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The University of Macau inaugurated the Chinese-Portuguese Bilingual Teaching and Training Centre

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NEW MEASURES AGAINST FINANCIAL CRIME
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FIERCE FIGHT GOES ON IN MARAWI



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



IRAQ The advance of government troops slowed yesterday in the last push to drive Islamic State group militants from the remaining pockets of Mosul. The city's wide-scale military operation was launched in October last year and its eastern half was declared liberated in January. The United Nations has warned that civilians will be hardest hit in the final phase of the assault.



AUSTRALIAN drug smuggler Schapelle Corby, whose trial and imprisonment on Indonesia's tourist island of Bali mesmerized her country for more than a decade, returned home yesterday.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

China unleashes zombie films to boost box office

Zhang outlines plans to tighten grip on HK

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PHOTO ARCHIVE



Former La Scala land public housing project to be assessed

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Renato Marques

THE recent French presidential elections were discussed last week at the France Macau Business Association (FMBA) breakfast meeting held at Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16. French political scientist, Eric Sautédé, was invited to review the election's consequences for both Europe and China.

Speaking to the Times, Sautédé said, "[The election of Emmanuel Macron] is both a continuation and a development; a further integration of Europe."

The political scientist explained that on this occasion, "Europe invited herself into the debate over the presidential election, when traditionally the candidates used Europe as a kind of 'scapegoat' for failures or policies gone wrong. This time around, we saw a clear division of pro and cons regarding [the idea of the European project]," noting that most of the election candidates opposed – or at least had significant reservations – about such a project.

By contrast, Macron defended the European project and had a precise strategy for how this project should be furthered, by protecting and integrating key areas such as finance, budgeting and other national policies concerning the environment and taxation.

In Sautédé's opinion, one of Macron's biggest challenges for his presidency is the fact that his political program is 'black and white', and "when you don't have the support of a party you can not fail." Sautédé noted that Macron will be held directly accountable for any failures as he is subject to the very high expectations of those who voted for him.

Questioned on whether the idea of a European project led to his election, Sautédé remarked, "not all people who

Macron is 'the furthering of the European project'



Eric Sautédé

voted for him agree with all these ideas. Especially during the second round, a lot of people voted against Marine Le Pen."

As to the extent to which this result will have implications on relations between France and China, the guest speaker remarked that "a lot of deals were called off last year [between China and European countries]" because Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the USA seemed more attractive to Chinese investors than in Europe. He added, "of course, with [Donald] Trump [in the US presidency] we will see what happens this year."

Nevertheless, he still thinks the election outcome was very positive – not just for France

but for all European Union countries. "China has a lot of fund reserves, not just in USD but also in EUR and other currencies, and if people vote against the European project and for a 'Frexit' [as Le Pen was advocating], China would have a lot to lose."

Especially during the second round, a lot of people voted against Marine Le Pen.

ERIC SAUTÉDÉ

"China was very supportive toward Macron, especially as he supported their own interests," he said, noting that Macron had also already given clear signs of being a great supporter of the "One Belt One Road" (OBOR) initiative, which put China and France on the same page.

"While China [through OBOR] wants to play an important role in the globalization process, the idea of globalization is also present in Macron's call for greater integration of Europe," Sautédé explained, noting that values such as equality and solidarity are said by political scientists to have been "somehow lost, especially after the [economic] crises of 2008. [...] We can't

forget that there are many European countries that are seeing the OBOR as a very important initiative in terms of creating infrastructures that they need."

He suggests that the potential impact for Macau is similar, and that although the discourse has "a kind of propaganda form with a lot of empty words, it does make sense for Macau. There is a wish [pushed by the Central government] for Macau to play a role with the Portuguese-speaking countries, and this initiative might be the channel for this 'bridge' to materialize."

"Macau is better suited than Hong Kong for such a task, especially because Hong Kong is now very suspicious about everything that comes from the central authorities," Sautédé said. "This is an opportunity that foreign [owned] businesses have seen and the casino industry has seen too – it is only now the local businesses are realizing it because they lacked the imagination to perceive it before. They were very narrow minded and finally now they seem to have discovered something [that was there all along]; namely, that Macau has a Portuguese heritage and this can be used for profit."

During the talk, Sautédé also addressed the fact that many members of the new French government led by Macron, currently have or formerly had close connections with China. He anticipates that the historical relations between the two countries are likely to be "back on the right track." He also remarked that France needs to further develop areas that are targeted by Chinese investment. Two important fields for investment are technology-based industries and the energy industry.

Bilateral relations between France and India are also expected to be fostered under Macron's leadership.

MICE events on the rise

INFORMATION released on Friday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed that the number of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) events in the MSAR had increased significantly in the first quarter of 2017,

compared to the same quarter a year earlier.

During the first quarter of 2017, a total of 366 MICE events were held in Macau, consisting of 344 meetings and conferences, seven exhibitions and 15 incentive programs. The total number

of participants and attendees of these events numbered about 222,000.

Analyzed by type of MICE activity, the number of meetings and conferences in the first quarter increased by 50 year-on-year, with the number of participants more

than doubling to 54,000, according to DSEC. The number of incentive programs showed a year-on-year increase of three, to a total of 15 programs.

A total of seven exhibitions organized by non-government organizations were held in the first quarter, three more than the same quarter last year. The number of attendees increased by almost 50 percent to

163,000, while the average duration of the exhibitions was three days, up by 0.2 days year-on-year.

According to information provided to DSEC by exhibition organizers, receipts from the exhibitions amounted to about MOP5.5 million, while expenditure reached MOP5.6 million.

The government department also interviewed 160 exhibitors at these

events during the first quarter. Respondents indicated that 97.7 percent of their revenue was generated from product sales.

The survey also showed that a relatively low proportion of exhibitors were satisfied with the promotion of the exhibition (42.8 percent), down by 13.9 percentage points from the previous quarter.

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Unemployment holds stable at 2 percent

The general unemployment rate for the three-month period of February to April 2017 held stable at 2 percent, according to a statement issued by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The unemployment rate of local residents was 2.7 percent, down by 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous three-month period of January-March. Meanwhile, the underemployment rate remained unchanged at 0.5 percent. The total labor force in the February-April period was about 389,200. Total employment was 381,500 and the number of employed residents was 280,000, up by 2,000 and 1,900 from the previous period, respectively. On the other hand, the number of unemployed (7,700) residents dropped by 200. Fresh labor force entrants searching for their first job accounted for 9.7 percent of the unemployed

DSEC surveys banking sector employment

The Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) published data on human resources and employment in the banking sector in a statement released last week. The data showed that the number of full time employees across the 28 banks in the MSAR increased by 53 year-on-year to 6,053 at the end of the first quarter of 2017. At the same time, the banking sector hired 174 new employees in the first quarter, and had an employee turnover rate and employee recruitment rate of 3 percent and 2.9 percent respectively. In terms of recruitment prerequisites, 64.5 percent of the vacancies required work experience, 96.3 percent required tertiary education, and the requirement for knowledge of Mandarin and English accounted for 98.4 percent and 97.1 percent respectively. By occupation, there were 1,626 directors and managers and 2,030 clerks. In March, the average wage (excluding bonuses) of full-time employees amounted to MOP26,020, an increase of 3.5 percent year-on-year.

EDUCATION

UM opens bilingual training center

THE University of Macau (UM) held an inauguration ceremony for the Chinese-Portuguese Bilingual Teaching and Training Centre on Friday. The center is under the Department of Portuguese of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and includes a language and culture exhibition room, a reception room and a general office.

During his inauguration speech, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam remarked that higher education institutions in Macau are better suited to offering Portuguese language courses than universities in mainland China.

He expressed his high expectations for the two centers, as well as his hope that the centers will aid the region in fostering Macau's cooperation with mainland China.

UM rector Wei Zhao also pointed out that in addition to being the largest Portu-



Alexis Tam

guese teaching institution in Asia, the UM Department of Portuguese also boasts a culturally diverse faculty whose members include professors from renowned universities in Portuguese-speaking countries.

With the faculty's support, the center will initiate various projects, such as the implementation of innovative teaching methods to improve the Department of Portuguese's current course delivery.

The university stated in a press release that the center intends to carry out targeted academic research in the teaching and learning of the Portuguese language, as well as Chinese and Portuguese cultures generally.

The center will also offer module-based training courses for Portuguese language teachers from Macau and mainland China. It will develop Portuguese teaching materials and multimedia teaching materials tailor-

made for local students.

The center's future plans also include compiling and publishing a guidebook of cultures of Portuguese-speaking countries, and collaborating with mainland Chinese publishing houses to translate and publish Chinese and Portuguese classics.

Separately, UM also held its Congregation 2017 on Saturday, which was attended by Chief Executive Chui Sai On, who is also chancellor of UM.

Chui said at the ceremony that he hopes that UM and other institutions will seize the opportunity and continue to improve their "hardware" and "software" in order to "train students to become the pillars of society."

Rector Wei Zhao said in his speech that the UM implements a "4-in-1" education model, which has produced a positive effect on the students: their academic performance, soft skills and employability have all significantly improved.

This year, more than 1,400 students graduated from UM with a bachelor's degree. 44 of the graduates have also completed programs offered by the Honours College.

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AL PLENARY

Former La Scala land public housing project to be assessed

Julie Zhu

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) posed several questions to Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário concerning the government-reclaimed land from the former "La Scala" development in Taipa, close to Av. Wai Long, which has sparked discussion on relevant environmental issues.

The public has been skeptical about the plan to erect a public housing project consisting of 8,000 units, as the location is

close to the airport and a waste incineration center, among other allegedly delicate facilities.

Rosário attended Friday's AL plenary session, along with leaders of several public works departments, to answer the lawmakers' doubts.

Lawmaker Leong Veng Chai urged the government to reveal its scientific and practical measurements to prevent or reduce pollution resulting from incineration and airport activities in the area.

Au Kam San additionally called on the government to conduct

an environmental evaluation of the location, as well as noise and air quality tests.

He also wondered whether the government could present the reports compiled in 2009 for the La Scala project.

Rosário responded that the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) will launch a public tender for an environmental evaluation regarding public housing at Av. Wai Long.

He noted that the evaluation will include noise, landfill, and sewage assessments, among others.

Leong then asked about the government's plan if the land is revealed to be inappropriate for habitation, noting that the Chief Executive had already decided to commence construction on the plot.

■ The secretary claimed that if the evaluation results indicate that the project is improper, the authorities will cancel it

The secretary claimed that if the evaluation results indicate that the project is improper, the authorities will cancel it.

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun noted that the mountain near the planned project was previously a landfill for the disposal of untreated medical waste.

According to Mak, the buried refuse may be a time bomb for the housing project, and he urged the government to consider



this carefully when conducting the environmental evaluation.

However, the Secretary claimed that the project will not be situated at the former landfill itself.

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong asked whether the government is considering moving the waste incinerator to a different location, such as the artificial island built for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Lawmaker Angela Leong, recalling her previous suggestion, said that the Wai Long plot is very suitable for the construction of youth apartments. Furthermore, she declared that building public housing is "not good for the public" and that the land was unsuitable for commercial purposes.

Public housing application process not illegal

RAIMUNDO do Rosário claimed that he failed to see any violations or illegal behaviors regarding the Commission Against Corruption's (CCAC) reports on Macau's public housing application procedures.

Earlier, the Housing Bureau (IH) had canceled several economical housing contracts with buyers because of the applicants' marital status.

The CCAC report states that IH, when considering applicants, should not include an applicant's spouse as a member of the applying family if they married while the applicant was awaiting approval to buy an economical house.

IH President Arnaldo Ernesto dos Santos revealed that IH is issuing permissions to related families so that they might enroll in further background checks for housing projects, so as to confirm whether any members of these families already own properties.

He added that the bureau can issue 4,000 contract permissions each year. Moreover, 400 house buyers who had made appointments with IH to deliver documents to the bureau, which would have advanced the contracts, failed to deliver all required documents. Some 350 of the 400 did not deliver any documents whatsoever.

Lawmaker Kwan Tsui Heng questioned the authorities on how the government plans to improve elevator safety.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works responded that the regulation of the city's elevator maintenance has been added to the authorities' legislative schedule. A draft of the regulation will be completed within the year.

Additions to administrative regulations of elevator maintenance will be included in the legislative plan as well, under the responsibility of the Land, Public Works, and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT).

In addition, Rosário added that the safety checks for elevators across the territory are not "as bad as it is imagined."

Director of DSSOPT Li Canfeng noted that the planned elevator regulations will have provisions on penalties for violations and will also require mandatory elevator checks in private buildings.

The law will distinguish between the responsibilities of property owners and those of maintenance companies.

According to Li, over 8,000 elevators in Macau have obtained independent codes. As of this month, 2,500 certificates for safe elevator operation are still valid.

SIN FONG GARDEN TO BE COMPLETELY REBUILT

THE SIN Fong Garden will be completely reconstructed according to the project's original plan, as announced by Raimundo do Rosário, who also noted that the housing project is a special case which requires specific steps to be taken in its reconstruction. He further mentioned that re-

building the edifice might result in less actual usable area because the MSAR is imposing more and more requirements regarding fire services. The secretary also noted that the amendment of the city's fire regulations has already progressed into legislative procedures.

28TH ARTS FESTIVAL

'Constellation Works' exhibition inaugurated

THE exhibition, "Constellation Works" by Nicolas Delaroche, integrated into the 28th Macao Arts Festival, was inaugurated on Friday at the Tap Seac Gallery, according to exhibition organizer, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

The exhibition features three series of works by Delaroche, including a photography series titled "First Seen." It was made during the artist's residency in China and was initially titled "A Barba-



rian in China".

According to the IC, Delaroche uses the term "barbarian" to "describe

a foreigner who observes an unknown culture, exploring and capturing the world he [has seen]

for the first time."

"First Seen" features a total of 80 pieces by Delaroche and depicts his observations and study of private collections in mainland China and Hong Kong. It encourages the public to reflect on the meaning behind collecting and displaying artworks by showcasing them from different perspectives.

In addition to the photography series, an installation titled "The Rock" is also featured in

the exhibition. The installation is a massive inflated sculpture made of white fabric that recreates the desert landscape of the animated movie "Road Runner".

The third series of works by Delaroche, "The Adventures of the Coyote in China", is a blueprint of the Coyote character from the aforementioned film.

Born in 1985 in Laon, France, Delaroche currently lives in Switzerland. He obtained a

master's degree in contemporary art from the Hochschule de Kunst Bern as well as a photography degree from the Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne.

A statement from the IC says that the opening ceremony was officiated by IC President Leung Hio Ming, among other senior officials in the MSAR, including the deputy director of the department of education and culture from the mainland's MSAR Liaison Office.

The exhibition is open daily to the public at the Tap Seac Gallery until October 8. Admission is free.

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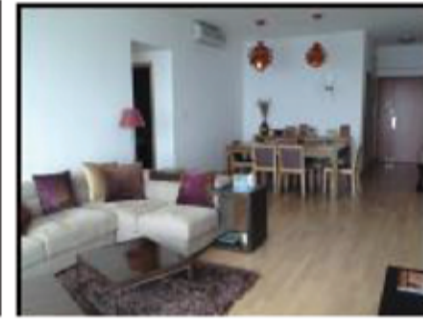
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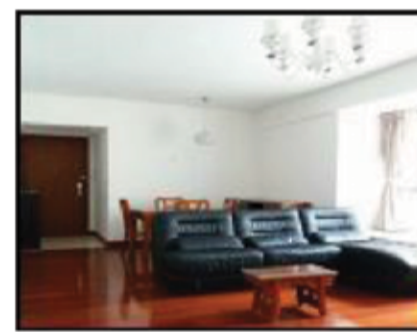
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MONEY LAUNDERING

Monetary authorities to step up fight against financial crime

THE respective monetary authorities of Macau and Hong Kong have joined hands with mainland financial organizations to draft and implement new tactics in the fight against money laundering, financial crime and terrorist funding.

The Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) said in a statement that representatives from Macau, Hong Kong and the People's Bank of China met in the MSAR on Friday to deliberate methods to tackle money laundering.

Both the AMCM and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) agreed during the meeting to establish a "Financial Security Expert Alliance" for experts to promote the "security and stability" of financial markets in the region.

Following the meeting, the two authorities published similar but separate statements reaffirming their "determination" to fight financial crime.

The AMCM statement said that the alliance will "make good use of Macau's unique environment to accumulate practical



The Monetary Authority of Macau headquarters

experience in regard to financial security."

"The alliance effectively maintains and continuously promotes the security and stability of financial markets through relevant regulatory arrangements, including the application of technology and organizing forums," the department continued.

All parties at the meeting reached a consensus and agreed to publish Friday's outcome, the

AMCM statement added. The HKMA additionally proposed the establishment of a "Fraud and Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce" (FMLIT), according to a report by the South China Morning Post.

A spokesperson from the Hong Kong authorities told the SCMP that the initiative, led by the Hong Kong police, "aims to promote a more effective partnership among the financial sector, law enforcement and regulator."

The joint statements of intent reflect the concerns over capital flight among political and regulatory decision-makers in Beijing. To highlight this, the AMCM statement noted that the issue of financial security has been "elevated to the level of national governance."

An unidentified security insider told the SCMP that the move had probably been coordinated by Beijing and that it is a sign that the mainland is seeking a more holistic solution to the problem in the two Special Administrative Regions.

Macau has a notorious reputation as a money laundering haven, which some speculate is linked to the city's gambling industry.

Last week, however, a new group of anti-money laundering specialists denied that Macau's reputation was an accurate depiction of the city.


The Macau Anti-Money Laundering Specialists Association blamed foreign media for perpetuating the image and called on local media to help unravel the city's reputation. **DB**

FAOM eschews election activities during sponsored events

The Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) claims that it will not organize any election activities during events sponsored by the Macao Foundation, as announced last week by the FAOM vice president on a phone call during a TDM talk show. According to the president, FAOM has applied for financial support from the Macao Foundation in more than 1,000 activities that the association has organized in the past three years. Moreover, FAOM guarantees that it will not do anything illegal and that it will use all funds it receives from the government to help FAOM members and society.

Water area management law to be delivered to AL

Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) Liu Dexue has revealed that the laws regarding Macau's water area management are expected to be delivered to the Legislative Assembly (AL) in the first quarter. According to a report by Macao Daily News, the authority completed a public consultation as well as drafts of the law, which will soon be delivered to the Chief Executive Council for discussion. Along with the aforementioned law, the DSAJ is currently following up on more than ten additional laws. Laws regarding the registration of boats have already progressed to a preliminary draft stage. Laws and regulations on the city's taxis are also being processed.



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horário/schedule:
Sextas/Fridays
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+ 1 Sábado
+ 1 Saturday
01/07/2017

10h00 - 13h00
14h00 - 16h00
16h30 - 19h30

início/starts: 02/06/2017
fim/finishes: 01/07/2017
total: 18 horas/hours

língua/language:
Português e Inglês
Portuguese and English**

propina/fee:
MOP 540 *

local/venue:
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London flight chaos as British Airways seeks to restore services

BRITISH Airways flights in and out of London's Heathrow airport, the third busiest in the world, were disrupted for a second day as the carrier struggled to return to normal service after a massive computer failure paralyzed its operations, stranding thousands of travelers.

A total of 95 British Airways flights, or 10 percent of services, were canceled by midday yesterday while 210 flights, or 24 percent, were delayed, according to Flight Aware, a Houston-based airline tracking service. Flight Aware said 418 flights were scrapped at Heathrow airport and Gatwick, south of London, on Saturday and 568 were delayed.

The airline yesterday urged passengers without rebooked flights to stay home and check the carrier's website for status updates.

British Airways had to scrap all Saturday afternoon and evening departures from Heathrow and Gatwick airports following what it called a "very severe disruption" worldwide. It ordered passengers



to leave the terminals and urged other travelers to stay home.

The airline is aiming to operate the majority of its Heathrow departures on yesterday and "a near normal schedule" from Gatwick, although aircraft and crews are out of position and have to be relocated during the night, it said in a website posting Saturday. Portions of the system had been restored Saturday.

"We are extremely sorry for the huge inconvenience this is causing our customers, and we understand how frustrating this must be," British Airways Chief Executive Officer Alex Cruz said in a video message filmed at the carrier's operations center near Heathrow.

"We believe the root cause was a power supply issue, and we have no evidence of any cyber attack," Cruz said in the message distribu-

ted on Saturday night.

The breakdown, which also affected call centers, prevented passengers from rebooking or from retrieving luggage that had already been loaded onto their planes.

Heathrow, in a tweet yesterday, said further delays and cancellations of BA flights are expected and urged travelers to check websites or BA's Twitter feed before heading for the airport.

Travelers took to Twitter on Saturday in Europe to complain of flight postponements, long lines to check in, and waiting for long periods on the tarmac after boarding planes. Once services were canceled, passengers from grounded planes or at gates at Heathrow endured large crowds at passport control desks to re-enter the country.

British Airways staff told customers to find hotels on their own for reimbursement later by the airline. Payments will include 200 pounds (USD260) per night for lodging, 50 pounds round trip between the airport and the hotel, and as much as 25 pounds for re-

freshments, according to leaflets from the company.

"I would estimate, given the timing of the bank holiday weekend, that this has affected a hundred flights and a thousand passengers already," said John Strickland, director of aviation at analysts JLS Consulting, "Considering the reimbursements for canceled flights and the costs of lodging stranded passengers, this will have an impact on revenue and the magnitude of the cost will depend on how long the outage lasts and how long it takes to resolve."

Hotels surrounding the airports were reportedly charging as much as 1,000 pounds (\$1,280) to 2,500 pounds for rooms for a night, according to the Sunday Telegraph.

The airline said it would seek to rebook customers "over the course off the rest of the weekend," or offer full refunds if a passenger is unable to fly.

The disruption coincides with the start of the annual end-of-May Bank Holiday weekend in the U.K., as well as the three-day Memorial Day weekend regarded as the unofficial start of summer in the U.S.

Last September, a computer network failure brought down British Airways' check-in system, causing worldwide service delays, while earlier this week, London Gatwick airport reported problems with its baggage-sorting system. **Bloomberg**

China's bicycle renaissance is no boon to biggest producers

IN China, a bicycle-sharing phenomenon is changing the way urban dwellers get around - and forcing listed manufacturers to scramble to get a slice of the profits.

Across major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, sidewalks are filling up with parked bikes that anyone with an app can unlock with a swipe of their phone. The cost is a few U.S. cents a hour, and users can dump the vehicle wherever they

want, unlike rental schemes in Western cities where bicycles typically have to be returned to docking stations.

As competition grows more aggressive - with at least seven companies offering such services in Beijing alone - the biggest bicycle-makers are trying to get a slice of the boom. Their stocks have been in retreat as the emergence of bike sharing risks eroding

sales already hit by China's economic slowdown and competition from smaller manufacturers.

Taiwan's Giant Manufacturing Co., the world's largest cycle maker by market value, will deliver 600,000 bikes by the end of the year to Ofo Inc., a rental firm whose yellow two-wheelers command over half of the market in China. Shanghai Phoenix Enterprise Group Co., which has been making

bikes in China since the 1950s, said this month that it will also supply Beijing-based Ofo with at least 5 million bicycles.

Bike manufacturers are "are now at a crossroads," said Rui Shi, a Beijing-based analyst at Internet consulting firm iResearch Consulting Group. "It's inevitable that big bicycle manufacturers will seek cooperation with rental companies because the rise of ride-sha-

ring will undermine their retail sales of low-end models."

So far, the rental companies have relied on smaller manufacturers to supply basic models at a low cost. Tianjin Flying Pigeon Cycle Development Co. and Tianjin Fuji-ta Bicycle Co., both privately held, are among Ofo's suppliers. Ofo's chief rival Mobike built its signature orange-colored bikes, which use a GPS locking system, with the help of Foxconn Technology Group and Tianjin Aima Sport Goods Co., according to the Beijing Morning Post.

"Some listed bike manu-

facturers have been latecomers in joining the bike-sharing business," said Wang Chenxi, an analyst with Analysys International, an Internet research firm in Beijing. "They are more cautious than small, private makers and take a much longer time to make decisions."

While China's bike-sharing startups are raking in venture capital, it's not translating into stock gains for the larger manufacturers. Giant's shares have fallen more than 30 percent over the past two years as the company reshuffled management amid falling profits. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA PARTICIPATES IN CLEAN PLATE CHALLENGE



In support of World Hunger Day, Sands China Ltd. team members participated in the Clean Plate Challenge from May 23 to 25.

It is the company's fourth consecutive year supporting World Hunger Day, which is held annually on May 28 to raise public

awareness about the worldwide problem of hunger and starvation.

For this year's event, team members met their new participation target by completing the Clean Plate Challenge a total of 83,000 times, up from last year's target of 60,000, as cited in a statement issued by the gaming operator.

In the days leading up to the Clean Plate Challenge, team members had the opportunity to support the work of Oxfam in Macau by becoming donors and by purchasing rice packs, the funds from which will go toward supporting smallholder farmers.

Team members also donated dry foods to the Fuhong Society of Macau.

APPLE SAID TO PLAN DEDICATED CHIP TO POWER AI ON DEVICES



Apple Inc. got an early start in artificial intelligence software with the 2011 introduction of Siri, a tool that lets users operate

their smartphones with voice commands. Now the electronics giant is bringing artificial intelligence to chips.

Apple is working on a processor devoted specifically to AI-related tasks, according to a person familiar with the matter. The chip, known internally as the Apple Neural Engine, would improve the way the company's devices handle tasks that would otherwise require human intelligence - such as facial recognition and speech recognition, said the person, who requested anonymity discussing a product that hasn't been made public.

Apple declined to comment.

Engineers at Apple are racing to catch their peers at Amazon.com Inc. and Alphabet Inc. in the booming field of artificial intelligence. While Siri gave Apple an early advantage in voice-recognition, competitors have since been more aggressive in deploying AI across their product lines, including Amazon's Echo and Google's Home digital assistants. An AI-enabled processor would help Cupertino, California-based Apple integrate more advanced capabilities into devices, particularly cars that drive themselves and gadgets that run augmented reality, the technology that superimposes graphics and other information onto a person's view of the world.

Zhang Dejiang outlines plans to consolidate power over Hong Kong

Annie Lee

CHINA'S third-most senior leader has warned the people of Hong Kong not to challenge the "high degree of autonomy" the city has enjoyed since it was handed over to Beijing by Britain 20 years ago.

Outlining plans to consolidate Beijing's power over Hong Kong, National People's Congress Chairman Zhang Dejiang in a speech on Saturday also called on the city to enact controversial national security legislation that has been on hold since half a million people flooded the streets in opposition in 2003. The sweeping legislation would outlaw treason, sedition and other national threats.

"The relationship between the central government and Hong Kong is that of delegation of power, not power-sharing," Zhang said at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on the upcoming 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover from Britain. Calls for self-determination or independence for Hong Kong were attempts to shun the sovereignty enshrined in the Basic Law that China has over the city. "One cannot turn a blind eye to such acts," he said.

Zhang mentioned areas in which

XINHUA



Zhang Dejiang (center) pictured at the Legislative Assembly during this month's visit to Macau

the central government would go into further detail to consolidate its hold over Hong Kong, including the pace of political reform, Beijing's power over the city's chief executive and its ability to appoint and dismiss key officials.

The Hong Kong special administrative region should "steadfastly implement the constitutional obligation of national security under the Basic Law," he said.

China promised to give Hong Kong a "high degree of autonomy" before the U.K. relin-

quished control in 1997. On July 1, Xi Jinping is expected to visit the city for the first time as president to mark the anniversary of the exchange.

The commemoration comes against a backdrop of elevated political tension in Hong Kong. So-called Occupy protests paralyzed parts of the city in 2014 sparked by China's insistence that it would vet candidates for the chief executive post. Many residents of the city are still angry over the lack of a direct election for their chief executive, who is selected by a

1,194-member committee dominated by China loyalists.

Zhang defined the role of the city's chief executive as "core" in his speech. Hong Kong's former No. 2 official, Carrie Lam, was elected chief executive in March. She won a resounding victory among the business and political elites who picked the city's leader, and dispatched an opponent more popular with the general public. Lam's inauguration ceremony will take place on July 1.

The NPC chairman said Hong Kong's judges and government

officials should take the lead to understand the Basic Law.

The timing of Zhang's comments are interesting because they come as Lam is finalizing the list of people she wants in her cabinet, Willy Lam, an adjunct professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said by phone Saturday.

The relationship between the central government and Hong Kong is that of delegation of power, not power-sharing.

ZHANG DEJIANG

"The speech means Beijing has overall jurisdiction and whatever privileges Hong Kong people enjoy are granted by Beijing," Lam said. "The hard-line language is laying the groundwork for July 1 when Xi Jinping is expected to visit the city." **Bloomberg**

Daniela Wei

MOOODY'S Investors Service's decision to downgrade Hong Kong's debt rating last week was based on "shallow" evidence, Hong Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan wrote in a blog yesterday. "The evidence on which the ratings company mechanically downgraded Hong Kong's debt rating based on the very close economic relationship between Hong Kong and the mainland is shallow," Chan wrote in a blog on the official website of the financial secretary. Enhancing cooperation with the mainland cannot be considered negative as China is the main growth engine for the global economy, he added.

Moody's cut its rating on China's debt for the first time since 1989 last week, a challenge to the view that the country's leaders can rein in leverage while maintaining the pace of economic growth. Hours

HKSAR Financial Secretary questions Moody's over debt downgrade

later, the company cut the rating on Hong Kong's local- and foreign-currency issuances to Aa2 from Aa1, and changed the outlook to stable from negative. It was the territory's first cut in ranking by Moody's since the Asian financial crisis in 1998.

"Credit trends in China will continue to have a significant impact on Hong Kong's credit profile due to close and tightening economic, financial and political linkages with the mainland," Moody's said in its statement. Closer financial ties "risk introducing more direct contagion channels between China's and Hong Kong's financial markets."

Hong Kong's government said in a statement on its website shortly afterward that it disagreed

with the decision by Moody's, citing Chan. The ratings company overlooked Hong Kong's "sound economic

Chan said Moody's concern for China's economy lacked objective evidence because growth and exports this year have improved

fundamentals, robust financial regulatory regime, resilient banking sector and strong fiscal position," the government said.

Chan, who was appointed Hong Kong's financial secretary in January, expanded on that argument with his blog post yesterday. He said Moody's concern for China's economy lacked objective evidence because growth and exports this year have improved, while steel and coal oversupply have eased. In response to Moody's "contagion channels" worry, Chan said Hong Kong's financial system is very stable and it has policies in place to improve risk management for mainland-related loans.

The rating firm's outlook cut in March 2016 has

BLOOMBERG



Hong Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan

proven to be "exaggerated" based on economic growth since then, Chan also wrote. Moody's cut Hong Kong's outlook to negative from stable last year because it said the city's credit profile tracked China's. Days earlier, it lowered China's credit-rating outlook, highlighting the country's surging debt burden and questioning

the government's ability to enact reforms.

China's currency and stocks rallied despite last week's debt-rating downgrade. The onshore yuan strengthened 0.5 percent, the biggest weekly gain since July 2016. Shanghai's benchmark gauge climbed 0.6 percent last week, the most since the week ended April 7. **Bloomberg**

Former police official convicted of murder

CHINA on Friday executed a former top police official convicted of murder and other crimes in a case that attracted broad public interest, along with accusations of torture and abuse of justice from the man's family.

State media reported that Zhao Liping was executed after his death sentence was upheld by the Supreme People's Court. Zhao was also convicted of bribe taking and illegal possession of firearms.

Zhao, who'd wielded enormous power over his fellow citizens as police chief of the vast Inner Mongolia region, had denied the charges against him.

While state media hailed his conviction as a milestone in the country's crackdown on officials who abuse their powers, his brother alleged he'd been sentenced in a show trial, raising issues of justice that are rarely aired in politically sensitive, often tightly scripted cases.

Zhao was the first ministerial-level official to be sentenced to death in President Xi Jinping's signature crackdown on corruption that began in late 2012, and his execution was a top item on state broadcaster CCTV's main national noon news report.

Zhao, 66, had been found guilty of murder after shooting to death a 27-year-old woman in 2015 who was said to have had an "intimate relationship" with him. Chinese media reports



AP PHOTO
Zhao Yifeng displays photos of his brother Zhao Liping

said Zhao also had burned and buried the woman's body. The murder raised speculation that Zhao feared she would expose him for some unspecified form of corruption.

Zhao's brother, Zhao Yifeng, said earlier this year in an interview with The Associated Press that interrogators used torture to obtain a confession used to reach the conviction. Zhao Yifeng said that in one session, his brother was put through 22 hours of questioning with his chest, arms and legs strapped and cuffed to a chair in order to immobilize him, kept awake throughout and denied medication for a heart condition. He also detailed his accusations in a letter to the court.

Executions in China are traditionally carried out by gunshot, although lethal injection has also been introduced in recent years. China is believed to execute more prisoners each year than the rest of the world combined, although the precise total is classified as a state secret. **AP**

US: Jets conduct unsafe intercept of Navy aircraft

TWO Chinese aircraft conducted an unprofessional intercept of a U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft over the South China Sea, the Pentagon said Friday, marking the second time in about a week that the U.S. has complained about unsafe Chinese operations in the region.

A defense official said one of the Chinese J-10 fighter jets flew about 200 yards in front of the U.S. P-3 aircraft and about 100 feet above it, doing slow turns. The second Chinese fighter remained about 750 yards off the P-3's right wing. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Navy Cdr. Gary Ross said the Navy P-3 Orion was operating in international airspace. He said the U.S. is reviewing the incident and will convey concerns to the Chinese.

Last week, U.S. defense officials said two Chinese SU-30 jets conducted an unprofessional in-

tercept of an American radiation-sniffing surveillance plane in the East China Sea.

Pacific Air Forces spokeswoman Lt. Col. Lori Hodge said at the time that the Chinese aircraft approached a WC-135 Constant Phoenix aircraft — a modified Boeing C-135 — conducting a routine mission in international airspace in accordance with international law.

The WC-135 crew characterized the intercept as unprofessional "due to the maneuvers by the Chinese pilot, as well as the speeds and proximity of both aircraft," Hodge said.

China denied U.S. accusations about last week's intercept, saying its aircraft conducted a safe and professional operation.

Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian said the American plane was conducting surveillance over the Yellow Sea — the northern part of the East China Sea — and that the Chinese jets moved to identify and verify the plane "in accordance with laws and regulations." **AP**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Hosts Back-of-House Roadshows for Local SME Suppliers

Part of company's local supplier support programme

As part of Sands China's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme, two local SMEs currently contracted by Sands China recently held roadshows at the back-of-house areas of Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao.

The roadshows are part of Sands China's commitment to further support local procurement and SME growth, by offering more business opportunities to local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), micro-enterprises, young entrepreneurs, and "Made-in-Macao" enterprises.

Between April 24 and May 5, food and beverage suppliers Chip Seng and Wing Fung displayed a total of 100 products to Sands China's 30,000 team members, offering them at a discounted price. Team members bought over MOP 1.1 million worth of goods in total from the two SMEs during the roadshows.

Chip Seng is a local SME that provides the company with items such as sauces, sugar packets and canned foods. Rong Yelong, a salesperson from the hotel department of Chip Seng, said: "We really have enjoyed our working relationship with Sands China. It's obviously good for our bottom line to have a client as large as Sands China, but it also helps show potential new clients that we can handle large-scale procurement at international standards."



A micro-enterprise started by a Macao young entrepreneur, Wing Fung provides the company with dry foodstuffs including fish maw, abalone, bird's nest, mushrooms and other fungi. Sue Sou, director of Wing Fung, said: "We're very pleased to be doing business with Sands China. Our experience working with their procurement team has been a very professional one. Honestly, I didn't expect the personal touch to be there, considering the size of their operation, but they definitely surprised me. Our company is not just a number to them; we've gotten to know the associates at Sands, and we feel like valued partners in each other's success."

Since 2011, roadshows like these have been held regularly for Sands China team members, averaging one roadshow every three months. They benefit SMEs by giving them access to direct business opportunities with customers, while giving Sands China's team members a chance to enjoy discounted offers.

Sands China's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme was jointly announced in July 2015 with the Macao Chamber of Commerce. The programme is in line with the Macao government's initiative to "buy local" and demonstrates Sands China's commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of the company's corporate social responsibility efforts. It is part of Sands China's supplier relationship management strategy, which guides the company's long-standing effort to support local suppliers, whom it views as its strategic partners.

Sands China plans to hold additional promotions at its properties' back-of-house areas in the future to further support the growth of local SMEs.



Team members browse items for sale by local SME supplier Chip Seng and Wing Fung April 25 at The Venetian Macao. Sands China hosted a round of back-of-house roadshows across its properties for the two suppliers between April 24 and May 5, as part of the company's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme. The roadshows were well received by Sands China team members.

India imposes security lockdown in Kashmir

GOVERNMENT forces enforced a strict curfew in parts of Indian-controlled Kashmir yesterday, a day after the killing of a prominent rebel commander by Indian soldiers sparked massive protests in the disputed region.

Armed police and paramilitary soldiers patrolled deserted streets and ordered residents indoors in the region's main city of Srinagar and other towns to stop the anti-India demonstrations.

Still, thousands of people assembled in the southern Tral area to take part in the funeral of the rebel leader, Sabzar Ahmed Bhat, chanting slogans calling for Kashmir's freedom from Indian rule.

There were no reports of any protests yesterday, which marked the beginning of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

After Bhat and another militant were killed in a gunbattle with soldiers on Saturday, large-scale protests and clashes erupted across the region, leaving one civilian dead and dozens of others injured.



Masked Kashmiri Muslims hold funeral prayers in absentia for a rebel commander and his associate killed in a gunbattle

Anti-India sentiment runs deep among Kashmir's mostly Muslim population, and most people there support the rebels' cause against Indian rule despite a decades-long military crackdown to fight the armed rebellion.

Separatist leaders who challenge India's sovereignty over Kashmir called for a general strike yesterday and today.

India and Pakistan administer part of Kashmir, but both claim the territory in its entirety.

Rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for Kashmir's independence or merger with neighboring Pakistan. Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the fighting and the ensuing Indian crackdown. India has accused Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, which Pakistan denies.

Rebel groups have largely been suppressed by Indian forces in recent years. However, public opposition to Indian rule remains deep and is now principally expressed through street protests marked by youths hurling stones at government forces. AP

South Korea confirms fishing crew's safety after hijack scare

SOUTH Korea said Saturday that it has confirmed the safety of crew members from a fishing vessel that had lost contact in waters off Somalia, prompting Seoul to dispatch a naval unit over fears that the vessel had been hijacked by pirates.

Seoul's Foreign Ministry said it planned to "close the case" after the vessel's South Korean captain confirmed the safety of his crew in a telephone call with a South Korean business partner. While officials were still gathering details on what happened, they were sure that the vessel wasn't hijacked, according to a ministry official, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules.

Hours earlier, South Korea's military said it dispatched its anti-piracy Cheonghae Unit to the area after the 234-ton vessel, which had a crew of three South Koreans and 18 Indonesians catching squid, lost contact after relaying it was being followed by a suspected pirate vessel. Upon Seoul's request, patrol aircraft from India, Germany and Japan also searched the area, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in ordered related government agencies and the military to "invest full efforts into the rescue operation, so that not a single life is lost," according to his office.



South Korean navy sailors salute in front of the destroyer "Great King Munmu," which will be sent to pirate-infested Somali waters

The fishing vessel was registered in Mongolia and owned by an ethnic Korean businessman living in South Africa. The vessel's captain, chief engineer and boatswain were South Korean nationals, the Foreign Ministry said.

Crews from South Korean fishing vessels and cargo ships have often been targets of Somali pirates.

Recent weeks have seen a resurgence of piracy off Somalia's coast after five years of inactivity. The piracy was once a serious threat to the global shipping industry but lessened in recent years after an international effort to patrol off the coast.

Some Somali fishermen, including former pirates, say foreign ships illegally fishing in local waters are forcing them to return to piracy to make money. AP

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Philippines pounds militants as civilians found shot dead

Jim Gomez, Marawi

PHILIPPINE forces found the bodies of what appeared to be eight executed civilians as authorities launched fresh airstrikes yesterday to drive militants linked to the Islamic State group out of a besieged southern city. The death toll from six days of fighting neared 100.

The crisis in Marawi, home to some 200,000 people, has grown increasingly dire as the militants show unexpected tenacity, fending off a military that has unleashed attack helicopters, armored vehicles and scores of soldiers.

The violence prompted President Rodrigo Duterte last week to declare 60 days of martial law in the southern Philippines, where a Muslim separatist rebellion has raged for decades. But the recent bloodshed in Marawi has raised fears that extremism is growing as smaller militant groups unify and align themselves with the Islamic State group.

Much of the city is a no-go zone, but as the military advances and more civilians escape, the scope of the battle is becoming clear.

Thousands of civilians have



Philippine marines walk to the frontline in the continuing assaults to retake control of some areas of Marawi city

streamed out of Marawi and more than 2,000 were still trapped inside the city. Many sent desperate text messages begging to be rescued and reporting that their homes had been destroyed, said Zia Alonto Adiong, an official in Lanao del Sur, one of the country's poorest provinces.

"Have mercy on us, we don't have any more water to drink," read one of the messages, sent to a hotline set up for trapped residents.

The Associated Press was shown the messages by relief workers at a provincial government complex in Marawi. Another message asked authorities to retrieve three bodies that were rotting near a resident's home.

Speaking at the evacuation center on yesterday, Saddat Liong said his house was hit by mortar fire and burned to the ground. Liong, his wife and eight children lost everything, he said — even their cooking pots. "I feel that we've lost our city," he said.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said that combat operations were still going on, but that the militants were weakening. "We believe they're now low on ammunition and food," he said, speaking by phone from Manila, the capital. "Compared to the initial days, there has been increasingly less resistance from the militants within Marawi."

Padilla said the bodies of four men, three women and a child were found near a road close to Mindanao State University in Marawi. Eight other men were found gunned down and thrown into a shallow ravine yesterday in Marawi's Emi village, said police officer Jamail Mangadang. A paper sign attached to one of the men indicated that the victims had "betrayed their faith," he said, identifying the men as civilians.

Thousands of civilians have streamed out of Marawi and more than 2,000 were still trapped inside the city

Marawi is a mostly Muslim city. Mangadang said the eight men were bakers and carpenters who were evacuating to Iligan, a city near Marawi, but were intercepted by the militants. When

they couldn't recite verses of the Quran because they were Christians, they were brought to the top of a ravine and shot to death, Mangadang said, citing the chief of a village where the victims lived.

In addition to the civilian deaths, Padilla said 61 militants, 11 soldiers and four police were among the dead.

The violence erupted Tuesday night when the government launched a raid to capture Isnilon Hapilon, who is on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists. But the operation went awry and militants rampaged through the city, torching buildings and battling government forces in the streets.

A priest and several worshippers were taken hostage. There was no word on their condition.

Hapilon, an Islamic preacher, is a commander of the Abu Sayyaf militant group who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2014. He also heads an alliance of at least 10 smaller militant groups, including the Maute, which has a heavy presence in Marawi and has been instrumental in fighting off government forces in the current battles.

All of the groups are inspired by the Islamic State group. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters that Hapilon has received funds from the Islamic State group.

Washington has offered a USD5 million reward for information leading to Hapilon's capture. **AP**

Charges: Sex traffickers took hundreds from Thailand to US

Amy Forlity

HUNDREDS of women were brought from Thailand to the U.S. and forced to be "modern day sex slaves," according to an indictment unsealed last week that charges high-level members of what authorities called a sophisticated sex-trafficking ring that concealed millions of dollars in earnings.

The indictment brings the total number of people charged to 38, making it one of the largest sex-trafficking prosecutions in the U.S., said Acting U.S. Attorney Gregory Brooker. Authorities say the operation lured Thai women to the U.S. with promises of a better life, then forced them to work as prostitutes until they could pay off often insurmountable bondage debts.

Women were rotated through several prostitution houses around the U.S., forced to work long hours, and "forced to have sex with strangers, even if the men

were abusive," Brooker said.

The latest indictment goes after the money — estimated in the tens of millions of dollars — as well as high-level members of the organization, such as "house bosses." It charges 21 people with various counts, including conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, sex trafficking by use of force or threats, conspiracy to engage in money laundering and operating an unlicensed money transmitting business. It builds upon an indictment unsealed in October that charged 17 people, some of whom have pleaded guilty.

Alex Khu, special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Minneapolis, said going after the enterprise's finances was important.

"We hit them hard," Khu said. "It was a gut punch."

Khu's agency discovered the international ring after it began looking into a sex-trafficking case in the Twin Cities in 2014. Former Min-

nesota U.S. Attorney Andy Luger had made sex trafficking a priority and traveled to Thailand as part of the investigation. Luger was among the U.S. attorneys forced to resign in March, but prosecutors in the office have continued working this case, approaching it as they would an organized crime network.

The conspiracy began in 2009, according to the indictment, with organizers bringing poor women who spoke little English from Bangkok to several U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Minneapolis, Washington, Houston and Dallas. The organization threatened to harm the women's families in Thailand if they escaped.

"The victims were isolated. They typically did not have the ability to choose who they have sex with, what sex transactions they would engage in, or when they would have sex," the indictment said.

The women were forced to turn over most of the money they earned, plus pay for rent, food and personal items, making it almost impossible to repay their debts, the indictments say. They also were often encouraged to get breast implants, and the surgery costs were added to their debt.

The women were forced to open bank accounts in the U.S. that the organization controlled and used to hide proceeds

Panida Rzonca, directing attorney with the Thai Community Development Center in Los Angeles, told the story of one victim who left her family in Thailand to get a massage job in the U.S. Upon arrival, her passport was taken away and she was told she would have to pay USD35,000. It wasn't until her trafficker took her to buy lingerie that she discovered she was really brought to the U.S. for commercial sex. The woman eventually escaped, Rzonca said.

Twenty of the people charged in the latest indictment were arrested Wednesday, with one person remaining at-large. Authorities said active prostitution houses were shut down, and some additional victims were found.

Those arrested include house bosses who allegedly ran day-to-day operations, including advertising, scheduling sex buyers, and ensuring that a portion of cash made by victims was

routed back to traffickers to pay down bondage debts. The arrested also included alleged money launderers.

As part of the money laundering scheme, the women were forced to open bank accounts in the U.S. that the organization controlled and used to hide proceeds. The organization also recruited people to bring large sums of cash to Thailand or hid cash in items sent to Thailand, such as clothing or dolls. Cash was also sent to Thailand through international wire transfers and hawala-based systems, the indictment said.

One of the bosses of the organization was arrested in the first phase of the investigation and is in custody in Belgium. Authorities are working to extradite her to the U.S., Khu said.

The leaders of the ring based in Bangkok — who are identified in the indictment as Individual A and Individual B — are believed to be in Thailand and are at-large. **AP**

Trump calls first trip abroad 'home run' as challenges await

Jonathan Lemire, Julie Pace

PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Saturday said his maiden trip abroad was a "home run" and he vowed to overcome the threat of terrorism, concluding a grueling five-stop sprint that ended with the promise of an imminent decision on the much-discussed Paris climate accord.

Trump ended his nine-day trip with a speech to U.S. troops in Sicily, where he recounted his visits to Saudi Arabia, Israel, Belgium and Italy and his work to counter terrorism. The president said recent terrorist attacks in Manchester, England and Egypt underscored the need for the U.S. to "defeat terrorism and protect civilization."

"Terrorism is a threat, bad threat to all of humanity," Trump said, standing in front of a massive American flag at Naval Air Station Sigonella. "And together we will overcome this threat. We will win."

Trump tweeted earlier in the day that he would make a final decision next week on whether to withdraw from the climate pact. European leaders he met with at the Group of 7 summit in Sicily have been pressuring Trump to stay in the accord, arguing that America's leadership on climate is crucial.

Besides reaching a decision on the climate agreement once back in Washington, Trump will also face a new crush of Russia-related controversies. On Friday, the Washington Post reported that Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner spoke with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. about setting up secret communications with Moscow.

Trump held no news conferences during the nine-day trip, which allowed him to avoid questions about the Russia investigations. His top economic and national security advisers refused to answer questions about Kushner during a press briefing Saturday.

The White House had hoped to use Trump's five-stop trip as a moment



to reset. The president was warmly received on his opening stops in Saudi Arabia and Israel, though he has come under more pressure in Europe, particularly over the Paris accord.

Trump held no news conferences during the nine-day trip, which allowed him to avoid questions about the Russia investigations

Trump was cajoled for three days — first in Brussels at meetings of NATO and the European Union, then in Sicily for G-7 — but will leave Italy without making clear where he stands.

As the G-7 summit came to a close Saturday, the six other members — Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan — renewed their commitment to the accord. The summit's communique noted that the Trump administration would take more time to consider whether it will remain committed to the 2015 Paris deal to rein in greenhouse gas

emissions.

Backing out of the climate accord had been a central plank of Trump's campaign and aides have been exploring whether they can adjust the framework of the deal even if they don't opt out entirely. Other G-7 nations leaned heavily on Trump to stay in the climate deal, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel saying "we put forward very many arguments."

The president's trip has largely gone off without a major misstep, with the administration touting the president's efforts to birth a new coalition to fight terrorism, while admonishing partners in an old alliance to pay their fair share.

"I think we hit a home run no matter where we are," Trump told the soldiers. He also touted his meetings with NATO members, adding, "We're behind NATO all the way." He reiterated a renewed commitment by NATO members to spend more on defense.

Trump was referring to a vow by NATO countries to move toward spending 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense by 2024. Only five of NATO's 28 members meet the target: Britain, Estonia, debt-laden Greece, Poland and the United States, which spends more on defense than all the other allies combined.

"The U.S. is currently paying much more than any other nation and that

is not fair to the United States or the United States taxpayer. So we're working on it and I will

tell you, a big difference over the last year, money is actually starting to pour into NATO from countries that would not have been doing what they're doing now had I not been elected, I can tell you that. Money is starting to pour in," Trump said, echoing a tweet earlier Saturday on the subject.

There is no evidence that money has begun to "pour in" and countries do not pay the U.S. or NATO directly. But Germany, for instance, has been increasing its defense spending with the goal of reaching the 2 percent target by 2024.

After the pomp of presidential travel overseas, Trump will return to Washington and many of the problems he left behind.

As a newly appointed

special counsel is beginning to investigate links between the Trump campaign and Russian officials, Kushner has become a focus of the probe. Kushner's lawyer said he will cooperate with investigators.

James Comey, the former FBI director who led the Russian probe until Trump abruptly fired him, is still expected to testify before Congress about memos he kept on conversations with the president that involved the investigation. Meanwhile, the search for a new FBI director continues.

And Trump's policy agenda has run into problems. The GOP health care bill that passed the House faces uncertain prospects in the Senate after a Congressional Budget Office analysis that it would leave 23 million more Americans uninsured by 2026. The president's budget was widely criticized for deep cuts to safety net programs. And some are starting to question the chances for Trump's pledge to overhaul the U.S. tax code. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



"EXHIBITION OF MEMBERS' ARTWORKS OF YU UN CHINESE CALLIGRAPHERS AND PAINTERS ASSOCIATION OF MACAO"

TIME: 9am-7pm

UNTIL: June 25, 2017

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion of Lou Lim Ioc Garden

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

KUNG FU PANDA ADVENTURE ICE WORLD - ICE WORLD EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am -8pm (Last admission at 7:30pm)

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

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

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

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

Enquiries: (853) 2882 8818

MACAO ARTIST SOCIETY YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBER'S EXHIBITION 2017

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: June 25, 2107

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

MONKEY KING

TIME: 8pm daily (No performances on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP520, MOP780,

MOP1080, MOP1580

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

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TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

COAL TRAINS FEWER AS APPALACHIAN RAILROADS KEEP ROLLING



As the coal industry has fallen on lean times, fewer freight trains are rumbling through West Virginia.

Some Appalachian towns, like Matoaka, no longer see the long chains of coal cars that used to come through every few hours.

The major railroads here, Norfolk Southern and CSX, have shed personnel and idled equipment, cutting overhead while continuing to post profits.

But following a steep drop in the state's coal production last year, 2017 is seeing a mining uptick.

And the big railroads are expressing measured optimism, with more diversity in the freight they haul, the ongoing demand for coal to make electricity, and no plans to blow the last lonely whistle in these mountains.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Revenge Sr 2
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

29 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



GET OUT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Jordan Peele

Starring: Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams, Bradley Whitford

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104min



BAYWATCH

ROOM 3

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

Director: Seth Gordon

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron, Alexandra Daddario

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

THE CIRCLE

ROOM 3

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

Director: James Ponsoldt

Starring: Tom Hanks, Emma Watson, John Boyega

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

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



1985 FANS DIE IN HEYSEL RIOTING

Thirty-nine Juventus football fans have died during rioting at the European Cup Final in Brussels.

The tragedy occurred when a wall collapsed in the stadium and crushed Juventus fans as they tried to escape Liverpool supporters. The two sets of supporters had spent the day drinking in the Belgian city and had arrived at the Heysel stadium waving flags and chanting.

But shortly before kick off the atmosphere turned violent and Liverpool supporters stampeded through a thin line of police towards the rival fans.

As the Juventus fans retreated a wall collapsed under the pressure and fans were crushed and trampled to death in the panic.

Police at the scene were unable to contain the violence and riot police were called in to calm the situation. As the full extent of the tragedy unfolded the Red Cross moved in to treat the injured in tents set up at the scene. A priest was also called to give the Last Rites.

There were 58,000 fans in the ground and, as well as the dead, over 350 were injured. Despite protests from both team managers the game went ahead with Juventus winning 1-0 thanks to a second half penalty.

Trouble had been reported since the two sets of fans arrived in the city. There were reports of stabbings and police numbers were dramatically increased to separate the fans.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Within days, and with the backing of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, English teams were banned from competing in Europe by the FA and then Uefa.

"We have to get the game cleaned up from this hooliganism at home and then perhaps we shall be able to go overseas again" Mrs Thatcher said. All English teams were banned for five years apart from Liverpool who were banned for six.

Fourteen Liverpool fans were given three-year sentences - half the terms were suspended - after being found guilty of involuntary manslaughter at a five-month trial in Belgium in 1989.

Violence in football grounds has been largely eliminated thanks to closed circuit TV, seating in stadiums, segregation of rival fans and the banning of alcohol.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've come to a long-anticipated crossroads in one of your relationships...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today, pay attention to the people on the fringes of your social circle - the folks everyone else gossips about.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 There's no such thing as a dumb question! If you're feeling uncomfortable or unsure about something today...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try not to be too suspicious of someone who has been paying a lot of attention to you lately.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your status within your group at work or school is on a huge upswing, which will create a lot of positive energy around you.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Put a little more energy into staying current - you need to learn more about what's going on.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your famous sense of fairness and equality is stronger than ever today, and it could cause you to speak up despite your discomfort.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Some real heat has been growing between you and another person, but it might not be exactly the kind you were hoping for.

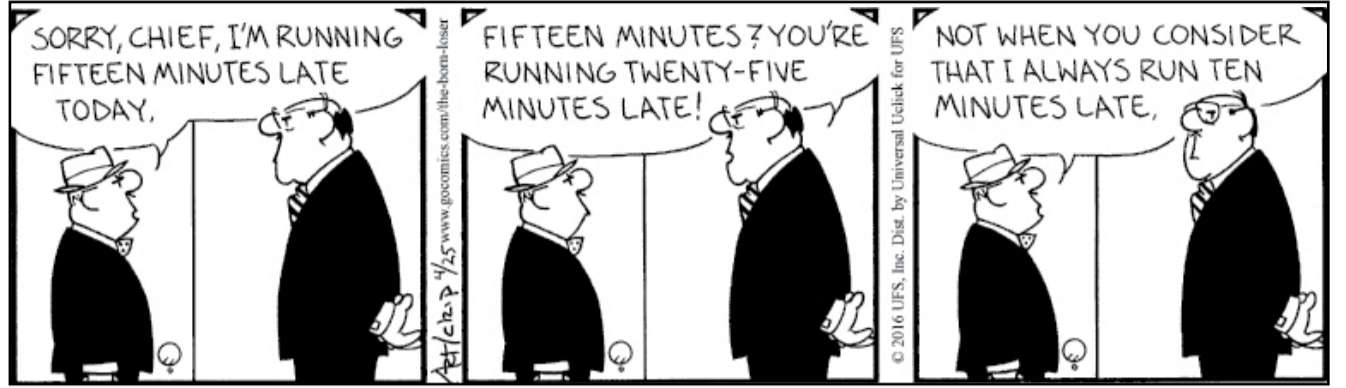
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Speak up and don't be shy today! Withdrawing into your own world will only leave you bored, not relaxed.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've been so good for so long that it's high time you did something a bit naughty!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It doesn't matter how well you are (or are not) getting along with your family right now - you need to get in touch with one or two older relatives you haven't seen in a while.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 The beauty you see in someone else's romance is completely an illusion. What you're experiencing right now is a classic grass-is-greener situation, and you are wasting your energy on being jealous.

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- Leopardlike cat; 7- Gave grub; 10- Lopsided victory; 14- "West Side Story" Oscar winner; 15- ___ Lingus; 16- Inventor Rubik; 17- Pollen producer; 18- Altdorf's canton; 19- Actor Estrada; 20- Rule of a prince; 23- Foundation; 26- Shoebox marking; 27- "Exodus" actor Sal; 28- Affirm; 29- Choose; 30- Ages; 31- Variety of rummy; 33- ___ de cologne; 34- Fallen space station; 37- Hobby shop buy; 38- "You've got mail" co.; 39- AOL alternative; 40- Fury; 41- Hearst kidnap grp.; 42- Circle of flowers; 43- Monetary unit of Mozambique; 45- ___ Kapital; 46- Affirmative reply; 47- Child's plea; 48- Introduction; 51- Ran into; 52- Moral principle; 53- Cultivation of forests; 56- Et ___; 57- City in GA; 58- With extremeness; 62- Tolstoy and Gorcey; 63- Classical beginning; 64- Newspaper executive; 65- Gds.; 66- Compass reading; 67- Break;

DOWN: 1- Mantric syllables; 2- Camp bed; 3- Division of geologic time; 4- Monetary unit of Honduras; 5- Lulus; 6- Singer Braxton; 7- Tap; 8- Causing goose bumps; 9- Faucet fault; 10- Land, as a fish; 11- Senator Hatch; 12- Bring together; 13- Capital of Japan; 21- Kathmandu native; 22- Quantity; 23- Supports; 24- Be of use; 25- Actress Berger; 29- Siouan speakers; 30- Moves with care; 32- Italian sausage; 33- Clown Kelly; 34- Book after Jonah; 35- Teheran native; 36- Museum artifact; 44- Jaundiced; 45- Contrive; 46- Egg yolk; 48- Sacred song; 49- Irritated; 50- Mixed bags; 51- Tones down; 52- Wear down; 54- Tins; 55- Consumer; 59- Parisian season; 60- ___ Angeles; 61- Decade divs.;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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

Real estate advertisement for Treasure Garden Tower 2 High Floor, Taipa, featuring 2 Bedroom Apartment with modern furnishings.

Real estate advertisement for Kam Lai Kuok Macau, featuring 2 Bedroom Apartment with newly furnished interiors.

Real estate advertisement for St Pauls Ruins Central Macau, featuring 2 Bedrooms Apartment with modern furnishing.

Real estate advertisement for Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa, featuring 3 Bedroom Apartment with balcony.

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

Surprise wins at Dragon Boat races



THE MONTE Carlo Sports Club and the Association of Macao Youth Development (AMYD) placed first in their respective categories of the Dragon Boat races yesterday at the Nam Van Nautical Center.

The two teams performed exceptionally in this year's edition of the local 500-meter boat race for large boats, as well as the Open and Ladies categories.

Racing in lane 2 for the Ladies Category grand final, the AMYD team surpassed competitors from Team MGM and Galaxy Pearl to achieve an impressive win, with MGM placing second and Galaxy Pearl third.

In the Open Category, the Monte Carlo team clinched a surprise victory despite their theoretical disadvantage of racing in lane 1. While spectators expected a fierce battle between reigning champions Fire Services (CB) and SJM's Golden Jubilee team, with Team MGM as another strong contender, it was Monte Carlo that astonished in the last meters of the race, crossing the line millimeters ahead of the CB team in an impressive final performance.

The CB team settled for second place, with SJM's Golden Jubilee team coming in third – a bittersweet achievement for the latter, who had been in the lead until the race's final moments.

On Saturday, four winners of the 200-meter small boats race – the CB, MGM, PSP-B and University of Macau-A teams – were crowned in the Open, Ladies, Public Entities and Universities categories, respectively. RM



RENATO MARQUES

RENATO MARQUES

RENATO MARQUES

RENATO MARQUES

Vettel wins Monaco GP ahead of Ferrari teammate Raikkonen

Jerome Pugmire, Monaco

SEBASTIAN Vettel beat his Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen to win the Monaco Grand Prix yesterday and comfortably extend his lead at the top of the standings to 25 points.

It was the four-time F1 champion's third win of the season and 45th of his career, as well as Ferrari's first in Monaco since Michael Schumacher — Vettel's childhood idol — in 2001.

"Unbelievable. It was a very tense race," Vettel said. "It's very, very special to win here. We're going to have a very fun night."

Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo finished third, ahead of Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas.

It was a bad weekend for Mercedes, with Lewis Hamilton — who is second behind Vettel in the standings — finishing seventh after starting from 13th following a poor qualifying session.

Vettel let out a whoop of delight and thanked his team in Italian after crossing the finish line with bright sunshine gleaming off the famed red of Ferrari. As



AP PHOTO

the German national anthem played, Vettel stood atop the podium with his eyes closed as he sang along.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was fifth, ahead of Spanish driver Carlos Sainz Jr.

Raikkonen started from pole position for the first time in nine years, with Vettel joining him on

the front row.

Both made a clean start, with Vettel holding off Bottas heading into the first corner.

After Raikkonen and Bottas had come in for a tire change a few laps earlier, Vettel changed halfway through the 78-lap race.

When he came back out, Vettel was in front of Raikkonen whi-

le Ricciardo — second here last year — had jumped ahead of Bottas.

It seemed to be a case of the Ferrari team giving preferential treatment to Vettel, because it looked like Raikkonen came in too early.

"I got the bad end of the story today," Raikkonen said. "It's

still second place but it doesn't count a lot in my books at least." Vettel sympathized.

"I came out ahead of Kimi and I was surprised myself, but I'll take it," Vettel said. "We get along well and I can understand Kimi's not totally happy today. I can understand why he's upset. Obviously it's a bad surprise when somebody comes out ahead."

Whatever the strategy was, Ferrari will not mind after securing maximum points and seeing Mercedes fail to make the podium.

The race was held up for a few laps near the end after German driver Pascal Wehrlein crashed near the tunnel.

British driver Jenson Button — back for one race only — appeared to cause the clash, edging his McLaren too close to Wehrlein's Sauber as they turned toward the tunnel entry.

The nose of Button's car flipped Wehrlein's car onto its side and up against the barrier. The German driver appeared unharmed and jumped out moments later.

With the drivers trundling behind the safety car, Marcus Ericsson somehow crashed his Sauber and McLaren's Stoffel Vandoorne imitated him moments later.

The safety car came out again briefly with a handful of laps to go after Russian Daniil Kvyat became the latest to lose control of his car in a frantic finish to the race. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Wenger collects record 7th FA Cup



AP PHOTO

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger (right) celebrates his team's victory

REMOVING the record seventh FA Cup winner's medal from his pocket, Arsene Wenger was gratified and yet apprehensive.

"For once I have kept my medal," said the Arsenal manager, who usually gives them away to staff members. "So that means it's a special night for me."

And maybe his last night managing an Arsenal team.

Even after beating Chelsea 2-1 in the final on Saturday, Wenger indicated he has to stew until Tuesday's board meeting before discovering whether his 21-year reign will be extended by the record 13-time FA

Cup winners.

Owner Stan Kroenke told The Associated Press earlier in the season he remained "very high on Arsene." Unsurprisingly, Wenger is anxious about publicly discussing whether he expects the north London club to offer a new contract.

"I don't think I can answer that question," Wenger said, "at the moment."

Aaron Ramsey, who scored the winning goal to deny English Premier League champion Chelsea a double, certainly hopes there isn't change in the dugout.

"I'm happy for the manager," Ramsey said on the Wembley Stadium pitch. "Hopefully he will be here next season."

The fan base certainly seems more divided, with Wenger bemoaning the "very hostile environment" created by some

fans demanding his removal.

"It's down to the board members if I am the right man to lead this club further," the 67-year-old Frenchman said. "It's not about popularity, it's

about competence."

Perhaps more competent leadership would have cleared up far sooner whether Wenger was staying. Delivering the FA Cup three times in four seasons has papered over some of the cracks as Arsenal has repeatedly come up short in the Premier League and Europe.

The Gunners were eliminated from the Champions League for the se-

venth consecutive season in the last 16. And they won't even be back among Europe's elite in September after finishing fifth in the Premier League; the lowest finish since Wenger took charge in 1996.

And yet Arsenal still ended the campaign with a cup victory that Wenger puts on a par with his last Premier League success in the unbeaten 2003-04 season. **MDT/AP**

AD

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opinion

World views

Chris Bryant

TRUMP IS RIGHT, GERMANY'S CARMAKERS ARE DOWNRIGHT EVIL

When they want Donald Trump to grasp a topic, his advisers have learned to keep things simple. Visual aids help.

Unfortunately, global economic imbalances - the massive trade deficits of the U.S. and U.K. and surpluses of Germany and China - are complicated and intractable. No matter, Trump has found a simplistic way to frame the problem: Americans buy lots of German cars, whereas mean Germans don't buy many from the U.S. Ergo, the overall U.S. trade deficit with Germany was about USD65 billion last year. And deficits are bad.

Germany's auto industry makes an odd target for several reasons, as I'll explain below. Regardless, on Thursday Trump warmed to his theme: "Look at the millions of cars that they sell in the U.S. Terrible. We're going to stop that," he said, according to German media. "The Germans are bad, very bad."

Let's leave aside basic economics for a second, which is pretty clear about the advantages for a country in specializing in an industry. If selling lots of cars is somehow a hallmark of low morals, the Germans are unquestionably evil. Last year German manufacturers sold 1.3 million cars in the U.S., whereas U.S. brands sold about half a million in Germany (the latter is of course a much smaller market).

Trump's Manichean view of global auto sales doesn't withstand much further probing though. Nowadays, cars are often made where they're sold. German carmakers have quadrupled yearly production in the U.S. to 850,000 units since 2009. About 40 percent are sold locally.

Similarly, many American vehicles sold in Germany are built there by Ford and General Motors Co's Opel brand. So a more pertinent question might be to ask GM's CEO Mary Barra why she's having to retreat from Europe by selling Opel.

GM has suffered about \$9 billion in losses in Europe in just seven years. So an American manufacturer has had unfettered access to Germany's car market, and failed. As the German foreign minister says, U.S. carmakers should "build better cars".

Trump's own buying choices have reflected this reality. His timing is also odd. Volkswagen AG's U.S. sales plummeted 8 percent last year after the dieselgate scandal. BMW AG is doing even worse. Its U.S. sales fell 10 percent last year, as consumers stopped buying sedans and started buying trucks and SUVs.

Plus BMW is a net exporter of cars from the U.S. If Trump were consistent, he would be a BMW fan. Mercedes and VW remain net importers to the U.S., according to Barclays, but both are investing heavily in American production.

Which brings me to my final point. You can't have a big trade surplus unless you're a net exporter of capital. Years of wage restraint, coupled with an aging society, have led to a huge surplus of German savings, some of which flow to the U.S.

Rather than targeting German autos with tariffs, Trump would have a far stronger case in urging the miserly Germans to cut taxes and boost investment. That might encourage more domestic purchases of U.S. goods.

There are limits, though. Even if you gave Germans a raise, it's doubtful many would rush out to buy a Ford, Jeep or Buick. Like trade deficits, buying habits die hard.

THE CHINESE LAW PROFESSOR, GOVERNMENT CRITIC, SILENCED

One of the Chinese government's most vocal critics is finally falling silent. He Weifang told The Associated Press Friday that he would no longer publish on social media after authorities repeatedly shut down his personal blog, his Weibo microblog and two WeChat accounts.

He, a famed law professor at elite Peking University and key defender of imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, is the latest public intellectual to throw in the towel in President Xi Jinping's China. Over the past half-decade, freedom

of speech and other civil liberties have been rolled back while a radical movement devoted to the People's Republic's authoritarian founder Mao Zedong has flourished. "I feel utterly helpless," He said by telephone. "It's as if I'm not allowed to make a single sound."

He attracted a massive following in Chinese intellectual circles over the past decade for his prolific writings on everything from social ills to architecture, but especially for his languid but trenchant essays on rule of law and politics.

BRAZIL

Judges called on to clean up political mess, again

Simone Iglesias

FLAILING in yet another political crisis, Brazil is once more looking to its judges for salvation. This time, they could determine the fate of its president, Michel Temer.

On June 6, Brazil's top electoral court, the TSE, is due to resume its judgment of the 2014 election campaign that could see Temer ousted from office. Aides say the president is determined to resist such an outcome. After playing a key role throughout last year's impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's judiciary finds itself in the eye of the storm once more, caught between the opposing demands of the public and the government.

Allies of the Temer administration would consider an adverse court ruling as an "honorable exit" for a president sinking in a quagmire of corruption allegations, preferable to either impeachment or trial by the Supreme Court. But the president himself is working to avoid defeat at the TSE, according to three aides - including two cabinet ministers - who were not authorized to speak on the record because of the delicate subject matter. The presidential press office declined to comment for this story.

The TSE will judge whether the 2014 election campaign,



A barricade burns during protests outside of the National Congress

won by Rousseff with Temer as her vice-president, benefited from illegal donations. If the court rules that it did, Temer may be stripped of the presidency. Even though he could appeal, prominent government allies have hinted that an unfavorable ruling could prompt them to jump ship.

"We think that the judgment of the TSE will be an important date," said Tasso Jereissati, the leader of the PSDB to the O Globo newspaper on Thursday. "Let's see what happens on the 6th."

Temer's team is working on a scenario whereby one of the judges would request more time to analyze the case, or else hold Rousseff solely responsible for any wrongdoing while exonerating Temer, according to one presidential aide. If, however, the court appears minded to condemn them both as June 6 approaches, the president will try to have the judgement postpo-

ned, the aide said.

But that's not going to be straightforward due to a lack of effective communication between the presidential palace and the court, said two people with direct knowledge of the TSE. Over the past few days there has been no dialogue between Temer's team and Gilmar Mendes, the president of the TSE, according to one of the two people, who is linked to the president's defense lawyers. Mendes usually converses frequently with politicians.

Oscar Vilhena, a legal scholar and director of Sao Paulo's FGV law school, said that there is pressure on the judges to push back the date of the ruling.

"It's unacceptable that judges should be pressured, but that doesn't stop legal arguments from the defense being presented in a robust way," he said. "It appears that these two things are happening at the same time." **Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Cheong Kam Ka



The entertainers. Soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison perform for teachers and students during an activity to greet the upcoming International Children's Day at the Keang Peng School primary school.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDONESIA Lawmakers should expedite the passage of revised anti-terrorism laws that give police more power, President Joko Widodo said after twin suicide attacks in the capital last week killed three policemen.

MYANMAR was supposed to turn away from China and toward the West when the United States helped the Southeast Asian country make the transition to a civilian government after five decades of military rule. Instead, the opposite is happening. **More on FT**



SRI LANKA Rescuers yesterday pulled out more bodies that were buried by enormous mudslides as the death toll in the disaster climbed to 151, with 111 others missing. Although the weather has cleared, more rains are forecast for today, threatening to bring further misery to over 100,000 people displaced in western and southern regions of the island nation that were lashed by two days of torrential rains.

INDIA Government forces enforced a strict curfew in parts of Indian-controlled Kashmir yesterday, a day after the killing of a prominent rebel commander by Indian soldiers sparked massive protests in the disputed region. **More on p12**

POLAND's popular pro-democracy movement has elected a new leader amid signs of waning and controversies surrounding the finances of its previous chairman.



SPAIN's minority government has cobbled together enough support from opposition parties in Parliament to pass its 2017 budget. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy required just one additional vote to obtain a majority of 176 and that was granted by Nueva Canarias, a regional party of Spain's Canary Islands.