



IRREGULAR RECRUITMENT DEBATED

P2 AL PLENARY



SCIENTIST BORN IN MACAU WINS FAMELAB

Olga Sin, born and raised in Macau, recently won one of the largest competitions for scientific communication worldwide

P7 MDT REPORT



CHINESE SPENT BILLIONS ON 'GOLDEN VISAS'

100,000 Chinese have poured at least USD24 billion in the last decade into "golden visa" programs across the world

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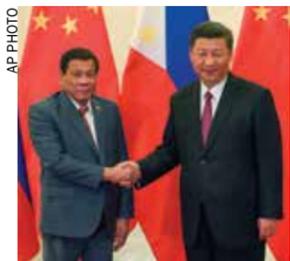
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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-PHILIPPINES
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping resolved to strengthen their countries' friendship during their meeting in Beijing, with China pledging to speed up infrastructure projects it is funding in the Philippines. Duterte said he didn't raise last year's South China Sea arbitration ruling while in Beijing. More on p11

THAILAND backed off a threat to block Facebook yesterday, instead providing the social media site with court orders to remove content that the government deems illegal. Thailand made the threat last week as it wanted Facebook to block more than 130 posts it considers a threat to national security or in violation of the country's lese majeste law. More on p13



NEW ZEALAND
Researchers who traveled to a tiny uninhabited island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean were astonished to find an estimated 38 million pieces of trash washed up on the beaches. The density of trash was the highest recorded anywhere in the world, despite Henderson Island's extreme remoteness.

More on backpage

Trump defends sharing intelligence with Russia

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GLOBAL GAMING EXPO

Japan offers opportunities, challenges for integrated resorts

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Sonia Chan (center, back row)

AL PLENARY

Chan says problematic recruitment being addressed

Julie Zhu

THE Legislative Assembly debated the recruitment issues related to public departments yesterday. The matter concerns workers recruited by the government through irregular contracts, such as the controversial recruitment system that has been in use for the past few years by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), lead the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture to initiate disciplinary procedures against the former IC president, Ung Vai Meng, along with the two IC vice presidents during Ung's tenure.

The debate was proposed by lawmaker Leong Veng Chai, who in his opening remarks noted that these specific irregular contracts indicated the affected employees were not temporary, since the work performed by civil servants was regulated in the same way as that of standard contract workers.

In addition, these outsourced employees could obtain salaries corresponding to civil servants' wages or even higher.

Leong declared that the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, must supervise public services especially related to this area.

Sonia Chan began by stating that there are still around 10 people who were hired through irregular contract arrangements working in government departments. She added that those people do not include the ones working for the IC. According to Sonia Chan, the government is trying to solve the problems surrounding these workers.

Some of them will not see their contracts renewed after their employment contracts come to an end; some will be dealt with through normal recruitment methods.

Some people were employed by the government through task contracts, lawmaker Leong Veng Chai mentioned.

According to Sonia Chan, currently task contracts do not exist in government departments following a Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) report that triggered the IC case.

The secretary noted that problematic recruitment was not a consequence of the recruitment policy of the city's public departments, deeming that the recruitment system itself is not a mistake.

Sonia Chan believes that the key lies in how the government uses the system.

Further, she believes that, after CCAC's persuasion, the involved government departments should gain enough insight on how to use the system properly.

All lawmakers who voiced their opinion agreed that some departments have problematic recruitment procedures

Despite this, all lawmakers who voiced their opinion during the AL plenary meeting yesterday agreed that some government departments have problematic recruitment procedures. Lawmaker Melinda Chan commented that firing the people hired through contracts would be unfair to them.

The secretary responded by saying that putting an end to the employment contracts will lead to some of the people involved becoming unemployed.

However, she informed that these workers knew in the first place that the government departments were signing temporary contracts with them, whereby there is no unfairness.

In addition, Sonia Chan refuted claims made by lawmaker Leong Veng Chai, who said that the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) holds many employees hired through problematic contracts.

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun told Sonia Chan "it does not seem that you are debating with us. You have the responsibility to supervise." He explained that Chan's department has the responsibility to supervise departments with the aim of simplifying their administration procedures and reducing the number of workers.

Mak pointed out that the departments under Sonia Chan's responsibility should have a system in place to supervise themselves in order to help her departments form a simpler administration.

Sonia Chan told Mak that her departments have indeed been reviewing and supervising themselves.

Lawmaker Leong Veng Chai then seized a chance to reply to her. Leong informed that a few civil servants from the DSAJ had reported that their bureau was employing many workers hired through irregular contracts.

"It is a little bit funny that you ask me to provide evidence," Leong said, adding that the lawmakers also reported the issues to the government but the government did not care.

"You paid attention when the CCAC brought out a report. I hope that you could comprehend when lawmakers give opinions," Leong argued.

Secretary Sonia Chan acknowledged her responsibilities in supervising irregular recruitment, although she denied that the DSAJ had hired people through task contracts.

Lawmaker Zheng Anting pointed out that nobody has been punished in light of the irregular recruitments.

Moreover, Zheng wondered whether corruption was involved in these cases. He also noted that some departments have more employees than necessary, while others do not have enough employees.

Sonia Chan clarified that the leadership within these departments will review all cases as to figure out if illegal behaviour was involved in the recruitment process.

Chan also said that, currently, her departments are controlling the total number of employees.

Lawmaker Au Kam San said that "bureaucracy is like this; if no incidents happen, they [department leaders] will keep sitting in their positions."

Sonia Chan, in reply to several lawmakers, claimed that her departments hope to come up with an accountability system by June, and that the said system will be implemented within the year.

In her conclusion, Sonia Chan said that "the fourth SAR government pays importance to the construction and reform of the civil servants' system.

"Through the reform of the civil servants' system, government departments can implement policies according to the law," she added.

"CCAC reports are a very good reminder to several of our departments," she said, adding that the administration and justice fields will construct systems according to their rights and will also enhance the training of civil servants.

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GLOBAL GAMING EXPO

Japan offers opportunities, challenges for integrated resorts

Renato Marques

THE opening of the Japanese market to Integrated Resorts (IR) will be a great opportunity for all people doing business in this field. Nevertheless, such a decision also creates numerous challenges for both the potential investors and the Japanese government.

The panel of specialists invited to speak on the topic during the Global Gaming Expo (G2E Asia) taking place at The Venetian Macao hold similar views. During the talk that proposed to address the challenges and current status of IRs in Japan, Jeremy Walker, vice president for Marketing and International Development at Galaxy Entertainment Group said that "Japan offers a huge possibility for integrated resorts."

Walker added that besides gaming there are many opportunities to be explored. "There are more Michelin starred restaurants in Tokyo than in Paris," he said.

Walker added that such a market holds great possibilities starting from what he considers the "great advantage" facing regional competition: "The great infrastructure in terms of transportations, airports, ports, hotels..."

As for the biggest challenge, Walker suggested language barriers, not only in terms of the proficiency of the Japanese in speaking other languages but also "the need to adjust the information, signage, and websites" to other languages such



Peter Cohen, Jeremy Walker (center) and Ed Bowers

as English, Korean and Mandarin among others, to accommodate the expected increase in foreign visitors.

Ed Bowers, senior vice president for global development of MGM Resorts International, agreed with the idea that the Japanese market would be appealing to investors.

Although the appeal of Japan is still somewhat muted, due to the still-uncertain nature of Japanese gaming law and whether it will allow open access to locals, Bowers said that the emergence of IRs "can allow Japan to open the most

remote locations giving the possibility to showcase the all country."

Regarding the language challenge, Bowers noted there has been "great developments in that field," recently. "The Olympics [Summer Games of 2020 to be held in Tokyo] will be a great milestone and a huge springboard for our industry."

Another member of the discussion panel, Peter Cohen, Director of the Regulatory Affairs of The Agenda Group, added that Japan is "a different market" from the others that already feature gaming resorts, noting

that choices from the Japanese government for a certain project will be dependent on how much "eye candy the project will be for those deciding," highlighting that "the cultural component and the design would be decisive."

Walker agreed with Cohen on this point noting that it is also a challenge to "create something unique that will feature the best of Japan and at the same time be also appealing to the western world."

Regarding concerns that the introduction of casinos could generate a bigger problem in gaming addiction, Bowers remarked, "Japan needs to have a serious conversation about something that already exists. This will be very good at all levels," he said.

Cohen complemented this by noting, "there are already many people with gaming addictions in Japan [before the introduction of casinos]. The introduction of Integrated Resorts might create a small increase in this aspect in the beginning but it will drop overtime (the same way that did in all other places)."

When questioned on the panelists expectations for the probable ratio between tourists and Japanese locals, Bowers said that a ratio of 70:30, (70 percent tourists and 30 percent locals) similar to what is recorded in Singapore, providing that the Japanese government decides to open to locals, though he noted that the percentage is not low, because "this 30 percent represents 100 percent foreign money injected in the market and in the local community."

Walker avoided giving his estimate of the ratio, merely stating that it is "hard to tell as we don't know the legislation yet," but adding, "we do know that people [in Japan] like gaming and that there is certainly a demand for that in the local market. [It] all depends on the law."

The panel also briefly addressed the figures of the Japan National Tourism Organization, which indicate that with the introduction of IRs, the government was aiming to increase the number of visitors from 25 million (2016) to 40 million (2020). The panelists all considered this figure as "too conservative," and Walker commented, "Take the example of Macau that is a very small city [and is not far from that figure]," adding, "Japan is huge and is able to take a lot more than that."

Organizers of G2E Asia, which kicked off yesterday morning and will continue until tomorrow, declared growth this year of over 25 percent of the exhibition area (to 28,000 sqm) and a total of 180 exhibitors, of which a third are first-timers. In addition, over 70 companies are on site demonstrating new online gaming solutions, 45 percent of which are new to the exhibition.

The three-day event is co-organized by American Gaming Association and Reed Exhibitions.

Experts divided on role of local customers as market drivers

IN a forum that addressed the role of local customers in the development of gaming markets in Asia, panelists expressed opposing ideas regarding the importance of such market players.

The forum, part of the Asia Market Forums from the Global Gaming Expo (G2E Asia), took place yesterday at The Venetian Macao.

During the talk, Ed Bowers, senior vice president for global development of MGM Resorts International, expressed that "local people are responsible for an important share of the market. No business [gaming concession] is feasible without access to local population," he said, noting that such access can be achieved in a "free way or like in Singapore where locals need to pay a fee."

Tim Shepherd, president for Business Development and Marketing from Silver Heritage

Group, had a different view, claiming that Macau shows that local customers may not be so crucial. "As long as you have access to a market nearby, locals are not that important," he said, remarking that the time of entry in a market is another important factor.

Fellow forum participant, Augustine Ha Ton Vinh, Chairman and CEO of Stellar Management Corp gave insight on the case of Vietnam, where locals are not allowed (yet) to enter casinos.

Vinh said that this primarily is the result of concerns from the Communist government of Vietnam that "doesn't want to be seen as supporter of capitalism."

The Vietnamese ban might be lifted in about three years' time to allow local gamblers to play locally instead of taking their money to neighboring territories like Cambodia, Vinh added.

LUI: 'NOT THE RIGHT TIME TO REVIEW TAX REGIME'

ON THE sidelines of the opening ceremony of G2E Asia, the vice president of Galaxy Entertainment Group, Francis Lui, said, "it is not the right time" to review Macau's tax regime, noting that facing the increasing regional competition it is time "to discuss the future of the industry." "We should be aware that there are jurisdictions with lower taxation that seek to attract Chinese players with great ability to travel," Lui said, remarking that all local stakeholders need to discuss how to protect the local gaming industry's competitiveness



in the long run. Lui also argued that the Macau market is not threatened by the eventual rise of a Japanese gambling market, adding that instead Galaxy would be interested in investing in that market too.

Police bribery case spotted last June

The police officers who were arrested on suspicion of bribery on Saturday are suspected of faking border records 53 times. According to a Jornal Va Kio report, on at least six occasions the involved officers disclosed some people's border information to third parties, and took people who overstayed in Macau to leave the city at least five times. The case was first noticed last June.

PSY releases music video set in Macau

South Korean pop star PSY has released a new music video filmed entirely in Macau. The song, titled "New Face", shows PSY and a cast of dancers at several recognizable locations around Macau, including some of the old streets near Rua do Campo and Tap Seac Square, and The Venetian Macao and The Parisian Macao. The artist can be seen in the music video riding (and singing on) a gondola at The Venetian, as well as acting as a croupier in a casino. The music video was released alongside another single, titled "I LUV IT".

MTR to bid for 350-kilometer Malaysia-Singapore project

HONG Kong's MTR Corporation has said it is interested in bidding for a multibillion-dollar rail line project between Malaysia and Singapore, according to the South China Morning Post.

According to the media outlet, MTR Corp's chairman Frederick Ma said that the company would seek to partner with China Railway Corporation, a state-owned giant on the mainland, to bid for the 350-kilometer project which extends from Singapore to the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, which concluded yesterday, Ma said that MTR Corp wants to "expand into new markets under the 'Belt and Road Initiative'."

The potential partnership between the two organizations follows a memorandum of understanding for cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, signed late last year. The agreement establishes collaboration on railway projects in more than



A passenger takes a rest on the subway train in Hong Kong

60 countries covered in the scope of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Hong Kong's MTR would be likely to undertake a managerial role in future projects, said Ma, "but we are careful in considering factors such as financial viability of projects and risks," he added, according to the SCMP.

During the forum, the MTR chairman was informed that the tender for the rail pro-

ject would be due at the end of this year, with a proposed completion date set in 2026.

If the company bids for the project and is successful, the Malaysia-Singapore project would be MTR Corp's first investment under the Belt and Road Initiative.

However, the company has already been involved in several partnership schemes with railway companies in Southeast Asia. Last year,

the MTR Corp established an academy for training engineers from Hong Kong, Macau, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia.

It has also signed an agreement with Macau's Light Rail Transit (LRT) administrators to provide assistance, training, technical support and the "demands for personnel management" for the territory's upcoming light rail system. **DB**

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Internship program for tourism personnel kicks off

THE Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), in cooperation with the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Forum Macau), started this year's training program tailored for civil servants from tourism offices of Portuguese-speaking countries.

Between May and September this year, three training sessions lasting for two weeks each will be conducted in Macau for government personnel from the tourism authorities of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and East Timor. The first batch started its training on Monday, while the second group will come to the MSAR in July and the third in September, with this year's program involving a total of 30 trainees.

The content of the training program includes interning in six MGTO departments, two days of workshops at the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), along with field trips



Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and East Timor trainees are in Macau for a two-week long internship

to tourism infrastructure, places of Macau's historical and cultural significance and other city attractions.

A lunch to welcome the first group of trainees of this year was held yesterday at Pousada de Mong-Há, the educational hotel of IFT. The occasion was attended by MGTO Director, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes and the Secretary-General of

Forum Macau, Xu Yingzhen, among other guests.

The internship aims to inform the trainees about the daily work of MGTO as well as the overall development of Macau's tourism industry. According to a statement issued by MGTO, between 2012 and 2016, MGTO trained 98 government tourism personnel from Portuguese-speaking countries.

PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

MSAR, Hong Kong to step up role in trade facilitation

FOLLOWING new policies announced by Beijing this month at a Portuguese-speaking countries culture forum held in the Chinese capital, investors and analysts in the two SARs say they see an opportunity for Macau and Hong Kong to step up their role in the exchange of goods and services between China and lusophone countries.

Among the areas for development outlined during the culture forum are aviation links with Macau International Airport and the maturity of the MSAR as a platform for food and wine products from countries such as Portugal and Brazil.

Popular products from Portuguese-speaking countries include food products such as fish and olive oil, as well as alcoholic beverages like wine and port. Meanwhile, Angola is prized for its export of commodities such as oil, gas and diamonds.

According to Reuters estimates, acquisition deals involving Hong Kong, mainland China and Portugal and Brazil totaled over USD219 billion in 2016, almost double that recorded in the previous year.

However, the value of trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries continued its decline in that same year, contracting 7.7 percent to around USD90.8 billion.

Of this total, nearly three-quarters was accounted for by trade solely between China and Brazil, while Angola and Portugal – the next two largest traders among Portuguese-speaking countries – represented around 17 percent and 6 percent of the trade value respectively.

The president of the Hong Kong-based group for Macanese people Club Lusitano, Daniel Rozario, told the South China Morning Post this week that the new policy "will help Macau develop as a trading platform to import food and wine and other products from Portugal and Brazil.

Rozario, whose family is from Macau, also said that Hong Kong has a crucial role to play in the development of China-Lusophone trade facilitation. While Macau has been designated the responsibility of developing the platform, the city's lack of human resources means it is likely to require assistance from Hong Kong's experience as an Asian center of finance and trade.

"Macau does not have many accounting or legal professionals and its banking network is not nearly as international as Hong Kong's," Rozario told the SCMP. "This is how Hong Kong firms can contribute to its [Macau's] trade relationships." **DB**

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Lynzy Valles

Scientist born in Macau wins German finale of FameLab

SCIENTIST Olga Sin, born and raised in Macau, recently won one of the largest competitions for scientific communication worldwide, the German finale of FameLab.

Currently conducting her research on the cellular and molecular mechanisms behind human brain diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, Sin secured first place and won the Audience Award in the German finale of FameLab.

Following her win, the researcher is slated to represent Germany in the international FameLab finale to be held in Cheltenham, England in June.

The scientist – who lived in Macau for 13 years – studied in Portugal and the Netherlands.

Presently based in Germany, Sin is a researcher at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Biomedicine, as well as a member at the Young Academy of the Cells-in-Motion Cluster of Excellence.

In particular, Sin is currently studying a phenomenon called “protein aggregation,” where certain proteins clump together.

Her current project focuses on how protein production is linked to neurodegenerative diseases.

Speaking with the Times, the scientist recalled that she discovered her passion for science over time.

“I felt drawn to go in the science field because I liked the idea of scientific methods – how clear and objective it was,” she explained.

Sin admitted that it was challenging to enter the renowned competition, which is now held in



BIELEFELD MARKETING - SARAH JONEK

more than 30 countries, due to language barriers and the fact that the presentation on the complex scientific processes is three-minutes-long.

Asked whether she had thought of winning before entering the competition, the scientist recalled, “not at all,” due to the language barriers.

Although the competition acknowledges English speakers, it would be more favorable for the jury and guests for the presenta-

tion to be held in German.

“I was already aware that I would face a language barrier that I can never overcome but I just went for it anyway to test myself and see whether I could break down complicated terms to simpler terms.

Sin defined her winning moment as “a big surprise,” adding that there were 31 finalists all of whom she considered outstanding.

Sin also shared that it is her passion to remove the boundary be-

tween people within science and people external to it.

According to her, she wishes to make science easy and understandable for everyone, which caused her to look for ways she could present her research.

However, the scholar admitted that research is a competitive field and unfortunately the system is slightly unforgiving.

I would be so proud to see young talents from Macau succeed in science and put Macau in the scientific landscape.

OLGA SIN

“It pressures scientists to publish a lot and in high-impact journals, sometimes at the expense of good quality research. One needs to have a good publication record in order to get funding for his or her research,” Sin explained.

“Consequently, one needs to have funding so he or she can continue publishing papers. This cycle makes the life of a scientist a bit unpredictable and unstable, so you have to be prepared to embrace uncertainty and take risks,” she continued.

Yet the researcher considers herself lucky to conduct research, as she was awarded two postdoctoral fellowships: one from the Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research and one from the European Commission for her current research project.

Asked what advice she would give to the local youngsters who wish to pursue a career in science, Sin responded, “Go abroad, travel, go to international scientific conferences and show your works.”

She also advised that it is important to be engaged in other activities that will allow youngsters to develop transferable skills.

“For example, be an active member of your local student association and organize scientific meetings by inviting top-notch scientists to Macau,” she added.

“I would just like to say that I would be so proud to see young talents from Macau succeed in science and put Macau in the scientific landscape,” the scholar concluded.

Duterte addresses compatriots in Hong Kong

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte stopped by in Hong Kong late last week where he addressed his compatriots at a meeting, before heading to the two-day Belt and Road Summit in Beijing that concluded on Monday.

The Philippine communi-

ty in the neighboring SAR welcomed the visit of the popular president, who spoke for over an hour at the Regal Airport Hotel on Saturday afternoon. Members of the audience chanted his name with fists in the air as he approached the podium to make his address.

Duterte asked his supporters and compatriots to give him just “three to four years [to get things done].” “Just give me time to stop corruption,” he pleaded.

According to the South China Morning Post, Rex Aguado, the chairman of the Philippine Association of Hong Kong, said that

the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong had invited community organizations to join the meeting, which was attended by around 1,000 people.

“It’s an honor for us that it’s the president’s first time dropping by Hong Kong,” said Aguado, as cited by the SCMP. “Lots

of Filipino businesses in Hong Kong still don’t have a clear direction of the Philippines’ role in the Belt and Road Initiative.”

He said that he hoped the president would provide some insight into how his country can fit into the initiative.

Around 200,000 Philippine nationals are currently based in Hong Kong, according to the SCMP,

most of whom work as foreign domestic helpers.

According to the 2016 by-census conducted in Macau, the MSAR is home to nearly 29,000 Philippine nationals. Accordingly, the Philippines is one of just four countries with a consulate-general based in Macau – as opposed to Hong Kong – alongside Portugal, Angola and Mozambique. **DB**

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Samsung looks beyond smartphones to next-gen biologics

THE Samsung brand is best known for its smartphones and wide-screen TVs. Yet behind the scenes, the conglomerate is also making a name as a contract manufacturer of complex medicines to treat diseases like cancer.

On a piece of reclaimed land along the western coast of South Korea, Samsung BioLogics Co. is building a USD740 million factory that will give it the capacity to become the No. 1 producer by volume of a class of drugs called biologics, many of which are derived from mammal cells.

The Samsung group diversified into the pharmaceutical sector in 2011. Now, it's mobilizing its expertise in semiconductor making and engineering know-how to make the way biologics are produced on behalf of Big Pharma more efficient. The market for biologic medicines, which are used for everything from cancer to arthritis, is projected to exceed \$23.7 billion by 2021, according to a Bloomberg Intelligence analysis.

Being a force in biologics is crucial to Samsung - and South Korea. Galaxy smartphones and other consumer electronics face intense competition from Apple Inc. and Chinese brands such as Huawei Technologies Co., and the chaebol is grappling with the arrest of de facto leader Jay Y. Lee in a scandal that brought down the country's former president. Meanwhile, the broader economy needs new industries as shipbuilding and heavy manufacturing slow.

If the past 40 years of global economic growth were fueled by technology, said Kim Tae-han,



A worker mops the floor of a bioreactor hall at the Samsung Biologics Co. plant 3 under construction in the Songdo district in Incheon

chief executive officer of Samsung BioLogics, the next will be fueled by where that converges with health care.

Biologic drugs are grown from cells. That necessitates a more complex manufacturing process than typical pills - a mixture of chemicals - but makes biologics more effective and capable of being targeted toward certain diseases.

Samsung already is a contract manufacturer for some blockbuster drugs, including for Switzerland's Roche Holding AG and the U.S.'s Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. It will take three years for the factory to ramp up to full capacity after being completed this year and opening at the end of 2018.

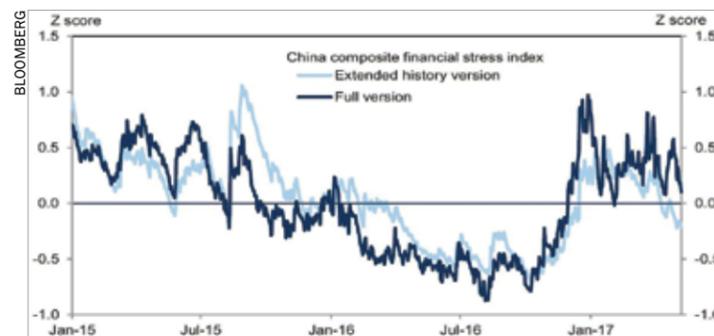
Globally, the drug industry produces 4 million liters of biologic drugs a year, and that's projected to double by 2030. With its new plant, Samsung BioLogics is positioning itself to double its market share. Shares

are up 24 percent this year to 187,000 won. That compares with a 13 percent increase in the benchmark Kospi index.

Samsung and other companies in the sector have benefited from the Korean government's support of biopharmaceutical businesses. The Incheon Free Economic Zone offered Samsung BioLogics the factory land for 50 years without rent, the company said. New President Moon Jae-in railed against the chaebol during his campaign, but Samsung said in an email it expected him to boost the biopharmaceutical and health-care industries.

Nevertheless, Samsung faces some formidable competitors, who are also expanding. Switzerland's Lonza Group AG and Germany's Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH have long histories in the biologics contract manufacturing business, and Japan's Fujifilm Holdings Corp. also entered the business. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Goldman Sachs builds China financial-stress index



WITH China's leadership focused anew on curbing the economy's leverage, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts are rolling out a new gauge of stress in the country's financial markets.

With corporate bond sales being canceled, stocks sliding and government debt yields climbing in recent months, it's no surprise that the measure shows an increase in strain. But the financial-stress index, or FSI, has dropped from the recent high in late 2016 and early 2017, and might not necessarily translate to weakness in the economy, Goldman analysis showed.

"We find that an increase in financial stress hurts economic growth, but only to the extent that broader financial conditions tighten as a result," economists including Hong Kong-based Zhenan Li wrote in a note dated May 16. "Growth will not necessarily be affected significantly if a sharp increase in financial stress is followed by a quick reversal."

Some of the metrics underlying the index have short histories, so Goldman Sachs built both an extended-history measure with the ingredients that have longer histories, and a "full" version, as noted in the chart above. A Z-score is a normalized measure based on standard deviation, which gauges moves compared with a longer-term average.

The analysts incorporated measures from the banking sector, interbank lending and the bond,

stock and foreign-exchange markets to build the FSI, which is distinct from their existing financial conditions index. Goldman's FCI has shown some tightening in financial conditions recently, thanks in part to a slowing in money-supply growth.

Stress levels remain well below highs reached during the 2008 global credit crisis and more recent turmoil, such as that triggered by the surprise August 2015 yuan devaluation, the new Goldman index indicates. That may help explain why China's deleveraging initiative has so far stirred little concern among foreign investors.

With regard to the banking sector, Goldman Sachs used measures of lenders' stocks and bonds in the FSI. "Overall stress in the banking sector is not high in the long-term context, though has increased since end-2016," the analysts wrote. As for measures of interbank lending, such as the gap between the three-month Shanghai interbank offered rate and three-month government bills, these indicators have shown sharp jumps since October.

In taking the temperature of the bond-market, the analysts used items including the swings in 10-year Chinese government bond yields. For stocks, margin finance outstanding along with fluctuations in the overall equity index were picked - and showed less stress than other components. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM MACAU INTRODUCES NEW ART INSTALLATIONS



MGM Macau has set up a brand-new Garden at Grande Praça for its visitors to see this summer.

With large glass flowers, butterflies and woven bulbs that can be lounged in, the European-inspired atrium

is embellished with designs based on nature and flowers.

MGM has created "Beauty in the Air" in collaboration with U.S.-based maestro of oversized visual display art, Stephen Stefanou.

The atrium is decorated with synthetic glass sculptures, including over 110 oversized butterflies and 17 flowers of four different types, whose bulbs are made of six custom-woven loungers.

Stephen Stefanou, who has been collaborating with MGM both in Macau and the United States, remarked: "This is my first time to create an interactive piece of art that enables people to sit down and relax, and it makes a delightful enhancement to the Garden."

SANDS HOLDS CEREMONY FOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME GRADUATES



A group of 111 Macau university students graduated from Sands China's Integrated Resort Internship Programme on May 9, with the company honoring them in a ceremony at The Venetian Macao.

Sands China established the Integrated Resort Internship Programme to offer stu-

dents short-term work experience at Sands China's integrated resorts for a period of up to six months. The program offers internship opportunities in 10 non-gaming departments, including concierge, food and beverage, corporate communications, and entertainment, giving interns valuable integrated

resort work experience.

Each intern received a certificate for completing the program, with three noteworthy graduates honored on stage with an Impressive Performance Award, according to a statement issued by the gaming operator.

The three award winners also received a souvenir as a token of recognition for their achievement.

Nearly 90 percent of the students who graduated from the internship program on May 9 are also graduating from their universities this June. They are being offered the chance to join either the "Sands China's Fast Track Supervisor Programme," the company's "Career Experience Opportunities Programme (CEOP)," or other full-time job opportunities with Sands China.

ANGOLA

Diplomatic and consular network will be reduced

ANGOLA'S diplomatic and consular network will be reduced from September "in order to save human, technical and financial resources," according to a presidential dispatch that creates an ad-hoc commission to study and propose the reduction and resizing of Angola's representation abroad.

The presidential dispatch said that the reduction and resizing of the country's diplomatic and consular network aims to "make it less costly, based on the funds available in the current national and international economic and financial situation."

The resizing is explained in the order quoted by Portuguese news agency Lusa as a way to "take better advantage of existing capacities and improve operations," in order to "maximize the results."

The commission, which will have 60 days to present the final report, will be coordinated by the Minister and head of the Civil House of the President of the Republic, Manuel da Cruz Neto,



Light trails from passing traffic run along the promenade at night beneath a construction crane in Luanda

and also includes the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Public Administration, Labor and Social Security, among others.

The commission's duties include "studying and proposing the reduction and downsizing of Angolan diplomatic missions abroad," due to the "funds available and the diplomatic, technical and administrative personnel strictly required to do the job."

In the 2017 budget, the Government assigned 32.663 billion kwanzas (USD196 million) in spending to the Diplomatic, Consular and Trade Representation missions, about half to pay wages, which was an annual increase of 18 percent.

Angola is represented in China by an embassy in Beijing and by consulates general in Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau. MDT/Macauhub

MOZAMBIQUE

President calls for resumption of international aid

THE Mozambican President asked international organizations and countries that contribute financially to the State Budget to resume this support "so that the government can consolidate the country's development efforts," Mozambican newspaper Noticias reported.

Filipe Nyusi's statements in Angoche at the end of a three-day visit to Nampula province were the first official response to the delivery of the international audit report on the loans contracted by three public companies with the support of the Mozambican state.

The report, drawn up by Kroll Associates UK, was delivered last Friday to the Attorney General's Office, which is leading the investigation into the loans and the final destination of more than USD2 billion.

"The progress made in restoring effective peace and the ongoing macroeconomic



Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi

correction measures in the country are key to restoring confidence among partners and investors," said Nyusi, thanking the Swedish government for its support in paying for the audit.

The President also noted the willingness of the government to provide the necessary support for the conclusion of this process conducted by the Attorney General's Office. MDT/Macauhub

AD

AP EXCLUSIVE

Chinese spent USD24 billion on 'golden visas'



An exhibitor (foreground left) talks with a woman during the Invest in America Summit held in Beijing. The number of Chinese using investment migration programs worldwide tripled between 2010 and 2015

Nomaan Merchant

WHEN the sister of President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner promoted investment in her family's new skyscraper from a Beijing hotel ballroom stage earlier this month, she was pitching a controversial American visa program that's proven irresistible to tens of thousands of Chinese.

More than 100,000 Chinese have poured at least USD24 billion in the last decade into "golden visa" programs across the world that offer residence in exchange for investment, an Associated Press analysis has found. Nowhere is Chinese demand greater than in the United States, which has taken in at least \$7.7 billion and issued more than 40,000 visas to Chinese investors and their families in the past decade, the AP found.

The Chinese investors flocking to these programs are people like Jenny Liu, a doctoral student in the eastern city of Nanjing, who sold her apartment two years ago and moved in with her parents. She used the money from the sale to invest \$500,000 in a hotel project in the United States. If the project creates enough jobs in two years, she'll get a prized "green card" and a pathway for a

less stressful education for her 9-year-old son.

"My son has a lot of homework to do every day, but I don't think he has learned a lot from school," Liu said. "I hope he can actually pick up some useful knowledge or skills rather than only learn how to pass tests."

■ The flood of investors reflects how China's rise has catapulted tens of millions of families into the middle class

The flood of investors reflects how China's rise has catapulted tens of millions of families into the middle class. But at the same time, it shows how these families are increasingly becoming restless as cities remain choked by smog, home prices multiply and schools impose ever-greater pressure on children. They also feel insecure about being able to protect their property and savings.

Their money goes toward government bonds, busines-

ses, mountain ski resorts, new schools and real estate projects, including a Trump-branded tower in New Jersey built by the Kushner Companies, once run by Jared Kushner, now a White House senior adviser. But the industry is murky, loosely regulated and sometimes fraud-ridden — in the U.S., federal regulators have linked the EB-5 visa program to fraud cases involving more than \$1 billion in investment in the last four years.

The EB-5 program and many others like it market heavily in China.

China's "golden visa" investors are part of a wave characterized not by poverty, persecution or war, but by people with steady jobs and homes who are pursuing happiness that's eluded them in their homeland.

Key to their spending power is China's real estate boom. Real estate prices in China's largest cities have more than tripled in the last decade, with prices in Beijing rising by an average of 25 percent a year during that time. Since late 2015 alone, Beijing's home prices have jumped 63 percent, making a 1,300 square-foot (120 square-meter) apartment worth more than \$1 million.

A family that gained owner-

ship of an ordinary apartment more than a decade ago can now sell it for the price of a "golden visa." And as their dissatisfaction with China's problems grows, more families are choosing to do so.

The AP obtained data from officials in 13 countries on how many Chinese have used their investor programs since 2007. To estimate money spent, the AP multiplied the numbers of Chinese investors in each country by the minimum investment required, making the AP's figures for each country an undercount. The market leader is the United States' EB-5 program, which gives green cards to anyone who invests \$500,000 in a business that creates or saves at least 10 jobs. But Portugal has drawn \$1.7 billion over four years from Chinese investors willing to buy property to support its faltering real estate

market. Spain and Greece offer similar programs. Chinese have bought the most visas in all three countries. The EB-5 program has been heavily criticized by government watchdogs and targeted by lawmakers of both parties in Congress, who say it promotes fraud and helps developers building megaprojects more than struggling communities. Defenders of EB-5 say it creates jobs and provides vital funding for projects across the United States, from massive developments in New York to hotels, restaurants and small businesses in the Midwest and on the West Coast.

Nicole Meyer, Kushner's sister, appeared this month at events in Beijing and Shanghai to promote One Journal Square, a New Jersey tower project planned by the Kushner family that would be partially funded through EB-5 investment. The presentation included a photo of Trump and vague promises that the project had "government support" and was "founded by celebrity developers."

The company later apologized for any implication that her brother was supporting the project, and Meyer pulled out of a scheduled presentation in China this past weekend. The White House said Kushner would follow conflict of interest policies and that Trump and Congress would review "all the various visa programs" in due course.

Many Chinese are well aware of the risks involved, but invest anyway.

Du Juan attended a seminar in Beijing held by an investment group pitching ski resorts and other projects. Her primary focus is getting her 10-year-old daughter enrolled soon in an American school.

"I don't worry about the \$500,000, but I worry about the loss of time," Du said. "I am afraid that we'll be unable to get the visa when we need it." AP

CHINA'S FAVORITE PROGRAMS

Consulting firms in China's biggest cities hawk investor visa programs in weekly sessions at hotels and on social media. The market leader is the United States, as urban Chinese are widely familiar with American schools and culture. Here are the five countries with the most visas issued to Chinese investors in the last decade:

The United States	43,448
Canada	32,278
Portugal	7,875
Hungary	6,405
Australia	4,640

THE pageantry permeating Beijing this week showed that China's expansive vision for a new global economic order had another goal: Boosting President Xi Jinping's grip on power at home.

From fawning state media campaigns to the words of the man himself, the so-called Belt and Road Forum repeatedly stressed Xi's centrality to infrastructure-and-trade initiative that brought about 30 world leaders to Beijing, including Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Communist Party chief claimed personal credit for the "project of the century," unusual in a political system that stresses collective leadership.

"This is the initiative I proposed in 2013," Xi said at a round table discussion Monday featuring the leaders of the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. "This initiative stemmed from my observations and thoughts about the world's situation."

Greater prestige may help Xi put supportive officials in place during a twice-a-decade leadership reshuffle that will determine his ability to enact a politically fraught economic overhaul. Xi has already become China's most powerful leader since at least Deng Xiaoping in the 1990s, and the next few years will shape his legacy for decades to come.

"In a year of power transition, if you can score a domestic policy or diplomatic victory, it is a political bonus," said Zhang Jian, an associate political science professor at Peking University. "The Belt and Road Initiative is a large-scale project that links the domestic eco-

One Belt, One Road, One Man: Xi looms large at summit

nomy with diplomacy - it's his most important and legacy-defining policy."

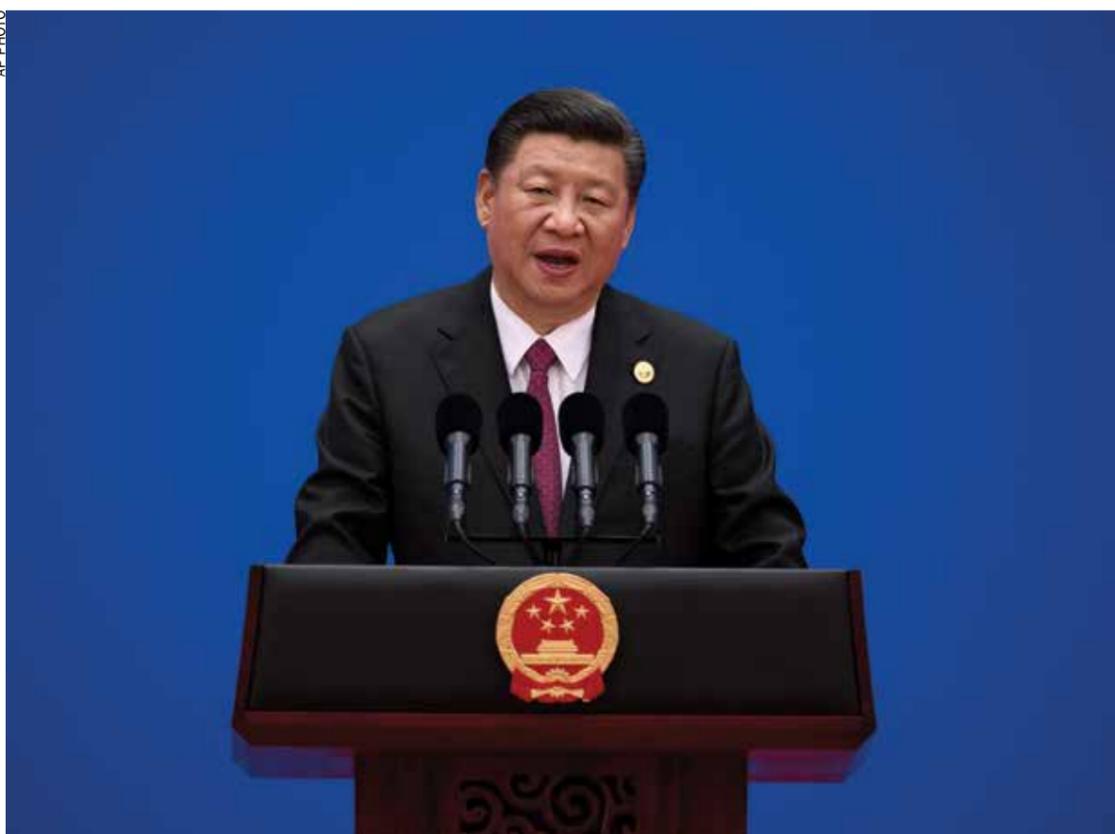
Since Xi first outlined plans in 2013 to recreate ancient Silk Road trading routes between Asia and Europe, the program has repeatedly changed names and been elevated to a top national strategy spanning the globe. On Sunday, Xi pledged 540 billion yuan (USD78 billion) in financing and encouraged banks to contribute another 300 billion yuan in overseas capital to support his project.

■ **The next few years will shape Xi's legacy for decades to come**

Meanwhile, breathless state-run coverage portrayed the Belt and Road Initiative as having near limitless potential to remake the world, with China - and Xi - at its center. State television showed Xi and his celebrity wife, Peng Liyuan, receiving Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other heads of state, while top diplomats such as U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond paraded on stage to praise the president's program.

"Thanks to him, more and more people are interested in

AP PHOTO



today's China," a video about the forum by the party's People's Daily newspaper said of Xi. "Under his leadership, China's circle of friends is growing bigger and bigger."

Beijing's notorious pollution even dissipated as China's state machinery snapped into action to make Xi look good. The brilliant blue skies, which authorities often engineer for high-profile events by shuttering factories and taking cars

off roads, provided a symbolic backdrop for a leader seeking to show he's in control.

Even before the event got under way, some diplomats in Beijing were complaining the Chinese hadn't allowed sufficient time for input while preparing the event's final communique, according to people familiar with the process. The draft combined commitments to open international markets with endorsements of China's diplomatic

goals, the people said.

The final communique emphasized dialogue, consultation and cooperation between participant nations. Signatories to the almost 2,200-word document pledged "to oppose all forms of protectionism, including in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative" while "promoting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system." **MDT/Bloomberg**

Manila, Beijing vow closer ties

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping resolved to strengthen their countries' friendship during their meeting in Beijing, with China pledging to speed up infrastructure projects it is funding in the Philippines.

"We renewed our resolve to strengthen our friendship and mutually beneficial partnership on a broad range of areas," Duterte said in southern Davao City on his return from Beijing. "We resolved to fully use the mechanisms we have established to dialogue openly, monitor progress and ensure implementation of projects."

Duterte, who took office last June, has worked to repair relations with China

that have been strained by territorial conflicts in the South China Sea and an international arbitration ruling on a case filed by his predecessor that invalidated Beijing's claims to the disputed territory. Duterte met separately with Xi and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang after attending last weekend's "Belt and Road" trade initiative.

Duterte said both he and Xi were looking forward to officials from both countries meeting later this week for inaugural bilateral talks on the South China Sea. Philippine officials have said the meeting will be held Friday in southwestern China.

Duterte said he didn't raise the arbitration ruling while in Beijing.

"There is a time for me to ask about the arbitral

ruling, but it is not now," Duterte said. The agenda, mechanics and "how to present our case to them" have to be ironed out first "because we agreed to talk and to have a dialogue," he added.

Four agreements were signed during the visit, including a Chinese grant of 500 million yuan (USD72.5 million) for feasibility studies of infrastructure projects in the Philippines and construction of a drug rehabilitation center.

Also signed were memorandums of understanding on cooperation in human resources development and personnel exchanges, energy cooperation, and enhancing government capabilities in communication and publishing. **MDT/AP**

Chinese financing spurs Pakistan construction boom

STEEL and cement makers in Pakistan are expanding to meet demand as the "One Belt, One Road" trade route financed by China spurs construction with more than USD55 billion in infrastructure funding. The nation's economy has grown at about 5 percent annually since 2013, encouraging domestic producers to lift production.

Pakistan's steel output grew 23 percent to 3.6 million tons in 2016, the biggest gain among 40 nations, according to the World Steel Association.

Meanwhile, the construction sector expanded 13 percent in year ended June 2016, more

than twice the pace in the previous 12 months, according to State Bank of Pakistan's annual report. Rapid urbanization and rising income levels has left the nation with an annual shortfall of 500,000 homes, according to real-estate developer Arif Habib.

"Real-estate is the main engine for this growth, it has really picked up," said Ayub Khuhro, chief investment officer of Karachi-based Faysal Asset Management Ltd., which has about 8 billion rupees in stocks and bonds. "The government is also willing to protect companies with anti-dumping measures."

In February, Pakistan imposed anti-dumping duty on Chinese imports of galvanized coils and sheets for five years to aid producers in a nation where steel usage per capita is almost half of its neighbor India, said Agha.

Favorable industry policies aside, some family-owned companies are also tapping investor demand that made the nation's stock market Asia's best performer in 2016. Even so, less than half a dozen companies list each year in Pakistan, a country where many businesses are conservative in risk taking and often unwilling to open their books to public scrutiny. **MDT/Bloomberg**

PLAYING on concerns about the safety of nuclear power in the wake of Japan's Fukushima disaster in 2011, South Korea's Moon Jae-in promised during his successful presidential campaign to scrap or suspend new atomic plants.

Now that Moon is president, that anti-nuclear stance is seen as a threat to South Korea's ambitions to become a bigger exporter of nuclear equipment and technology - a market valued at as much as USD740 billion over the next 10 years.

"If the new government withdraws its support for nuclear development in South Korea, this could send a negative signal to foreign countries looking to purchase reactors," Kerry-Anne Shanks, a Singapore-based analyst at Wood Mackenzie Ltd., said by email. "An anti-nuclear stance could challenge Korea's ambitions to export nuclear technology to other countries."

The irony is that even as Moon turns his back on nuclear, South Korea has proven itself as one of only a few nations capable of successfully designing and starting up a nuclear reactor using the most advanced technology available.

South Korea, which has been building reactors since the 1970s, has been positioning itself as a potential successor to pioneers of the industry such as Westinghouse Electric Power Co. and Areva SA, which have become mired in cost overruns and construction delays.

Coming on the heels of Westinghouse's bankruptcy, the political shifts in South Korea are further threatening the global industry and possibly narrowing the field of reactor builders. One South Korean firm, Kepco, said it would consider sponsoring a reorganization of Westinghouse if requested, according to a spokesman at the time.

South Korea has 25 nuclear reactors, which provide roughly a third of its energy needs, according to the World Nuclear Association. The Asian nation has the sixth-largest fleet of nuclear reactors in the world, accounting for about 23 gigawatts of capacity.

Besides the curbs on new nuclear facilities, Moon also cam-

SOUTH KOREA

New president seen hindering nuclear ambitions



aigned to cancel any lifetime extensions for existing nuclear plants and to develop a roadmap to eventually rid the nation of atomic power altogether. In nuclear's place, Moon would place greater emphasis on natural gas and renewables. On Monday, the new president ordered the shutdown for the month of June of 10 coal-fired power plants that have

South Korea has been positioning itself as a potential successor to pioneers of the nuclear industry

been operating for more than 30 years to cut pollution.

"If Korea stops building reactors domestically it will definitely hurt their export market," said Jessica Lovering, director of energy at Breathrough Institute, an environmental think tank. "A big part of what makes Korea competitive in the global nuclear market is they have a thriving domestic industry with a proven track record of declining costs and reactors built on time."

The global civil nuclear market is expected to be valued at \$500 billion to \$740 billion in the next 10 years, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. An average of \$80 billion a year will be needed in nuclear power investment through 2030 in order to meet a goal of keeping global temperature increases

below 2 degrees Celsius by reducing carbon emissions from burning fossil-fuels, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Exporting nuclear power plants requires substantial up-front financial support from the ven-

дор and its home government," said Rod Adams, publisher of Atomic Insights, an industry news website. "There is already some evidence suggesting that the anti-nuclear stance of President Moon Jae-in will make it more difficult for South Korea to export nuclear reactors."

One challenge to South Korea's ambitions regardless of the election outcome is competition from other nuclear-exporting nations.

Russia and China, which have governments that provide financing for projects, have emerged as new leaders of the global nuclear industry. Russia has more than 20 nuclear reactors confirmed or planned for export, totaling \$133 billion at the end of 2016, according to the WNA.

China is actively promoting export of its homegrown nuclear reactor, the Hualong One. China has signed deals with several nations, including the U.K., Argentina and Pakistan.

"The competitors being Russia and the upcoming Chinese offerings are challenging to South Korea, given the comparative limited footing of Korea from a global economic perspective," Neil Todreas, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said by email. **MDT/Bloomberg**

WHITE HOUSE VISIT PENNED FOR JUNE

SOUTH KOREAN President Moon Jae-in will visit the White House next month for a summit with President Donald Trump amid worries over North Korea's progress in building a nuclear and missile arsenal, Seoul's presidential office said yesterday. The announcement came days after North Korea successfully tested a powerful new missile that analysts believe could reach Alaska when perfected.

According to South Korean government officials, both countries have reaffirmed their common goal of the "complete discarding" of North Korean nuclear weapons and said they will pursue "all methods, including sanctions and dialogue" to reach this goal. The allies agreed that dialogue with North Korea could happen under the "right conditions," said a South Korean government spokesperson.

CYBER SECURITY

Expert finds more Pyongyang links in ransomware attack

A South Korean cybersecurity expert said yesterday there is more circumstantial evidence that North Korea may be behind the global "ransomware" attack: the way the hackers took hostage computers and servers across the world was similar to previous cyberattacks attributed to North Korea.

Simon Choi, a director at anti-virus software company Hauri Inc. who has analyzed North Korean malware since 2008 and advises the government on cyberattacks, said the North is no newcomer to the world of bitcoins and has been mining the digital currency using malicious computer programs since as early as 2013.

In the current attack, hackers demand payment from victims in bitcoins to regain access to their encrypted computers.

Last year, Choi accidentally spoke to a hacker traced to a North Korean internet address about development of ransomware and he alerted South Korean authorities.

If North Korea, believed

to be training cyberwarriors at schools, is indeed responsible for the latest attack, Choi said the world should stop underestimating its capabilities and work together to think of a new way to respond to cyber threats, such as having China pull the plug on North Korea's internet.

Choi is one of a number of researchers around the

world who have suggested a possible link between the "ransomware" known as WannaCry and hackers linked to North Korea. While Choi's speculation may deepen suspicions that the nuclear-armed state is responsible, the evidence is still far from conclusive.

South Korea has been a frequent target of cybe-

rattacks that it traced to its northern neighbor. Some high-profile attacks between 2009 and 2013 shut down government websites, banking systems and paralyzed broadcasters.

South Korea was mostly spared from the latest ransomware attack, partly because the constant threats have made the government and companies careful about always updating their software. **MDT/AP**

PHILIPPINES

'This is a democracy': Int'l court may be next for Duterte

Teresa Cerrojano, Manila

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte acknowledged yesterday that allegations he induced extrajudicial killings in his war on drugs could be raised to the International Criminal Court after an impeachment case failed in the House of Representatives.

"Yeah, he can go ahead. He is free to do it. This is a democracy," Duterte said in reaction to a lawmaker saying he was considering bringing a case against the Philippine leader to the court in The Hague, Netherlands.

The impeachment complaint killed by a House committee on Monday accused Duterte of multiple murders and crimes against humanity for adopting a state policy of inducing police and vigilantes into killing more than 8,000 suspected drug users and dealers outside the rule of law. The complaint also accused him of corruption, unexplained wealth, and taking a "defeatist stand" against China's in the territorial row in the South China Sea.

"It is true that there are deaths — is there a drug war where no one is killed?" Duterte said. "But not in the character and kind that I was dishd out, in-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

cluding ordering the killing of a child."

The dismissal of Rep. Gary Alejano's complaint was widely expected since the House is dominated by Duterte allies. But the president's critics hope the procedure could bolster a lawsuit filed against him by a Fili-

pino lawyer before the ICC 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 to 9,000 suspected drug dealers and addicts, according to human rights groups. The government refutes 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 Monday's hearing, Rep. Rodolfo Farinas, the majority floor leader, asked Alejano repeatedly if he had personal knowledge of allegations he made in his complaint.

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. Several lawmakers pointed to that distinction to say Alejano's allegations were hearsay.

Forty-two of 49 committee members then voted to declare the complaint insufficient in substance.

A frustrated Alejano told reporters that he'll discuss with his colleagues from the Magdalo party whether they should file their own complaint before the ICC.

He said it was clear that the impeachment procedure "was railroaded" and that the House "is not independent." **AP**

Singapore: Code of conduct needed for submarines

Asia-Pacific navies should extend a code of conduct to submarines to reduce the risk of accidents among the 250 underwater vessels expected to be operating in Asia by 2030, according to Singapore's navy chief. The code, agreed in 2014, aims at curbing the chances of accidents at sea, and reducing the risk of escalation if an incident occurs. The region's navies are buying or building submarines partly in response to China's growing fleet and amid territorial tensions extending from the East China Sea to the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. Singapore's Defense Minister said yesterday his country would buy two more submarines to be operational by 2024, adding to two already on order.



Albino orangutan named after global appeal

A conservation group says a rare albino orangutan rescued in Indonesia has been named "Alba" after thousands of suggestions were sent from around the world. The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation said the name means "white" in Latin and "dawn" in Spanish. It hopes the animal will be an ambassador for the critically endangered species. The 5-year-old female was rescued from captivity in a village on Indonesia's part of Borneo island on April 29. It was the first albino orangutan to be encountered by the foundation in its 25 years of conservation work. The group is collecting information on albinism in great apes to help it decide the primate's future.

Vietnam arrests anti-polluter activist

In Vietnam's latest crackdown on dissent, police have arrested an activist who organized a protest against a polluting steel plant, saying he instigated demonstrators to attack and injure several police officers. A statement on the website of Nghe An provincial police in central Vietnam said 34-year-old Hoang Duc Binh was taken into custody Monday for allegedly "abusing democratic rights to infringe on the interests of the state, the rights and legitimate interests of organizations and citizens," and opposing officers on duty. Police said his alleged incitement of protesters at a local government office in April caused public disorder.

Thailand backs off threat to block Facebook over content

THAILAND backed off a threat to block Facebook on yesterday, instead providing the social media site with court orders to remove content that the government deems illegal.

Thailand made the threat last week as it wanted Facebook to block more than 130 posts it considers a threat to national security or in violation of the country's lese majeste law, which makes insults to the monarchy punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Thailand's military government has made prosecuting royal insults a priority since seizing power in a coup three years ago.

Takorn Tantasith, secre-

tary-general of Thailand's broadcast regulator, said Facebook had requested the court orders before it would take action but he expected the social media giant would comply with the government's demands.

"Facebook has already responded that it will comply when we have court orders," Takorn told reporters.

Emails and calls seeking confirmation from Facebook were not immediately returned.

The regulator last week demanded that Facebook remove more than 130 illegal posts by Tuesday or face legal action that could shut down the site. In a change of tactic, Takorn said that Thai-

land had forwarded 34 court orders to Facebook so far.

"The websites that need to be taken down are not only those that are a threat to stability but they also include other illegal websites such as porn and websites that support human-trafficking which take time to legally determine," Takorn said.

Thai authorities try to take pre-emptive actions against material they consider illegal, having local internet service providers block access or reaching agreements with some online services such as YouTube to bar access to certain material in Thailand.

Much of that is content deemed in violation of

the country's lese majeste law, the harshest in the world. The military government has charged more than 100 people with such offenses since the coup and handed down record sentences. Many of those cases have been based on internet postings or even private messages exchanged on Facebook.

Last month, Thai authorities declared it illegal to exchange information on the internet with three prominent government critics who often write about the country's monarchy.

Facebook, which is blocked in a number of authoritarian countries such as North Korea, has said it relies on local



Thailand's king

Trump defends sharing terrorism 'facts' with Russians

Vivian Salama, Deb Riechmann

PRESIDENT Donald Trump yesterday defended his right to share "facts pertaining to terrorism" and airline safety with Russia, saying in a pair of tweets he has "an absolute right" as president to do so.

Trump's tweets did not say whether he revealed classified information about the Islamic State group, as published reports have said and as a U.S. official told The Associated Press yesterday.

The White House has pushed back against those reports, but has not denied that classified information was disclosed in the May 10 meeting between Trump and Russian diplomats.

In a pair of tweets, the president responded to a firestorm of criticism triggered by the reports.

"I wanted to share with Russia (at an openly scheduled W.H. meeting) which I have the absolute right to do, facts pertaining [...] to terrorism and airline flight safety. Humanitarian reasons, plus I want Russia to greatly step up their fight against ISIS & terrorism," Trump tweeted.

Trump shared details about an Islamic State terror threat related to the use of laptop computers on aircraft with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Russian ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak, a senior U.S. official told The Associated Press. The classified information had been shared with the president by an ally, violating the confidentiality of an intelligence-sharing agreement with that country, the official said.

The official, who spoke on con-



Donald Trump meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, May 10

dition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly, would not say which country's intelligence was divulged.

The disclosure put a source of intelligence on the Islamic State at risk, according to The Washington Post, which first reported the disclosure on Monday.

■ **The revelations could further damage Trump's already fraught relationship with U.S. intelligence agencies**

Trump later was informed that he had broken protocol and White House officials placed calls to the National Security Agency and the CIA looking to minimize any damage.

Russia's foreign ministry spokesman denied the report. Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for the Russian foreign ministry, on Facebook on Tuesday described the reports as "yet another fake."

The CIA and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence have declined to comment.

The U.S. official said that Trump boasted about his access to classified intelligence in last week's meeting with Lavrov and Kislyak. An excerpt to an official transcript of the meeting reveals that Trump told them, "I get great intel. I have people brief me on great intel every day," he said.

Kislyak has been a central player in the snowballing

controversy surrounding possible coordination between Trump's campaign and Russia's election meddling.

The revelations drew strong condemnation from Democrats and a rare rebuke of Trump from some Republican lawmakers. White House officials denounced the report, saying the president did not disclose intelligence sources or methods to the Russians, though officials did not deny that classified information was disclosed in the May 10 meeting.

"The president and the foreign minister reviewed a range of common threats to our two countries including threats to civil aviation," said H.R. McMaster, Trump's national security adviser. "At no time, at no time were intelligence sources or methods discussed and the president did not disclose any military operations that were not already publicly known."

The revelations could further damage Trump's already fraught relationship with U.S. intelligence agencies. He's openly questioned the competency of intelligence officials and challenged their high-confidence assessment that Russia meddled in last year's presidential election to help him win. His criticism has been followed by a steady stream of leaks to the media that have been damaging to Trump and exposed an FBI investigation into his associates' possible ties to Russia.

The disclosure also risks harming his credibility with U.S. partners around the world ahead of his first overseas trip. The White House was already reeling from its botched handling of Trump's decision last

week to fire James Comey, the FBI director who was overseeing the Russia investigation.

A European security official said sharing sensitive information could dampen the trust between the United States and its intelligence sharing partners. "It wouldn't likely stop partners from sharing life-saving intelligence with the Americans, but it could impact the trust that has been built, particularly if sharing such information exposes specific intelligence gathering methods," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak about such intelligence sharing.

The Royal Court in Jordan said that King Abdullah II was to speak by telephone with Trump today [Macau time]. The revelation also prompted cries of hypocrisy. Trump spent the campaign arguing that his opponent, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, should be locked up for careless handling of classified information.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson also disputed the report. He said Trump discussed a range of subjects with the Russians, including "common efforts and threats regarding counter-terrorism." The nature of specific threats was discussed, he said, but not sources, methods or military operations.

The controversy engulfed the White House. Reporters spent much of the evening camped out adjacent to Press Secretary Sean Spicer's office, hoping for answers. At one point, an eagle-eyed reporter spotted a handful of staffers, including Spicer and Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, walking toward the Cabinet Room.

Muffled yelling was heard coming from the area near the room, but after a reporter tweeted about the noise, press staffers quickly turned up their television volume, blasting the sound to drown out everything else. AP

Tax and spend: UK Labour Party releases its election pledges

UK Labour Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn pledged to raise taxes on businesses and the wealthy to pour more money into health, education and infrastructure.

The election manifesto for the main opposition party published yesterday confirmed many of the promises in a leaked draft last week. It promises 37 billion pounds (USD48 billion) of funding for the National Health Service, the abolition of university tuition fees, and the establishment of a National

Investment Bank to lend 250 billion pounds over the next decade.

Labour plans to raise 48.6 billion pounds from taxation to pay for the extra spending. There will be an increase in income taxes on those earning more than 80,000 pounds a year - and another one on earnings over 123,000 pounds - a hike by a third on corporation tax and a new levy on companies paying staff more than 330,000 pounds a year.

On June 8, voters will be electing a new government

almost a year after a slim majority of the country chose to pull Britain out of the European Union. Prime Minister Theresa May called the snap vote, citing the need to strengthen her hand for Brexit talks, and polls show her Conservatives handing Labour its worst defeat since at least 1983.

A slew of nationalizations in the rail, water and energy industries capped Labour's pitch with Corbyn offering a "radical and responsible" plan to contrast with May's oft-repea-

ted selling point of "strong and stable" leadership.

The party said it accepts last year's referendum result for Britain to withdraw from the EU but it would scrap May's negotiating position, prioritizing continued access to the single market and customs union.

Labour would immediately guarantee the rights of some 3 million EU citizens living in Britain, rather than making that contingent on a reciprocal guarantee for Britons abroad. It also drew a line



Jeremy Corbyn

under its vacillation over immigration, saying it accepts that the free move-

ment of EU nationals to Britain would end after Brexit. Bloomberg

US, Turkey to work toward finding Syria consensus

Vivian Salama, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is welcoming Turkey's president to the White House for their first face-to-face meeting, even as Turkish officials fumed over a U.S. decision to arm the Syrian Kurds.

Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are expected to address the Syrian civil war, the refugee crisis and the fight against the Islamic State group.

Shortly after Erdogan arrived in Washington, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told his party members that U.S. cooperation with Syrian Kurds "is not something acceptable" for Turkey.

Turkey is determined to "root out terror," Yildirim said, if "necessary guarantees for Turkey's sensitivities and issues pertaining to Turkey's security are still not given."

The Trump administration has ramped up efforts to respond to the crisis in Syria, taking unpre-



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine disembark from a plane after arriving in Washington

cedented action against Syrian President Bashar Assad's government over its use of chemical weapons against civilians.

But with Iran and Russia working to bolster Assad's government, the Trump administration is turning to regional allies, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt for help as it crafts its Syria policy.

Complicating that effort, however, was an announcement by the Trump administration that

it plans to arm Kurdish Syrian fighters in the fight against the Islamic State group. Turkey has been pressuring the U.S. to drop support for the Kurdish militants in Syria for years and doesn't want them spearheading the Raqqa effort.

Turkey believes they're linked to a Turkish Kurdish group, known as the PKK, which the U.S., the European Union and Turkey all consider a terrorist organization.

Trump's deal-making skills will

be put to the test as he works to assure Erdogan that the decision to arm Kurdish fighters in Syria will not result in weapons falling into the wrong hands.

Erdogan arrived Monday in Washington, the Turkish flag hanging prominently outside the Blair House, a historic presidential guesthouse across the street from the White House.

The meeting is considered high stakes for the nascent Trump administration as it looks to engage regional allies in delicate security matters while enforcing international standards for human rights.

Trump's willingness to partner with authoritarian rulers and overlook their shortcomings on democracy and human rights has alarmed U.S. lawmakers of both parties. That puts added pressure on him to get results.

Trump has gone out of his way to foster a good relationship with Erdogan. After a national referendum last month that strengthened Erdogan's presidential powers, European leaders and rights advocates criticized Turkey

for moving closer toward autocratic rule. Trump congratulated Erdogan.

But Erdogan may not be amenable to accepting the U.S. military support for the Kurds in a quid pro quo. Last month, the Turkish military bombed Kurdish forces in Syria and Iraq, in one case with American forces only 10 kilometers away. His government has insisted it may attack Syrian Kurdish fighters again. The U.S., whose forces are sometimes embedded with the Kurds, has much to fear.

Erdogan may not be amenable to accepting the U.S. military support for the Kurds in a quid pro quo

Washington is concerned by rising anti-Americanism in Turkey that Erdogan's government has tolerated since the July coup attempt. The U.S. also has pressed unsuccessfully for the release of Andrew Brunson, an American pastor, and other detained U.S. citizens. **AP**

AD

SATURDAY SUPER STACK

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what's ON



EXHIBITION OF CHAN IU PUI

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: August 7, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

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

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

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAU

TIME: 10AM-7PM (LAST ADMISSION AT 6:30PM, CLOSED ON MONDAYS)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

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

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LOVE OF MACAO - PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM

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

UNTIL: July 9, 2107

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat



DELIVERYMAN TAKES PIZZA TO RIDERS ON STALLED AMTRAK TRAIN

A pizza delivery man in Delaware got an order from an unusual address: a stalled Amtrak train from New York on its way to Washington.

Passenger Mitchell Katz posted a video of deliveryman Jim Leary walking up to the train Sunday evening as it sat on the tracks. People on board were getting restless after being left without access to food or water during the long delay and eventually some passengers came up with the idea of ordering pizza, Katz said.

Leary, a driver for Dom's Pizza in Newport, told The Associated Press on Monday that he cut through a backyard, navigated a steep embankment and jumped over a water-filled ditch all while balancing the two pies in order to make the delivery.

The 46-year-old Leary was rewarded with a cheering crowd of passengers and a total of USD32 in tips for his effort. Leary's 17-year pizza delivery career has brought him to addresses in 32 counties across 18 states, but he said the broken down train is one of the strangest.

"I do whatever it takes," he said.

Amtrak apologized that its passengers were inconvenienced but said it was "extremely dangerous" for the deliveryman to approach a train on the tracks to deliver pizza. "We are glad no one was hurt and hope this is not tried again in the future," the company said Monday in a statement.

A mechanical issue was to blame for the delay, Amtrak said. Eventually, another train was brought in to take the passengers to Washington, Katz said. Amtrak's website shows the passengers arrived more than three hours late.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:45	Revenge Sr.2
17:30	Once Upon A Time Sr.2 (Repeated)
18:10	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Drama
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	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



1974 BOMBS DEVASTATE DUBLIN AND MONAGHAN

Three car bombs have exploded in Dublin, killing 23 people and injuring more than 100 others during rush hour.

Five more people died and another 20 were hurt in a blast which hit the border town of Monaghan an hour later.

Up to 15 of the dead are believed to be women and two are thought to be baby boys.

Irish Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave condemned the bombings and said on TV: "I do not know which evil men did this but everyone who has practised violence or preached violence or condoned violence must bear his share of responsibility."

"It will bring home to us what the people of Northern Ireland have been suffering for five long years."

The drama unfolded at around 1725 when two of the bombs tore through Talbot and Parnell Street before a third blast rocked South Leinster Street near Trinity College.

A fourth explosion struck a public house in Monaghan shortly after. The city was immediately declared a disaster area.

A police spokesman said: "There were no warnings. These were acts of outright war. People had no chance."

"We are detaining everyone we think can help with inquiries. We believe the people behind this come from Northern Ireland."

Talbot Street, which was even more crowded than usual because of a corporation bus strike, was the worst hit area. Several bodies lay in the road for half an hour as ambulances struggled to get through traffic jams.

Witness John Casey, who was walking into a Talbot Street hotel when the bomb went off, said: "Hundreds of people were in the street. They were running and screaming aimlessly."

"A newspaper stand was blown into the air past me and the newsboy next to it just disappeared in front of my eyes." Immediately after the bombings the Ulster Defence Association in Belfast denied planting the bombs as did the Provisional IRA.

But police later discovered that all four cars had Ulster registration plates and two of them had been hijacked in Protestant areas in Belfast.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final death toll in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, which included a pregnant woman and a stillborn child, stood at 33.

The loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force eventually admitted carrying out the bombings in 1994.

But relatives of the dead and wounded still believed many questions were left unanswered and they formed the Justice For The Forgotten organisation in 1996.

The group has continued to press the Irish government for a public inquiry into the truth behind the bombings ever since.

Many believe the UVF were helped by British intelligence.

Eventually a private inquiry into the bombings was set up in 2003 by retired Judge Henry Barron.

But the British authorities were unwilling to co-operate and to provide the necessary files and information.

As a result his findings were inconclusive.

In July 2004 the Irish government agreed to set up a commission of inquiry into the bombings.

Nobody has ever been convicted of the atrocities.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 When dealing with other people today, listen to their ranting and raving with an open mind. Not everyone around you will be able to agree on the right way to go about doing things.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Someone interesting is in your cluster of cubicles and the two of you can't keep your eyes off each other. Just lay down some ground rules before you hop in the sack.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It can either go two ways for you right now, romantically speaking. An existing relationship will become far more intimate or a new relationship will take off like a speeding train.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you really want to be different, why not put your credit cards and your checkbook away, and breathe new life into a garment or accessory you already own? You're always in the mood to shop.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You need a change of scenery. Sitting still has always been a challenge for you. But at the moment, it's going to basically impossible. Why fight it? Get out there and mix it up.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're totally engrossed in your work, and that's how it should be. But a certain authority figure has been on your mind lately too, and your thoughts are anything but professional.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 More than anything right now, you're enjoying the intimacy you've allowed yourself to give and receive. Your favorite peeps have confided in you, and you've shared your own secrets with them, too.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You definitely have a way with words - but today's astrological additives will magnify your verbal dexterity tenfold, if you you've been meaning to make amends, reveal a secret or just get something off your chest.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You've been carrying on this behind-the-scenes infatuation for far too long - it's time to get this show on the road. So treat yourself to romance, extravagance, and nothing but the best.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Too much is going on, and you'll miss out on some exciting stuff if you're not careful! You've been cruising along in the fast lane lately, but today you might want to put on the blinker and ease over to slower traffic.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your reputation is your top concern right now, so tend to it with a little TLC. Avoid being seen in the wrong places with the wrong people, at least for the time being. Make sure you come off in a good light.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Everything will go so well if everyone cooperates today - and they will mostly. Except, of course, for a few die-hards. Just ignore those folks. No matter how you shake it, today is a great day to be you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fighting; 6- Render weaponless; 11- Devoured; 14- Strange and mysterious; 15- Where Hercules slew the lion; 16- D.C. pol; 17- Political realism; 19- Georgia, once: Abbr.; 20- AOL, e.g.; 21- 007's alma mater; 22- Italian ice cream; 24- Artist Chagall; 25- First; 26- Capital of Utah; 30- Architectural piers; 31- PC linkup; 32- Vibrating component of a woodwind instrument; 36- Avg.; 37- Make insane; 41- Quattro minus uno; 42- Clasp for a door; 44- Large container; 45- Rental agreement; 47- Seesaw; 51- Garfield's snack; 54- Seemingly forever; 55- Good to go; 56- Heroin, slangily; 57- Palm Pilot, e.g.; 60- PBS benefactor; 61- Substitute; 64- Tolkien creature; 65- Gogol's "___ Bulba"; 66- Commerce; 67- Paris possessive; 68- Narrow cuts; 69- Moves with care; DOWN: 1- Ethereal; Prefix; 2- Golf pegs, northern English river; 3- Enclose; 4- Feel poorly; 5- Revoked; 6- Unbolt; 7- Dresden denial; 8- Invoice no.; 9- Regnant; 10- Succeed; 11- Very, to Verdi; 12- Seed covering; 13- Register; 18- Other, in Oaxaca; 23- Interstellar dist.; 24- 1959 Kingston Trio hit; 25- Volunteer's words; 26- Scarf; 27- Architectural pier; 28- Former Fords; 29- Fill with joy; 33- Coup d'___; 34- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland; 35- Antlered animal; 38- Ultimate; 39- Pro ___; 40- Stretch; 43- School orgs.; 46- UFO pilots; 48- Discharges; 49- Break; 50- Tailless amphibian; 51- Ways to the pins; 52- Coeur d'___, ID; 53- Blind parts; 56- Beat it!; 57- Legumes; 58- Type of ranch; 59- Iowa State city; 62- Dernier ___; 63- Heston's org.;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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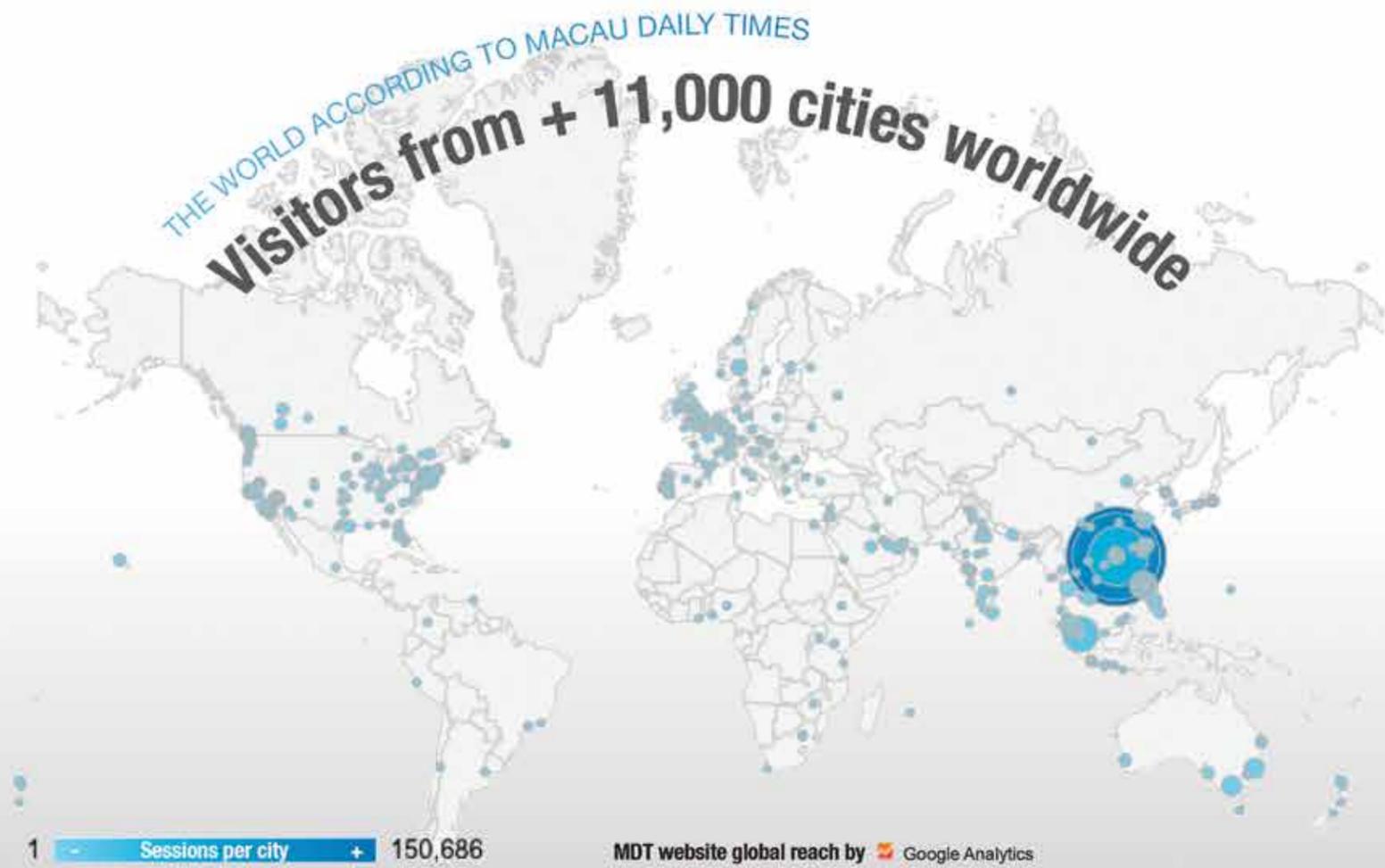
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Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

OLYMPICS 2024

IOC evaluation commission praises Paris' vision

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

IOC evaluation commission chairman Patrick Baumann praised Paris' vision for the Olympics as he wrapped up a three-day visit to the French capital yesterday.

Baumann, however, stopped short of giving hints on whether the City of Lights will host the games in 2024, or four years later.

As the International Olympic Committee currently assesses the possibility of awarding Paris and Los Angeles the next two Olympics in September, Baumann said he was impressed by the sense of history at the heart of the French bid.

Many downtown landmarks would be used if Paris wins the games. The road cycling races would finish at the Arc de Triomphe, taekwondo and fencing competition would be staged inside the Grand Palais, equestrian next to the Versailles Castle, and beach volleyball at the foot of the Eiffel Tower.

"The Paris bid can put sport in the middle of that history," Baumann said at a news conference. "And there is also the Olympic history, with the baron Pierre de Coubertin, this is where modern Olympics were born. There is a very strong link between Paris'



IOC evaluation commission chairman and FIBA secretary general Patrick Baumann, photographed on June 16, 2016 during a signing ceremony in Beijing for a strategic partnership between FIBA and Wanda Group

history, the Olympics history and their will to host the games again after those of 1924."

The IOC was founded in Paris in 1894 by French Baron Pierre de Coubertin, and the French capital hosted the Olympics in 1900 and 1924. Paris failed in bids for the 1992, 2008, and 2012 Games.

After three cities pulled out of the Olympic race, Los Angeles

and Paris are the only two bidders left for the 2024 Games, which will be awarded in September at a meeting of Olympic leaders in Peru.

But the IOC has four vice presidents looking into the prospect of awarding the 2024 and 2028 Games at the same time to ensure a "win-win" scenario. A decision on the issue is likely to be made before a key meeting in

Lausanne, Switzerland, in July when Paris and Los Angeles will have another opportunity to present their bids to IOC members after they receive the evaluation commission report.

The host city election will take place on Sept. 13 in Lima, Peru.

Paris has made clear it is only interested in hosting the 2024 edition, a message hammered home once again by Paris Mayor

Anne Hidalgo yesterday.

"I'm not even thinking that we won't get 2024," Hidalgo told The Associated Press when asked about the future of the bid if Paris loses.

Baumann, whose team toured the Los Angeles venues last week, said both bids have excellent technical dossiers, but two different visions.

"We have two candidatures that do not present major risks," he said. "Both cities have an Olympic tradition, venues ready to use and dedicated teams. They have a totally different historic and cultural background. The two cities have a different vision and IOC members will have to decide between the two."

Baumann also brushed off concerns about the costs of the Paris bid, whose infrastructure budget has been estimated at 3 billion euros (\$3.3 billion), with operational costs of 3.2 billion euros. But Paris still needs to build an aquatics center close to the Stade de France, a media center and the Olympic Village.

"We are confident that their budget is a very realistic budget and fit in the program Paris 2024 wants to put in place," Baumann said.

On the final day of their visit, IOC commission members met with French President Emmanuel Macron, who said he would go to Lausanne. Macron may also go to Lima if he finds a slot in his agenda.

"Clearly the state is fully behind the bid," Paris bid leader Tony Estanguet said. "Emmanuel Macron is personally committed, following in the footsteps of Francois Hollande." **AP**

LA LIGA

Madrid done rotating players as it goes for Spanish title

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

THERE is no more rest for Cristiano Ronaldo and his teammates.

Zinedine Zidane is done rotating his squad and will use Ronaldo and the rest of the regular starters when Madrid plays at Celta Vigo with a chance to regain the Spanish league lead and move into position to clinch its first title in five years.

A win or a draw in the match postponed from February because of bad weather will move Madrid past Barcelona into first place going into the weekend's final round of matches. Both teams have 87 points, but the Catalan club leads on the head-to-head tiebreaker. Madrid plays at mid-table Malaga on Sunday, while Barcelona finishes its season

against eighth-place Eibar on the same day.

"We are prepared," Zidane said yesterday. "We have two matches to play, two finals, and then it's all over in the league. Everybody is doing very well physically and wishing that the game starts as soon as possible. We are thinking positively and we will give everything we have."

Zidane had been rotating the squad the last few months as Madrid also played the decisive stages of the Champions League. Its latest game in the European competition was against Atletico Madrid in the semifinals last week, when it advanced to the final on June 3.

Zidane kept regular starters such as Karim Benzema, Casemiro and Luka Modric out of the starting

lineup against Sevilla on Sunday, when Madrid won 4-1. Ronaldo was in that match, scoring two goals, and he is also going to play on Wednesday [3 a.m. Thursday, Macau time] in Vigo. The star forward hadn't played in an away match for Madrid since March, against Athletic Bilbao. He was rested in the team's following four away matches in the league.

"Cristiano will be with us," Zidane said.

The game against Celta was originally scheduled to be played on Feb. 5 but was postponed because heavy winds damaged the roof of the Balaidos Stadium, making it unsafe for players and spectators. Vigo authorities at the time accused Madrid of improperly pressuring to play the game despite

the security concerns, and the club had to officially respond by saying that it would never want to put the fans' safety at risk.

Madrid wanted to avoid playing Celta so late in the season. There were no other dates to play the match because Celta was participating in the Europa League and Madrid in the Champions League.

Celta, which made it to the semifinals of the Europa League, eliminated Madrid in the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey after winning 2-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium and drawing 2-2 at the Balaidos in January. The team is currently 13th in the Spanish league standings.

"It will be a difficult game because Celta has a good team. It's going to be complicated, just like it was



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo shoots a free kick during La Liga soccer match

against Sevilla and like it will be against Malaga," Zidane said. "I expect to face the same Celta team as always."

Madrid hasn't won the league since 2012 and is trying to avoid its lon-

gest title drought since 1981-85. It's longest winless streak since then was when Barcelona won four in a row from 1991-94.

Barcelona is trying to win the league title for the third straight time. **AP**

opinion

World Views
 The Editors, Bloomberg

THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY'S ZOMBIE MANIFESTO

If this were, say, 1974, nobody would have batted an eye at the British Labour Party's election manifesto. But in 2017, a program of renationalization, tax hikes, wage caps and other radically socialist fare isn't just outdated and impractical; it's painfully beside the point. This call to return the U.K. to an era of economic dysfunction comes at the country's most vulnerable moment in decades, with Brexit negotiations looming.

You might say, Why worry? Opinion polls put the Conservatives way ahead of Labour, so it doesn't matter what Labour says it would do in power. Actually, it does matter.

Britain needs an effective opposition - and if Labour won't hold the government to account, nobody will. Instead of making the case for 1970s-style socialism, Labour's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, should be arguing that he, not Prime Minister Theresa May, will better manage the Brexit negotiations and build a close and cooperative future relationship with the European Union.

Granted, the manifesto does have one or two smart things to say on Europe. For instance, it underlines the importance of retaining the benefits of the EU's single market (though it doesn't say much about that how to do that). It rightly argues that the question of residence rights for EU citizens in the U.K. should have been settled before the Article 50 exit process was triggered - that it's both wrong and bad tactics to try to use the status of those migrants as a bargaining chip.

The problem is that such particles of wisdom on Europe are overwhelmed by an old-school Labour catechism of nationalization, workers' rights, free higher education, higher taxes, more public spending, and increased public control of the economy.

By way of illustration, consider this: The manifesto says the government would use its buying power to force companies under government contract to "move towards" paying their highest-paid executives no more than 20 times the wages of the lowest-paid. If the minimum wage were raised to 10 pounds an hour, as Labour also proposes, the corresponding ceiling for top executive pay would be roughly 400,000 pounds a year. The idea is too far from reality to take seriously: Its only purpose is to announce that old Labour is back.

Britain is one of the world's most vibrant economies and draws investment from all over the world. Brexit jeopardizes that success, and Corbyn is right to criticize the government's approach. But a party dedicated to the kind of archaic dirigisme set forth in this program cannot plausibly present itself as the economy's champion.

Tony Blair revived the party's fortunes in the 1990s by introducing Labour to real-world economics, and he went on to win three consecutive general elections. With Brexit bearing down, it's little short of a disaster that today's Labour Party is intent on turning back the clock.

THE MARATHON MISTAKE SENDS SOME RUNNERS AN EXTRA HALF-MILE

Organizers of a Maine marathon are apologizing for a course error that caused many runners to go an extra half-mile, costing some a chance to run in next year's Boston Marathon.

Officials with the Maine Coast Marathon say some runners in Sunday's race were mistakenly directed down a dead end before looping back, bringing their total distance to about 26.7

miles. The error caused some Boston hopefuls to post times that are unlikely to qualify.

The course was corrected but, because not all runners ran the extra distance, officials say they can't simply adjust the times.

Race director Charles Melton said they will offer refunds to those who missed qualifying for Boston because of the mistake.

Many '77 rock kings still touring

Wayne Parry

IT'S more than a feeling: Many of the rock 'n' roll bands that were huge in 1977 will comprise a big part of the summer concert market 40 years later.

Queen, Foreigner, Boston, Aerosmith, Kiss, Alice Cooper, Billy Joel and Rod Stewart are among those launching major tours this spring and summer, even though some of them haven't had a big hit since Jimmy Carter (or at least Ronald Reagan) was in office.

Concert industry executives say nostalgia acts are still reliable sellers, with satellite and classic rock radio keeping their hits alive.

"The simple answer is that good music is still good music," said guitarist Tom Scholz, who founded Boston and found immediate stardom with tracks that remain staples of classic rock playlists including "More Than a Feeling," "Peace of Mind," "Long Time" and "Don't Look Back." "It's pretty much still Boston, as long as I'm alive, as long as I can stand up and play."

To get a feel for how long ago that was, 1977 was the year that serial killer Son of Sam was arrested in New York, when George Steinbrenner, Billy Martin and Reggie Jackson turned the Yankees into a three-ring circus, when "Star Wars" and "Saturday Night Fever" packed theaters, and when the King of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley, died.

It was the year Kiss neared the zenith of its popularity,



Adam Lambert (left) and Brian May of the Queen perform

with the "Love Gun" and "Alive II" albums. Fellow shock rocker Alice Cooper scored huge airplay with an unexpected orchestral ballad, "You and Me." Rod Stewart was on every rock and pop station with "Hot Legs," "You're in My Heart" and "I Was Only Joking," and scored the Billboard No. 1 song of the year in "Tonight's the Night."

It's easier to list which songs on Joel's 1977 album "The Stranger" WERENT major hits than to list the ones that were. And Foreigner followed Boston's success of a year earlier to become the new overnight sensation with a debut album that sold 4 million copies, powered by classics like "Feels Like the First Time" and "Cold As Ice."

"I never could have imagined when I set out to create Foreigner 40 years ago, that we'd still be touring around the world and performing the music we love all these years later," said guitarist and founding member Mick Jones. "I can't express the gratitude I

feel when fans share stories of how our songs have been woven into their milestones and memories over the years."

That's a big part of why classic rock bands remain reliable draws on the concert circuit, said Gary Bongiovanni, editor of the concert industry publication Pollstar.

"The audience that grew up on rock 'n' roll are still rock 'n' roll fans," he said. "They still want to see these acts, whether they have a new record or not. That's a big part of the concert business."

And fans are forgiving (or sometimes oblivious) of lineup changes. The original singers for Boston and Queen died, Foreigner vocalist Lou Gramm left in 2003, and Kiss's original lineup last toured in 2000.

Aerosmith is the most unlikely band of survivors, given its members' history of drug use. Yet they're still out there with all five original members. "Anytime I can go see Aerosmith, I will go," said Queen guitarist Brian May. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Anthony Kwan/Bloomberg



People look out from the waterfront in the Tsim Sha Tsui district as buildings across the Victoria Harbour stand illuminated at night in Hong Kong.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	50-70 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

US-RUSSIA President Donald Trump yesterday claimed the authority to share "facts pertaining to terrorism" and airline safety with Russia, saying in a pair of tweets he has "an absolute right" as president to do so. More on p14

GERMANY A German court has convicted a 32-year-old Iraqi man of raping two Chinese college students in the western city of Bochum. The dpa news agency reported yesterday that the court sentenced the man to 11 years in prison.

DENMARK Authorities say that a Danish national has been arrested upon an extradition request from Rwanda where he's suspected of committing crimes against humanity in 1994. Prosecutor Martin Stassen says the 49-year-old man was arrested yesterday on suspicion of taking part in a massacre in a church and at a university where more than 1,000 people were killed.

EU The European Union has removed all airlines from Benin and Mozambique from its air safety blacklist after the companies addressed the bloc's safety concerns. EU Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc said yesterday that the airlines' removal from the blacklist showed their reforms and cooperation have paid off.



BRAZIL A few hundred national Brazilian security forces are patrolling parts of Rio de Janeiro following a surge in violence. Several public buses and cargo trucks have been burned in recent weeks. There has also been an increase in violence in large slums like Alemao.

UNITED NATIONS The U.N. is predicting expanding global economic growth in the next two years, spurred by stronger growth in the last six months and a modest recovery in trade and investment. In its mid-year update released yesterday, the U.N. said the acceleration is underpinned by firm economic growth in many developed countries and strengthened prospects in countries in transition.