rewrote his executive order, rather than appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, and in March, U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson in Honolulu blocked the new version from taking effect, citing what he called “significant and un rebutted evidence of religious animus” in Trump’s campaign statements.

“Again, in this court, the

President claims a nearly limitless power to make immigration policy that is all but immune from judicial review,” Hawaii Attorney General Douglas Chin wrote to the 9th Circuit. “Again, he must be checked.”

The administration’s lawyers are seeking to persuade the judges that the lower court’s decision is “fundamentally wrong,” and that the president’s order falls squarely within his duty to secure the nation’s borders. The order as written is silent on religion, and neither Hawaii nor its co-plaintiff, the imam of the Muslim Association of Hawaii, has standing to sue, they say — arguments that were rejected in the lower court. **AP**

MALAYSIA

Authorities seize 330 exotic tortoises from Madagascar



MALAYSIAN authorities said yesterday that they have seized 330 exotic tortoises worth 1.2 million ringgit (USD276,721), in the latest heist of illegal wildlife and animal parts being smuggled into the country.

Deputy customs director Abdull Wahid Sulong said that 325 Indian Star tortoises and five Ploughshare tortoises were packed into five boxes and labeled as stones. He said the live tortoises, usually kept as pets, arrived via Etihad Airways from Antananarivo Airport in Madagascar on Sunday.

Customs officials found

the boxes at the Kuala Lumpur airport cargo warehouse on the same day based on a tip, Abdull Wahid said.

The import of exotic tortoises requires a special permit from Malaysia's Wildlife Department. No arrests were made and the case is still under investigation, Abdull Wahid said.

Two weeks ago, airport customs officials seized African pangolin scales worth \$2.1 million at the airport cargo warehouse. Last month, they confiscated 18 rhino horns worth \$3.1 million believed to have been flown in from Mozambique and declared as art objects. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Lawmakers kill impeachment against Duterte

PHILIPPINE lawmakers yesterday killed an impeachment complaint accusing President Rodrigo Duterte of crimes against humanity for the thousands of people who have died in his anti-drug crackdown.

The Justice Committee of the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Duterte allies, declared during the first hearing on the matter that while the complaint was sufficient in form, there was insufficient substance to proceed.

The decision to stop the impeachment complaint, which also accused Duterte of murder, corruption and

unexplained wealth, was expected. But the president's critics hope the procedure could bolster a lawsuit against him before the International Criminal Court for alleged extrajudicial killings by showing that domestic efforts to stop Duterte have failed.

The dismissal of the complaint, filed in March, bars any new impeachment case against Duterte until next March.

Since taking office in June, Duterte's war on drugs has killed 7,000-9,000 suspected drug dealers and addicts, according to human rights groups. The government refused

tes that, releasing data on May 2 showing nearly 4,600 people have been killed in police anti-drug operations and homicides found to be drug-related.

During the hearing, Rep. Rodolfo Farinas, the majority floor leader, questioned Rep. Gary Alejano on whether he had personal knowledge of allegations he made in his complaint, including the more than 8,000 people killed in the anti-drug war and the billions of pesos supposedly in Duterte's bank accounts.

Alejano said he had no personal knowledge as a witness, but that he had personal knowledge as a complainant based on official records, affidavits of witnesses and Duterte's public pronouncements. His appeals to be allowed to explain were rejected.

Opposition Rep. Edcel Lagman urged the committee to allow Alejano to be heard, saying to determine substance, there only needs to be a recital of facts on offenses charged and determination that they are under the committee's jurisdiction.

"While it is true that an impeachment proceeding is a political exercise, it is not a partisan enterprise," Lagman said.

After an executive session, several lawmakers pointed to Alejano's lack of personal knowledge about the alleged crimes, calling his allegations hearsay. Forty-two of 49 committee members then voted to declare the complaint sufficient in form but insufficient in substance. **AP**



Rep. Gary Alejano



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USA

Lawmakers urge president to avoid picking a partisan for FBI job

Hope Yen, Washington

AS President Donald Trump considers a replacement for fired FBI Director James Comey, lawmakers are urging the president to steer clear of appointing any politicians.

The advice came Sunday amid more criticism over Trump's dismissal of Comey during an FBI probe of Russia's meddling with last year's election and any ties to the Trump campaign. James Clapper, the former director of national intelligence, said the Founding Fathers created three co-equal branches of government with checks and balances, but with Trump as president, that was now "eroding."

"I think, in many ways, our institutions are under assault, both externally — and that's the big news here, is the Russian interference in our election system," Clapper said "I think as well our institutions are under assault internally."

When asked, "Internally, from the president?" Clapper responded, "Exactly."

The White House had no immediate comment. No White House aide appeared on the Sunday news shows, leaving Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, to defend Trump. "The president is the CEO of the country. He can hire and fire whoever he wants," she said.

Lawmakers from both parties reprimanded Trump for his actions, which included shifting explanations from the White House for Comey's dismissal and an ominous tweet by Trump that warned Comey against leaks to the press because Trump may have "tapes"



Former National Intelligence Director James Clapper

of their conversations.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, a member of the Judiciary Committee, said selecting an FBI agent to lead the agency would allow the nation to "reset." He dismissed as less desirable at least two of the 14 candidates under consideration, ex-FBI agent and former Rep. Mike Rogers of Michigan and Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate.

"It's now time to pick somebody who comes from within the ranks, or has such a reputation that has no political background at all that can go into the job on Day 1," said Graham, R-S.C.

"The president has a chance to clean up the mess he mostly created," Graham said, adding: "I have no evidence that the president colluded with the Russians at all [...] but we don't know all the evidence yet."

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, continued to argue that the president should consider Merrick Garland, the federal judge nominated to the Supreme Court last year by President Barack Obama but who was denied a hearing by Republicans. A former top aide to Sen. Mitch McConnell, Josh Holmes, said that McConnell is interested in the suggestion.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck

Schumer of New York said the new FBI director should be someone "not of partisan background" with "great experience" and "courage." Declining to comment on a Garland nomination, Schumer left open the possibility that Democrats might withdraw support for a new FBI director unless the Justice Department names a special prosecutor for the Russia probe.

Under Senate rules, Republicans could confirm an FBI director with 51 votes. Republicans hold 52 seats in the chamber to Democrats' 48.

Calling Trump's remarks about possible taped conversations "outrageous," Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the

Senate Intelligence Committee, said his panel or another committee would "absolutely" subpoena such tapes.

"We have got to make sure that these tapes, if they exist, don't mysteriously disappear," Warner said, adding that he hopes to have Comey testify in a public hearing before his committee.

The blowback against the firing of Comey angered the increasingly frustrated president, who made the decision after consulting only a small group of advisers, worried the news would leak out. Trump has openly vented his frustration with the media and Democrats on Twitter, musing about canceling press briefings and arguing that it's difficult for aides to know his thinking.

Lawmakers from both parties reprimanded Trump for his actions

The administration has interviewed at least eight candidates to replace Comey, just over half of the 14 being considered. Trump has said a decision could come before he leaves Friday for the Middle East and Europe, his first overseas trip as president. He was also set to welcome foreign leaders to the White House, with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan tomorrow [Macau time] and President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia on Friday. A leader of the United Arab Emirates is scheduled to visit today.

Clapper and Schumer made their comments on CNN's "State of the Union"; Graham spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press"; Haley and Warner appeared on ABC's "This Week"; and Warner spoke on "Fox News Sunday" along with Lee and Holmes. AP

Famine 'not fake news': WFP head laments media's Trump focus

THE former South Carolina governor who now heads the U.N.'s World Food Program says the media's focus on President Donald Trump is taking away attention from the risk of famine in Africa and the Middle East.

"This is not fake news, this is reality," said WFP Director-General David Beasley.

Beasley, a Republican whose March appointment was supported by



the Trump administration, spoke to reporters yesterday after his organization and the U.N. refugee agency updated an appeal for USD1.4 billion

to help refugees fleeing South Sudan.

Beasley cited a need to "rise above all the confusion," particularly in "high-donor states" like the U.S.

"I mean literally if you turn on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, CNN — it's nothing but Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump, Trump!" he said, referring to U.S. TV networks. "And very little information about the famines in Syria, northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen."

"We've got to break through all of the smoke," he said. "This is not fake news, this is reality."

The U.N. says roughly

20 million people in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen are facing possible famine. Refugee agency UNHCR says South Sudan has become the source of "the world's fastest growing refugee crisis," with some 1.8 million people — including 1 million children — seeking safety in six neighboring countries. Nearly 900,000 are in Uganda alone.

"So we're making an appeal today for the donors to step up to the game even more," Beasley said, warning about access difficulties likely in the upcoming rainy season in South Sudan, amid already-difficult access caused by violence in the

world's newest country.

He said that before agreeing to take the job, he had canvassed Congressional leaders to gauge their commitment to WFP, and found it "tremendous." But he also alluded to speculation about future U.S. funding. The Trump administration has proposed cuts for U.N. programs as part of its plan to reduce the State Department's budget by roughly one-third.

Beasley said the U.S. government's supplemental appropriations bill last week "stepped up with \$990 million in famine relief," he said, acknowledging that 2018 funding "is going to be a dogfight." AP

FRANCE

Macron wastes no time: names PM, sees Merkel

Sylvie Corbet, Paris

ON his first full day in office, French President Emmanuel Macron moved quickly yesterday on fronts both foreign and domestic, naming 46-year-old lawmaker Edouard Philippe as his new prime minister before flying off to Berlin for talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Appointing Philippe to the top job in his government ticked several boxes for 39-year-old Macron, France's youngest president, who took power on Sunday.

Philippe's age reinforced the generational shift in France's corridors of power and the image of youthful vigor that Macron is cultivating. Philippe is also relatively unknown to voters, fulfilling Macron's campaign promises to repopulate French politics with new faces.

Philippe is the mayor of the Normandy port of Le Havre, a

trained lawyer and an author of political thrillers. He's also a member of the mainstream-right Republicans party that was badly battered by Macron's victory in the presidential campaign.

As such, Philippe could possibly attract other Republicans to Macron's cause, as the centrist president works to piece together a majority in parliament to pass his promised economic reforms.

Shortly after Philippe's

PM Edouard Philippe, 46, could possibly attract other [mainstream-right] Republicans to Macron's cause

appointment, Macron was scheduled to travel to Berlin on his first foreign trip as French leader. The visit signaled his intentions to move rapidly on campaign promises to revive support for the beleaguered European Union by reforming and strengthening it.

"We will need a more efficient Europe, a more democratic Europe, a more political Europe, because it's the instrument of our power and our sovereignty. I will work on that," Macron said Sunday, his inauguration day.

Germany is looking to Macron to revitalize France as an economic power and political heavyweight in the EU, which is facing complex divorce proceedings with its current No. 2 economy, Britain.

When Britain leaves the bloc in 2019, France will be the EU's only member with nuclear weapons and a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.



AP PHOTO

As a candidate, Macron called for a "new Franco-German deal" that would involve "much more structured cooperation" on investment, on European border security, and on defense.

Macron is the conservative Merkel's fourth French president in nearly 12 years as chancellor. She built a solid relationship with Macron's predecessor, Socialist Francois Hollande, despite their political differences — notably with

their joint effort to secure an accord to calm the fighting in eastern Ukraine in tense talks in Minsk, Belarus in 2015.

Germany is keen to continue the Franco-German diplomatic drive to keep a lid on the situation in Ukraine, where Russia-backed separatists are battling the government.

Merkel has praised Macron's embrace of European unity but has offered few concrete details about the way forward for German-French relations. AP

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Wednesday, 24/05/2017

France's Presidential Election: Prospects for Europe & China

Speaker: **Mr Eric Sautedé**, French Political Scientist

FMBA Breakfast Meeting

Introduction: French political scientist, **Eric Sautedé**, will review the consequences of the French Presidential election for Europe & China based on candidates "promises during the campaign".

Date: Wednesday, 24th May 2017

Time: 9:00-10:30 am (Reception: 8:45am)

Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16 Promenade Meeting Room (6th floor)

RSVP before 2 pm on 22nd May 2017
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what's ON



MACAO ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: June 4, 2017
ADDRESS: No. 47, Rua de S. Roque
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

EXHIBITION OF CHAN IU PUI
TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
UNTIL: July 8, 2017
VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

LEATHER CARVING
TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
UNTIL: June 18, 2017
VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

MACAO 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: (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

A BONSAI OF MY DREAM — ON THE PATH TO THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: December 12, 2017
VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

LOOKING FOR TREATS, BLACK BEAR GETS STUCK IN CAR, HONKS HORN

The young black bear was probably looking for treats when he climbed inside a car in Virginia, but it managed to honk the horn.

Roanoke police say the 200-pound animal got stuck and blew the horn, rousing the car's owners about 5 a.m. last Thursday.

An officer was able to open the car's back door, and the bear ran into the woods.

Police say snacks were inside the car and reminded people to keep their cars locked.

The incident comes shortly after a bear caused a spectacle in downtown Roanoke.

Lee Walker of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries tells The Roanoke Times (bit.ly/2pG0r40) residents shouldn't be alarmed about the multiple bear sightings. He says bears are more afraid of people than the other way around.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
15:20	Nos League: Feirense - Sporting (Repeated)
17:00	Revenge S2
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
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

11 - 17 MAY

ALIEN: COVENANT

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min



KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Guy Ritchie

Starring: Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law, Berges-Frisbey

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 126min

29 + 1

ROOM 3

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

Director: Kearen Pang

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Joyce Cheng, Ben Yeung

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min



GIFTED

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Marc Webb

Starring: Chris Evans, Octavia Spencer, Mckenna Grace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 101min

MACAU TOWER

11 MAY - 29 MAY



ALIEN: COVENANT

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

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min

this day in history



1943 GERMANS CRUSH JEWISH UPRISING

All resistance in the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw has ended after 28 days of fighting.

In his operational report, the local SS commander, Brigadier Juergen Stroop, said the uprising began on 19 April when SS, police and Wehrmacht units using tanks and other armoured vehicles entered the ghetto to take Jews to the railway station for transportation to concentration camps.

They were repelled by Jews using homemade explosives, rifles, small arms and "in one case a light machine-gun".

He said his troops were involved in pitched battles day and night with groups of about 20 or 30 Jews - both men and women. "On April 23 Himmler issued his order to complete the coming out of the Warsaw ghetto with the greatest severity and relentless tenacity. I therefore decided to destroy the entire Jewish residential area by setting every block on fire."

The last battle ended with the destruction of the Great Synagogue today.

Jewish leaders had sent their own reports of the situation during the fighting.

On 28 April the Central Committee of Jewish Labour and the Jewish National Committee in Poland sent a desperate message to the National Council of Poland in London.

It said the SS and German Army have laid siege to the ghetto, attacking the 40,000 remaining Jews with artillery, flame-throwers, high explosive and incendiary bombs.

They have also planted mines in buildings known to harbouring Jewish fighters, while German guards block large drain pipes that have served as escape routes.

"The ghetto is burning," read the message, "and smoke covers the whole city of Warsaw.

"Men, women and children who are not burnt alive are murdered en masse." It said the Jews managed to kill or wound about 1,000 of the enemy and burned down factories and warehouses.

There was an appeal for an immediate response from the Allies. "It is imperative that the powerful retaliation of the United Nations shall fall upon the bloodthirsty enemy immediately and not in some distant future, in a way which will make it quite clear what the retaliation is for."

A second message sent on 11 May said the resistance was nearly over.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Nazis created the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw in 1940 and about 500,000 people were crammed into an area not bigger than one square mile (2-6 sq km).

Its inhabitants were systematically transported to Treblinka and those who fought in the legendary Jewish uprising would rather have died with dignity than be taken to the death camps.

About 50 of the 1,000 fighters escaped through the sewers and some fought in the second Warsaw uprising by the Polish Home Army in August 1944.

About 40,000 Jews were massacred in reprisal for the uprising. When Soviet troops liberated Warsaw on 17 January 1945 only about 200 Jews remained and the old city had been virtually destroyed.

Stroop's copy of the operational report entitled "The Jewish quarter in Warsaw no longer exists" came to light during the Nuremberg war crimes trial in 1945.

Stroop himself was sentenced to death by a US military tribunal and sent to Poland to be executed in 1951.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
A completed project is always more satisfying than something started and left unfinished. Besides, if you take the time to look down, you'll realize you already have too much on your plate as it is.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
If you couldn't drag yourself out of bed this morning, at least try to finish up those outstanding tasks early enough to enjoy the rest of the day. As afternoon draws near, you are more than ready to be a spectator.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You are able to watch in amazement as your shining mood reflects the light of others. At some point during the day, mutual excitement increases the likelihood of romance.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Everyone deserves equal rights, but a certain someone is looking to tip the scales in their favor. As much as you'd like to spotlight the common ground, others seem more focused on the differences.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Self-confidence is the name of the game, and you're the star player. Keep in mind, confident people are unflappable. If you don't want to share something, just take it off the table.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You can't help but take it personally when someone else has a stroke of luck at your expense. Don't worry - there is enough to go around. You will get your chance, but in the meantime you have to be patient.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Opt for a more subtle approach to your issues today. Going overboard could get you into all kinds of hot water. Today's momentum is making it seem all the more urgent to get the show on the road.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Whatever happens, know that the consequences of all actions are not immediately apparent. Throughout the day, be wary of a false sense of security. Are you sure you're in the right?

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
As much as you may want to spend the day on your own, others expect you to volunteer. If you can change your mood around, you just might go the extra mile for someone who really needs your help.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You can hardly believe you raised your hand and got the answer ... wrong! You have to accept the idea that you don't know everything. It wouldn't hurt you to do some more studying next time.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
This is definitely a time for intellectual stimulation. You just can't get enough information into your system today. You are the perfect student, eager to examine the alternatives and weigh every aspect of a question.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Quit being a victim and stand up for yourself if the situation warrants it. You may be confusing your problems with an unrelated external situation. Try not to put too much of a personal face on random events.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	15	32	cloudy
Harbin	10	26	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	19	32	clear
Urumqi	22	34	clear
Xi'an	14	30	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	7	20	overcast/shower
Chengdu	16	31	overcast/clear
Chongqing	19	30	cloudy
Kunming	13	19	shower
Nanjing	15	24	overcast/cloudy
Shanghai	18	22	overcast/shower
Wuhan	15	28	cloudy
Hangzhou	18	23	shower
Taipei	21	26	rainstorm
Guangzhou	23	29	heavy rain/cloudy
Hong Kong	22	27	heavy rain/drizzle
WORLD			
Moscow	4	12	cloudy/moderate rain
Frankfurt	8	21	cloudy
Paris	13	21	drizzle/clear
London	12	16	drizzle
New York	11	18	drizzle/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Flat sound; 5- School orgs.; 9- San Antonio landmark; 14- Coup d'...; 15- Overhaul; 16- Exposed; 17- Form of Aramaic; 19- Inflexible; 20- Semihard light yellow cheese; 21- Holy moly!; 23- Switch positions; 24- Must; 26- Cat's nail; 28- Alabama city; 30- In ___ (sort of); 34- West of Brooklyn; 37- Self-righteous; 39- Jai ___; 41- Actor Holm; 42- Radiation measures; 43- Rank of a cardinal; 48- U-turn from NNW; 49- Treasure State capital; 50- Low-budget prefix; 52- Dog star; 54- Swaps; 57- Sound booster; 60- Cancun coin; 62- Shorthand pros; 64- Cool!; 66- Of old; 68- Ready to hit; 69- Roman emperor; 70- Penn name; 71- Flies high; 72- Z ___ zebra; 73- Sea birds;

DOWN: 1- E-mailed; 2- Stigma; 3- Fine fur; 4- Equilibria; 5- Chatter; 6- Peg used on the first in golf; 7- An apple ___; 8- ___ boom; 9- Side by side; 10- Chou En-___; 11- Jason's ship; 12- Chow ___; 13- Bookie's concern; 18- They get high twice a day; 22- Scheme; 25- vincit amor; 27- Small dam; 29- Start of a Dickens title; 31- Refusals; 32- Adds; 33- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 34- Speed ratio; 35- Caesar's wings; 36- Countess's husband; 38- Make into law; 40- Creative thought; 44- Here and there; 45- ___ Dogg; 46- The act of twisting; 47- Related on the mother's side; 51- Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace; 53- Yoga posture; 55- Go into; 56- Gannet; 57- Collections of anecdotes; 58- Take ___ your leader; 59- Sunscreen ingredient; 61- Wallet fillers; 63- Dict. entries; 65- Cigarette ingredient; 67- Dernier ___;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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EPL

Silva's reputation soars despite Hull's relegation

Steve Douglas

IT'S not often that a manager improves his reputation in a season where his team is relegated. Marco Silva did just that — and he can expect to have plenty of suitors in the next few months.

The 39-year-old Portuguese coach was hired by Hull in January with the cash-strapped and up-for-sale club in last place in the Premier League. Staying up, he said, would be a "miracle," and it proved to be beyond him, with Hull's fate sealed with one game still to play following a 4-0 loss at Crystal Palace on Sunday.

That only tells half the story. Taking into account only Premier League points accrued since the day Silva was hired, Hull would be in mid-table and punching well above its weight. He was unbeaten at home in nine games until a morale-sapping 2-0 loss to last-place Sunderland last week, and his team played with an organization

and cohesiveness not shown in the first half of the season.

"After the new manager arrived," Hull goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic wrote in an open letter on Instagram late Sunday, "the players began to believe again."

It wasn't enough, though. Hull, as a team and a club, was in too much of a mess for one man to repair in four months.

Off the field, fans were disgruntled because of ticket prices and a lack of offseason investment in the playing squad by the club's owners — the Allam family — who didn't want to spend any cash while they attempted to sell up.

Within weeks of his arrival, Silva saw key midfielders Robert Snodgrass and Jake Livermore sold from under his feet to further deplete a squad already short on quantity and quality. With little money to spend, Silva could only strengthen what would soon be an eclectic squad by bringing in players on loan and rejects from bigger clubs.

Injuries also quickly piled up, with first-choice midfielder Ryan Mason fracturing his skull against Chelsea in late January, for example.

The fact that Silva managed to keep alive Hull's survival hopes until a week before the end of the season is a tribute to his work. "We started to lose in preseason," Silva said after the Palace game, "when we were making our preparation."

Silva, of course, wasn't there at that time. Steve Bruce was, and he quit three weeks before the season because of a lack of support from the board following the team's promotion from the second-tier League Championship. Hull could barely fill its bench for its opening league game in mid-August, which they actually won at home against defending champion Leicester.

Silva said he will sit down with Hull chairman Assem Allam before the last game of the season, at home against Tottenham on Sunday, and discuss where to



Marco Silva

go from here. It seems unlikely that Silva will be at the KCOM Stadium next season.

"I have enjoyed these four months in the Premier League," he said. "That was one target I had in my career, and we tried to do our best. Now it's time to be calm and see what is best, first for the future of the club, and also for my career as well."

Southampton and Watford are reportedly interested in Silva. West Ham could also be if it decides to release manager Slaven Bilic. Away from the Premier League, Inter Milan has a vacancy and has also been

linked with Silva.

Silva — nicknamed "Mini-Mourinho" by some after his illustrious coaching compatriot — appears destined for big things, though. He had previous success at Estoril, a Portuguese team he transformed from a second-tier club on the brink of financial ruin to a Europa League qualifier in two seasons, won a cup in his one season at Sporting Lisbon, then led Olympiakos to the Greek title with six games to spare.

Relegation can be a stain on a coach's resume. But in Silva's case, maybe not. AP

AD



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FORMULA ONE

Vettel still confident despite Hamilton's win at Spanish GP

SEBASTIAN Vettel lost the battle, not the Formula One title. Despite a great start in individual duels with Mercedes, Ferrari's top driver finished Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix exactly where he started: in second place behind Lewis Hamilton.

Vettel can take heart, however, from the fact that the difference between the winner and runner-up came down to a choice of team strategy that went Mercedes' way. Hamilton finished the race on a faster set of tires than Vettel, passing the German on Lap 43 of 66 and conserving his tires as he sped away to victory.

"I think we can be very happy, but today we're not entirely happy because the win was there," Vettel said. "The car was quick enough but the way the race happened, it wasn't meant to be. The most important thing is that we were there. Once again fighting, hanging in there, not much missing at the end."

Vettel remained in the series lead, now reduced to six points from 13 over Hamilton, with his third second-place finish to go with two wins in five races.

Equally as important, Ferrari showed that the upgrades brought by both title contenders to Spain canceled one another out.

Vettel's Ferrari was a mere 0.051 seconds slower than Hamilton in Saturday's qualifying. He finished the race less than four seconds behind Hamilton, and Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo was nowhere close finishing a distant third.

Vettel also won three of the four jousts he had with Hamilton and teammate Valtteri Bottas on the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.

His excellent jump from the start allowed him to pass Hamilton at the first turn.

Next, Vettel engaged Bottas in an exhilarating lap-long chase before finally getting past the Finn on the third try, even though the effort slowed down Vettel and let Hamilton shave off valuable seconds from behind.

"I was really happy, but then I looked down and [saw] I'd lost

AP PHOTO



Sebastian Vettel (right) leads Lewis Hamilton through a corner during the Spanish F1 Grand Prix

an awful lot of time, so I wasn't that happy because the real fight was with Lewis," Vettel said. "We lost four seconds."

Those seconds meant that when Vettel emerged from a second pit stop he was neck-and-neck with a hard-charging Hamilton. But Vettel defended his inside position on a curve, sending Hamilton off as they came close to touching.

Vettel had kept his lead, but

Hamilton waited for a straightaway to blow past him on his faster tires and never looked back.

Vettel said the race was there for the taking. "The car is good, the team is in great form," he said. "We're very happy when we have the chance to race Mercedes. They have been proving over and over in the last few years that they are the team to beat. We are giving them, so far,

a good run for their money."

Vettel's and Hamilton's teammates both abandoned the race. Bottas bumped Kimi Raikkonen on the first turn, sending his Ferrari into Max Verstappen's Red Bull, damaging both cars' front suspension. Bottas was later forced to stop his Mercedes when it started spouting smoke midway through the race.

Raikkonen used the extra time

to do a good deed, as "the Ice-man" showed some warmth to a despondent young fan. While the race went on without him, Raikkonen met with a young boy decked out in Ferrari's red which televised images had caught crying after he had crashed.

Ferrari team principal Maurizio Arrivabene said the knock by Bottas that cost Raikkonen an early exit was just part of F1.

“The car was quick enough but the way the race happened, it wasn't meant to be.

SEBASTIAN VETTEL

"Shame for the end result, but we leave Spain knowing that we can count on a car that is solid and very quick," Arrivabene said. "The championship is still a long way and we are already focusing on the next race at Monaco."

After spending three years battling retired teammate Nico Rosberg for the title, Hamilton said he was enjoying taking the fight outside Mercedes' garage.

"To have that close battle with him, with a four-time champ, is awesome," Hamilton, himself a three-time champion, said about Vettel. "I think it was the rawest fight I can remember having for some real time, which I loved. This is why I race and this is what got me into racing in the beginning."

Hamilton will get another chance to tangle with Vettel in two weeks at the Monaco GP. **AP**

Pyeongchang urges NHL to reconsider its position on Olympics

THE president of the Pyeongchang Olympic organizing committee is still hoping for an NHL U-turn.

"I don't think they made the final decision so far," committee president Lee Hee-beom said yesterday at a news conference.

"[There is] still room to discuss and negotiate."

Last month, the NHL announced that it will not stop its season to allow players to compete at the Feb. 9-25 Olympics for the first time in 20 years. And Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly reiterated the NHL's

stance last week, despite International Ice Hockey Federation President Rene Fasel saying that his organization was still hopeful of working out a solution to bring the sport's biggest stars to Pyeongchang.

Lee met with Fasel in Paris yesterday morning

to discuss the issue. Paris is co-hosting the hockey world championship with the German city of Cologne, with the quarterfinals later this week.

"I had a very useful breakfast meeting with Rene Fasel this morning and I also met many ice

hockey leaders in Europe," Lee said. "We totally agreed between IIHF and Pyeongchang organizing committee that we are in the same boat. We will cooperate with the IIHF to further develop the Olympic [hockey] venues."

He said he hopes further negotiation with the NHL will prove fruitful.

"I'm ready to meet with their [the NHL] delegations wherever it is they say to do so," Lee said. "Very recently I met their delegation in Pyeong-

chang, not only the athletes' side, but also the labor union side. Not only in Pyeongchang, but also in New York. Nothing is concluded until the final conclusion is made."

IOC President Thomas Bach is also lending his support.

"I have discussed with him over the phone last week. We are widely open to discuss this matter," Lee said. "We are discussing not only with IIHF but also with the IOC in many channels." **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



HOLIDAY HANDOUT

Each year, the rich Macau government distributes money to its local residents: MOP4,500 to non-permanent residents and MOP9,000 to permanent residents.

Within the area of Macau's territory, there are workers making MOP9,000 per month after working for 22 days. Sometimes less, when holidays grant them a short break.

Instead of handing out money, how would it look if holidays were handed out? For example, a permanent resident getting MOP9,000 is receiving more than the city's minimum wage. Suppose now that you make MOP9,000 per month. What would you choose if the government decided to offer you one out of the two following options: MOP9,000 in cash, which is the price of your labor work for one month, or one month off under the condition that you still earn your salary for this month? If this concept sounds somewhat difficult to understand, then consider the 30 days of holiday scattered all over one year. Simply put: 30 extra days of holidays. Imagine these 30 days distributed equally over each month: you get approximately two and a half days off more in one month, but you still get paid the same as you are getting paid now.

Put another way: 30 days equals 720 hours per year, which in turn correspond to 60 hours per month, which is roughly equal to at least two hours per work day. So, instead of getting MOP9,000 from the government, would you prefer working for six hours per day earning the same as you get paid now?

However, neither the Macau government nor any other party out there would ever offer an alternative to the cash handout. Having people choosing between two options would only create a mess for management.

This notwithstanding, a government or a system acting as followers, as opposed to leaders, would never come up with such an unprecedented policy.

I do not mean to say that people in other countries are working more and harder, or that those who work for other companies or industries are working more and harder. People do not want to stop themselves from being better off just because other people are doing worse than them.

And this is when I realize that the MOP9,000 seems to be too small a handout for Macau's local labor force. Obviously, we all know that it is a safe sum for the government to offer.

My aforementioned holiday handout utopia makes me think of another strange phenomenon in Macau, which is the additional days of public holidays granted to civil servants.

Don't get me wrong; I don't say this because I find it bizarre that there are many days off. I say it because I wonder about the reasons that allow civil servants to enjoy more holidays than all other hard working locals.

Anyway, let's go back to the very beginning of this article, and make a choice.

Would you like the government to hand out holidays, or would you still go for the cash?

THE BUZZ BEYONCE, BRUNO MARS LEAD BET AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Beyonce dominated last year's BET Awards with "Lemonade," but there's more juice in her cup.

The pop star is nominated for seven awards at the 2017 BET Awards, the network told The Associated Press yesterday. The show will take place June 25 at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Bruno Mars follows Beyonce with five nominations.

Beyonce is nominated for the top prize with "Sorry." Her competition includes her sister Solange ("Cranes In the Sky"); Mars' playful "24K Magic"; Migos' No. 1 hit "Bad and Boujee"; and Big Sean's anthemic "Bounce Back."

Beyonce and Solange — who has four nominations — will go head-to-head for best female R&B/pop artist, along with Rihanna, Mary J. Blige and Kehlani.

BEAUTIFUL MIND

Gov't scientist from DC wins Miss USA title

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

KARA McCullough, a scientist working for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has been crowned Miss USA.

McCullough, who represented the District of Columbia in the decades-old pageant, was born in Naples, Italy, and raised in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She said she wants to inspire children to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"I love science," McCullough said after the Sunday event. "I look at this as a great opportunity to [...] get to experience worldwide culture, as well as just having the opportunity to be impacted by so many children, hopefully in the math and sciences."

McCullough bested 50 other contestants and will represent the U.S. at the Miss Universe contest.

This was the second year in a row that the representative of the nation's capital won the Miss USA title. Last year, District of Columbia resident Deshauna Barber became the first-ever military member to win Miss USA.

This year's top five finalists were asked questions that touched on the pros and cons of social media, women's rights and issues affecting teenagers. McCullough was asked whether she thinks that affordable health care for all U.S. citizens is a right or a privilege. She said it is a privilege.



"As a government employee, I'm granted health care and I see firsthand that for one to have health care, you need to have jobs."

McCullough said she will be discussing with her supervisor whether she will take a leave of absence from her job at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during her one-year reign.

Miss New Jersey Chhavi Verg, who studies marketing and Spanish at Rutgers University, was the runner-up at the event held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center on the Las Vegas Strip.

Verg was one of five women who participated in the pageant who told The Associated Press they immigrated to the U.S. with their families at a young age. Verg and the women representing Florida, North Dakota, Hawaii and Connecticut described the challenges and opportunities they faced as immigrants.

Verg told The AP that she and her parents immigrated from India to the U.S. with only USD500 in their pockets when she was 4 years

old. Her first winter she did not have a winter coat and the family struggled to adjust.

"I want to show Americans that the definition of what it means to be American is changing," the 20-year-old said. "It's not just one face. There are many different people who are Americans, and I feel like Asian-Americans often times are left out of the conversation."

The contestants' remarks contrast with the controversy that surrounded the pageant in 2015, when then-part owner and now U.S. President Donald Trump offended Hispanics when he made anti-immigrant remarks in announcing his bid for the White House.

Trump co-owned The Miss Universe Organization with NBCUniversal, but the network and the Spanish-language broadcaster Univision quickly cut ties with him, refusing to air the show. Trump sued both networks, eventually settling and selling the pageant to talent management company WME/IMG. AP



Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-35 Good	
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	
Ambient	20-40 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA A Syrian official says that a northeastern neighborhood of the capital Damascus is now completely under government control after carrying out the second and last phase of a truce agreement in the area. Hundreds of rebels and their families have headed toward rebel-held areas, bringing all parts of the capital under the control of President Bashar Assad's forces for the first time since 2012.

IVORY COAST Mutinous soldiers in Ivory Coast have killed one person and injured several others after using gunfire to disperse a march Sunday against their mutiny in Bouake, residents said.

ALBANIA Authorities say they have blocked 26 metric tons of poultry imported from Brazil because it was found to contain high levels of salmonella. A statement yesterday from the Food National Authority said the poultry had arrived at the Durres port some days ago.



FRANCE On his first full day in office, French President Emmanuel Macron moved quickly yesterday, naming 46-year-old lawmaker Edouard Philippe as his new prime minister before flying off to Berlin for talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel. More on p15

MEXICO A secret tunnel has been discovered in a Mexican prison, alongside drugs, alcohol and sharp tools that were stored there, say local authorities in Tamaulipas state. Authorities added that the tunnel was unfinished and nobody had yet escaped.