



FERRY TERMINAL TO OPEN WITHOUT SHOPS

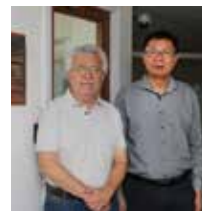
P2



JUDGE POSTPONES NG LAP SENG TRIAL

The New York trial of a Macau billionaire charged in a United Nations bribery case will not begin today after all

P4



NEW COURSES EXPLORE PLATFORM ROLE

The City University of Macau has launched two graduate courses focused on the study of Portuguese-speaking countries.

P5 MDT INTERVIEW

TUE.30

May 2017

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H. 65/ 90%

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N° 2812

MOP 7.50

HKD 9.50



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



JAPAN Poll results released yesterday show that about half of Japan's population supports a constitutional revision that would clarify the legality of the country's military, a new approach Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is proposing as his party struggles to gain public support for a change. More on p12

AP PHOTO



VIETNAM Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said he is confident economic growth this year will meet a government goal of 6.7 percent without adding to inflation, despite weak expansion last quarter. More on p11

PHILIPPINE authorities say they've seized 605 kilograms of methamphetamine shipped from China following a tip from the Chinese government. National Bureau of Investigation officials said yesterday that the drugs were seized over the weekend from a brokerage warehouse in metropolitan Manila, while a portion was intercepted from a shipment consignee.

BANGLADESH yesterday was bracing for its first cyclone of the year, with more than 1,000 shelters set up for people who may need to evacuate as the storm approaches the low-lying delta nation.

More on backpage

FOLLOWING MACAU ANNOUNCEMENT

Facial scans at ATMs may extend to HK

P4

AP PHOTO



Sri Lanka races to rescue flood victims, half-million displaced

P13



Ferry Terminal opens without shops

THE new Taipa Maritime Terminal (also known as Pac On Ferry Terminal) will open on Thursday without any commercial entities, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, said yesterday, and it could be another year before establishments such as shops and restaurant can begin operating.

The secretary said that the process of filling these commercial spaces, which were awarded to a local company through a public tender, had faced unforeseen difficulties.

"There were some issues that delayed the whole process," Rosário said. "In the meantime, even though the conditions are not the best, we decided to keep the opening date [for the terminal]."

During a media tour yesterday, the head of the Port Con-

trol Department of the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA), Tong Iok Peng, said that the first ferry operating at the new Taipa Maritime Terminal will depart Macau for Hong Kong at approximately 7 a.m. on June 1.

According to Tong, the first ferry to arrive and dock in the new facility will depart Hong Kong for Macau at around 8 a.m. that same day.

Regarding the current temporary ferry terminal, the last ferry arriving in Macau will complete its journey at half past midnight on June 1. The last ferry to depart the city will do so at 1 a.m.

After the last ferry leaves Macau, the temporary terminal will be closed to the public. All three ferry companies will relocate their operations to the new terminal, which will run

24 hours a day. For its initial phase, it will open eight ferry parking spots.

Four public buses, specifically bus lines 26, 36, AP1 and MT1, will service the ferry terminal. Bus N2 will run during the night shift.

The new terminal will also be the final station for bus MT4, which will drop passengers off on the first floor and pick them up on the ground floor.

Starting early Thursday morning, lines 26, AP1 and MT4 will still stop at the current temporary ferry terminal. N2 will stop at the new ferry terminal starting at midnight next Thursday, but it will still stop at the temporary ferry terminal.

The new ferry terminal will provide a total of 936 parking spots, including 196 for motorbikes and 740 for cars. There will be two exits in the parking

lot, with one entrance located on the ground floor and another on the first floor.

Some 73 parking spaces will be available for heavy vehicles on the side of the terminal facing the Pac On immigration office building.

Heavy vehicles are only allowed to enter if approved by the Transport Bureau. As the terminal is new, special staff will be deployed there in or-

der to issue temporary parking permits to heavy vehicles as needed. Such vehicles are only allowed to park for a maximum of 30 minutes.

Ten percent more officers from several public government departments, including customs, will be deployed to the new ferry terminal to aid the operations.

The 200,000-square meter structure opens on June 1, containing 16 bridge-quays for fast ferries and three multipurpose berths that can be used for several kinds of ships. There are also a total of 127 immigration desks in place. **JZ**

LRT TO BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN BUSES

THE TRANSPORTATION Infrastructure Office (GDI) coordinator, Ho Cheong Kei, said on the sidelines of yesterday's press conference that the authorities may price the LRT fares somewhat higher than bus fares. According to Ho, if the LRT was run based on economic benefits, then the fare would have

been too high. However, he said, if the LRT charges a fare which the mass market deems reasonable, the operators will come under great pressure. Ho added that by the end of this month, GDI will be able to deliver its final reports to the government regarding the laws of the LRT transportation system.

Economy grows 10.3 percent in Q1

THE economy of Macau expanded by 10.3 percent year-on-year in real terms in the first quarter of 2017, according to information released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The growth last quarter, which was signifi-

cantly higher than the 7 percent year-on-year increase recorded in the fourth quarter of 2016, was attributed by DSEC to an improvement in investment and the export of services, as well as a relatively lower base of comparison in the first quarter of 2016.

During the last quarter, the export of gaming services and other tourism services grew by 11.3 percent and 20.9 percent year-on-year respectively, while the export of goods rose by 9.7 percent.

Meanwhile, private consumption expenditure and government con-

sumption expenditure grew by 1.6 percent and 4.8 percent in the period.

DSEC attributes the marginal growth in private consumption expenditure to the stable employment situation, easing inflation and festive seasonal spending. The increase marked a reversal

on the downward trend recorded in the preceding quarter.

As for government compensation expenditure, the 4.8 percent year-on-year increase was led by an increase in employee compensation (+3.7 percent) and in the net purchases of goods and services (+6.5 percent).

Separately, in terms of government investment, public construction and equipment investment jumped by 73.9 percent

and 132.6 percent year-on-year, leading to "an apparent growth of 75.3 percent," according to DSEC.

In the first quarter merchandise trade rebounded. With the year-on-year increase in private consumption, investment and visitor spending, export and import of goods rose by 9.7 percent and 5.2 percent respectively, ending five consecutive quarters of decline.

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Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

HONG KONG

Authorities considering facial recognition at ATMs

THE Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) released a statement yesterday saying that the city's automated teller machines (ATMs) may need to adopt facial recognition technology, as proposed earlier this month by authorities in the MSAR.

According to the South China Morning Post, HKMA chairman Norman Chan hinted that the authority is currently studying the implementation of the measure.

According to some analysts, the idea of introducing facial recognition technology to ATMs in Macau was floated as a solution

to wealthy individuals circumventing China's currency controls by using more than one Union Pay card. The cards are typically registered under different identities, although one individual controls all of the accounts.

Now, the HKMA has stated that it may require Hong Kong banks to introduce the same technology, and has even suggested using fingerprint scanners as an additional security precaution.

Adopting the technology will likely require the replacement of some 3,250 ATM machines in Hong Kong, reported the SCMP.

In Macau, there is no stated deadline for rolling out the technology in the city, but it is understood that cash machines in casinos will be the highest priority.

The coordinated move, which comes only days after a meeting on Friday between the monetary authorities of Macau and Hong Kong, is the latest proposed tactic in the fight against money laundering, financial crime and terrorist funding. It is also designed to aid Beijing's objective of preventing capital flight from the mainland.

BLOOMBERG



AP PHOTO



Ng Lap Seng (center)

Judge postpones Ng Lap Seng trial

THE trial of a Chinese billionaire charged in a United Nations bribery case will not begin today after all, prosecutors said Sunday.

U.S. District Judge Vernon S. Broderick agreed to the government's request to move the start of the trial of Ng Lap Seng to late June, prosecutors said in a letter responding to a defense submission earlier in the day. Jury selection had been scheduled to start today.

Ng, 68, has been living in a luxury Manhattan apartment under 24-hour guard under a USD50 million bail agreement for the majority of time since his September 2015 arrest. He has pleaded

not guilty to charges alleging he contributed a portion of over \$1 million in bribes that reached a former U.N. General Assembly president several years ago. The judge has declined to ease bail conditions so Ng could spend more time outside his apartment.

Prosecutors say Ng joined a conspiracy to influence the United Nations because he hoped bribes would speed construction of a U.N. conference center in Macau that Ng hoped would be the biggest in the world. The center has not been built.

Defense lawyers have argued in court papers that the prosecution

is politically motivated, saying the United States wanted to block construction of the U.N. center in China because it wanted to slow the progress of Chinese influence over developing nations. The conference center was supposed to serve southern hemisphere nations.

In a letter to the judge Sunday, defense lawyer Tai H. Park did not oppose the government's Friday request to put off the trial for 30 days so it could argue that newly discovered classified materials related to the case should not be required to be turned over to the defense. But he complained that the last-minute request to delay the trial was "undermining Mr. Ng's important right to a speedy trial."

In response, the government said the defense was distorting the history of the case's progression to trial. It said defense lawyers had repeatedly consented to delays in the trial, including so that plea negotiations could occur and for a subsequent one-month delay of the trial start.

In his letter, Park also referenced a telephone conference in the case late Friday, saying Broderick had questioned why the government wanted a full month delay.

"When the court asked why the government needs such a long period of time, the government essentially described a bureaucratic system that required agency consent and the like," he wrote. **AP**

Julie Zhu

THE Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) held a conference on Friday to announce the latest information on the bureau's recent works and upcoming events.

During the conference, the bureau said the 17th Macao Lotus Flower Festival will be held from June 10 to June 18.

The opening ceremony will take place on the afternoon of June 10 at the Taipa Houses-Museum.

Since March, IACM has been planting lotus flowers in various places across Macau, including gardens, major streets and popular sightseeing spots.

In total, over 5,000 pots of lotus flowers will be displayed at 30 spots around Macau.

The flower exhibition garden at the Taipa Houses-Museum will be decorated in a Southeast Asian construction style, adorned with a new type of lotus flower that a mainland China's lotus flower study center cultivated specifically to commemorate the Macau SAR's 10th anniversary.

Apart from the above exhibitions, the festival will also offer activities, shows and workshops featuring lotus flowers.

Addressing a separate issue, IACM also announced that it is cur-

Lotus flower festival to begin next week



rently advancing renovation works on the children's playground at the Hac Sa beach's recreational area.

The playground had previously lost sand during the typhoons, which left the land at the playground rugged and further damaged the old playground facilities.

The playground occupies an area of 925 square meters. IACM will add more facilities for children aged between two and 17-years-old.

Fences will be set up around the area to increase safety.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of June.

IACM also discussed the food hygiene tests targeting the city's rice dumplings ahead of the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival.

Together with the

Health Bureau and the Macau Consumer Council, IACM took 30 rice dumpling samples from restaurants, supermarkets and other establishments.

The samples included three kinds of rice dumplings and were subjected to microbiological and chemical tests, which did not appear to produce any adverse results.

Detailed results of the tests are publicly available on the government's food safety website.

The IACM has also reminded the food industry to ensure that food comes from the appropriate sources and is preserved carefully.

It further recommends the public not to consume an excessive number of rice dumplings in order to maintain balanced diets.



CHAO PENG, IVO CARNEIRO DE SOUSA
CITY UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

'Our goal is to create a new service that can benefit the Macau platform'

Renato Marques

THE City University of Macau (CityU) has recently launched two graduate courses, a Master (MA) and a Doctorate degree (PhD), which aim to provide additional knowledge and decisive research contributions on the study of Portuguese-speaking countries.

The transformation of CityU into a comprehensive platform for studies, research and the sharing of knowledge about this new area is in line with the region's focus on Portuguese-speaking countries. Recent developments in this area include the creation of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation Between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries and more recently, Beijing's "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

To learn more about the courses, their goals and expected achievements, the Times spoke to CityU's Professor Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, who is also Associate Dean of the Institute for Research on Portuguese-Speaking Countries, as well as to Professor Chao Peng, the Dean of the Macao One Belt One Road Research Center, which is closely involved with the project.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – What is the main goal and appeal of these new MA and PhD courses?

Ivo Carneiro de Sousa (ICS) - The courses aim to build up a new area of study. There are several traditional areas of studies in countless universities, such as European Studies, African Studies and Latin-American studies. We want to transform the study of Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC) and their relations with China into a new area, using the [existing] academic tools of these areas: merging interdisciplinary study with social sciences, economic sciences, history and international relations. One of the major arguments in favor of this new area of study is the fact that since 2003, China created a Forum, the well-known Macau Forum, organized in a way not based on geographic location but on the language spoken, [bringing together] the PSC and China through Macau.

The courses will fully study PSC, mainly history, economics, developmental challenges and social change. The courses will research growing China-PSC relations in these fields. In summary, the goals are very simple [to make] Portuguese-speaking countries an area of academic study and the university as an academic platform that supports that creation of knowledge.



Chao Peng (left) and Ivo Carneiro de Sousa

MDT – In what sense does Macau hold an advantage in hosting these courses and having this platform?

ICS - It really is an ideal and key academic and research place. First, Macau has a centuries-long legacy of bridging the East and West, bridging China and Portugal and PSC through the exchange of trade, people, culture and even science. Portuguese is also an official language [here] along with Chinese, and widely frames law, engineering norms, architectural rules and several other professional situations. It is easy to find physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects and others [who are] able to speak both languages. Moreover, Macau doesn't have the colonial and post-colonial constraints that still embarrasses relations and independent research that compares PSC in social, economic or cultural fields (still present in some countries, namely Angola or Mozambique).

Macau is also the host of the Forum for China-PSC economic and trade relations and has a singular set of Lusophone events which are held through festivals and other initiatives. Macau has also a number of consulate-generals and honorary consuls of all PSC, [as well as] active associations and leaders. Last but not least, Macau enjoys a modest prosperous financial situation and a close connection with the mainland, which is only a few steps away.

MDT - What language of instruction will be used?

ICS - The courses will be taught in English. One can like or

dislike it, but the current evidence is that English is the language of scientific publication. Most top academic journals are in English. Thus, if one doesn't publish in English, one barely exists as a researcher. In consequence, we are committed to supporting our students to publish in English in the most influential journals in the fields related to Portuguese-speaking countries' studies. MA students must also take a research course in Portuguese. It means that we will train students to read, understand and research official and private documents in Portuguese; namely reports, statistics and academic papers on China-PSC imports and exports, national budgets, economic cooperation and investment.

“The courses will be taught in English. One can like or dislike it, but the current evidence is that English is the language of scientific publication.”

IVO CARNEIRO DE SOUSA

MDT – How do these courses relate to the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative?

ICS - They have a huge relation. "One Belt, One Road" [OBOR] is China's proposal for globalization in a period of globalization setbacks since the financial crisis of 2007/2008. The crisis fuelled political speeches, mainly in the U.S. and Europe, hostile to globalization and promising impossible national prosperity through old protectionist proposals.

OBOR is key for China to tackle the so-called "new normal" economy – growing at a single-digit percentage – and to avoid the famous middle-income trap. It also aims to secure outlets for excess production capacity and outward investment; to become a vehicle for the development of the modern service industry, mainly finance; and to be a step forward for RMB internationalization. China-PSC relations can offer a key platform for these paramount changes.

Chao Peng (CP) – In addition, PSC studies are cross-disciplinary and synthetic, closely related to international relations. We have already accumulated some experience from the creation of the Macao OBOR Research Center back in 2016, which is the first and only Academic Research unit [in this field] in Macau. This also makes us [CityU] the first university for OBOR Research at the MA and PhD level.

MDT - What kind of students are you targeting? Who are they and what are their career goals?

ICS - We are in the process of recruiting local candidates, [as well as those from the] mainland and Portuguese-speaking countries. For the PhD, we have received applications from mainland students who have already done Master's dissertations on China-PSC relations, most of them on several aspects of trade and cooperation between China and Brazil, which is understandable due to the huge amount of bilateral trade. We have also received applications from Portugal, Brazil, Cape Verde and East Timor. So our goal is to create a new service that can benefit the Macau platform, [through] research, exchange of academic staff and students, and the organization of academic resources such as libraries and online data resources.

For these purposes, the Institute will publish an academic journal, Typhon, twice a year in October and April, and will start a collection of books on PSC and China-PSC relations.

As we must recognize that the Macau Platform is an ongoing process, we also need to note that it really lacks in academic exchange and qualified research. Direct services from Macau in PSC don't exist, and Macau's contribution to direct trade between China-PSC is very narrow, since these relations are mainly bilateral.

At the same time, nobody understands that the companies paying Macau, the gambling companies, are not fully engaged in the Macau platform. They do have the best management in several key areas – financial, engineering, human resources, et cetera – and there should be a strategic place for training PSC professionals and enhancing human resources and management. Our candidates will see that these courses are a great opportunity as the cooperation evolves, and more and more knowledge is needed to support business-related areas.

They can become advisors in big companies and even government institutions and entities, which is in fact a "smart move." We have an interesting fact: we realized during our interviews that we have a good number of students moving from the more common Masters in Business Administration (MBA) to these new courses.

For the first year, we will have a batch of students that will include more mainland Chinese than locals, but in the upcoming years we will try to balance this between mainland, local and PSC students because that will permit them an interaction and understanding of cultural diversity, which is very important.

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The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.


Volkswagen

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GAMING

Ho favors Osaka over Tokyo for casino

Bruce Einhorn, Daniela Wei

LAURENCE Ho, the billionaire owner of Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd., said he favors building a casino in Osaka rather than Tokyo because there are more opportunities to develop the smaller Japanese city as an entertainment destination.

Ho is among the industry heavyweights seeking entry to Japan after lawmakers voted in December to open the country to casino gambling. The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, which made casino liberalization a priority, hasn't decided where those casinos will be built nor which companies will operate them.

The prize could be the world's most lucrative casino market, which CLSA Ltd. estimates could generate USD25 billion annually. While Melco is considering the viability of Tokyo and nearby Yokohama, the company's top choice is Osaka and the surrounding Kansai region, home to attractions such as Universal Studios Japan and the city of Kyoto, famed for its Buddhist temples.

"When you go to the Kansai region, it's more fun, really, and we're a company that focuses on fun and entertainment," said the 40-year-old Ho, who also serves as chief executive officer, in an interview at Melco's City of Dreams resort in Macau.

Melco is competing for Japanese licenses with rivals that include Las Vegas Sands Corp. and MGM Resorts International, both of which are focusing on Tokyo and Yokohama in addition to Osaka. To be selected, operators and municipalities will have to team up and submit a proposal to the government, according to guidelines published this month.

"MGM's business model is to



build large-scale destination resorts with lots of stuff that cost a lot of money," Ed Bowers, executive vice president of global development for MGM Resorts, said this month. "So it needs to be in a high-density population area."

The Tokyo metropolitan area, home to about a third of Japan's people, is the country's political and financial center and the base of headquarters for the country's biggest companies, including Sony Corp., SoftBank Group Corp. and Hitachi Ltd. The city will also host the 2020 Summer Olympics.

That popularity is what makes Tokyo less than optimal for hosting the type of integrated casino resort popular in Las Vegas and Macau, Ho said. Those facilities typically include hotels, enter-

tainment options, shopping and convention centers.

"I'm not so sure Tokyo needs an integrated resort," said Ho, whose net worth is about \$2 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. "Tokyo by itself is amazing. It's like when people ask me: 'Do you think New York and London need an integrated resort?' No, they don't."

About an eight-hour drive from Tokyo, Osaka is a prime shopping destination and a favorite for tourists from China. Although both cities are front-runners to be selected by the government as casino locations, Tokyo's higher costs may be a deterrent.

"Tokyo's inflated commercial land prices are higher than the rest of Japan," Bloomberg In-

telligence analysts Margaret Huang and Carmen Lee wrote in a May 26 report. "That may dissuade casino operators from developing an integrated resort there, even with the city's population and infrastructure."

CLSA's \$25 billion revenue estimate is based on the country having two urban integrated resorts and 10 regional casinos. By comparison, gaming revenue in Macau last year was \$28 billion, while Las Vegas generated \$6.4 billion.

Melco, with \$4.5 billion in revenue in 2016, is the fourth-largest casino operator in Macau.

When you go to the Kansai region, it's more fun, really, and we're a company that focuses on fun and entertainment.

LAWRENCE HO

RESEARCH: 14,000 GAMBLING ADDICTS IN MACAU

ACCORDING TO a study by the University of Macau (UM), commissioned by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), at least 14,000 people in the region suffer from a gambling addiction. The 2016 figures are a huge contrast to the official figures from the authorities, which reported a total of 900 cases. Wu I Mui, the head of the Department of Prevention and Treatment of Problem

As business from Chinese high rollers plunged in the territory after peaking in 2013, Melco expanded internationally.

It opened the City of Dreams Manila resort in the Philippines in 2015 and has invested in gaming ventures in Cyprus and Russia. Ho also plans to launch a global hotel brand, starting with a \$1 billion high-rise in Macau set to open next year.

Its U.S.-traded shares closed at a 52-week high May 16, and the stock's 38 percent gain this year has outperformed a Bloomberg index tracking Macau gaming operators.

Gaming companies interested in Japan still are waiting for lawmakers to vote on proposals establishing rules on taxation and regulation, and addressing ways to combat gambling addiction.

Until then, Melco is busy courting potential partners, Ho said. That can lead to some awkward encounters as the foreigners target some of the same Japanese companies.

"Right now, there is a lot of speed dating," Ho said. "Sometimes, I go into a Japanese corporate's office, and then I walk out and I see our competitors in the lobby." **Bloomberg**

AN art exhibition "Debris - Works by Alexandre Farto aka Vhils" will be inaugurated at the Navy Yard No. 1- Contemporary Art Center tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.

The exhibition - organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) as part of the 28th Macao Arts Festival - features more than 20 works, including four new murals inspired by Macau in the public space.

Vhils has become internationally recognized for developing a unique visual poetry that exemplifies the interdependent relationship between contemporary life and its urban context.

ARTS

Vhils returns to Macau with new exhibition

The exhibition will further present forgotten urban collective memories and history from the artist's perspective, revealing the specific moments of the globalization process, and the artist's personal experience, identity and attention.

His carving technique, based on removing the surface layers of walls and other materials with unconventional tools, has been hailed as one of the most compelling approaches to art created in the

urban art scene, according to a statement issued by the IC.

At the end of 2016, the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong and Casa de Portugal em Macau invited Vhils to create a mural of celebrated Portuguese poet Camilo Pessanha.

The exhibition features works by the artist using local elements, including new billboards made from Macau street posters and carvings on old doors collected in the

region, as well as a slow-motion video capturing the territory's streets.

The full exhibition includes public murals distributed throughout the city, including two works at the Macau Portuguese School.

Among other locations, the murals may be viewed on external walls at Rua dos Clérigos in Old Taipa Village and No. 1, Rua Direita Carlos Eugénio, in Taipa. The exhibition will be open from June 1 to November 5.





VietJet seeks first overseas listing

VietJet Aviation Joint Stock Co. is in talks to become the first company in Vietnam to list its shares on a stock exchange overseas as the carrier, which controls more than 40 percent of the domestic airline market, seeks more funds after plans for billions of dollars in aircraft purchases. "We've been approached by some foreign stock exchanges including London, Hong Kong and Singapore, which expressed their interest in our stock," Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao, VietJet's founder and chief executive officer, said in an interview in Hanoi on Sunday. Thao said she will meet exchange officials in New York later this week.

British Airways schedule normalizing

British Airways' flight schedule is slowly recovering as the carrier digs out of a massive computer failure that stranded thousands of passengers worldwide over the weekend and cast doubts on Chief Executive Officer Alex Cruz's aggressive cost-cutting strategy. The U.K. carrier canceled 50 flights, or about 6 percent of the total 852 scheduled, to and from its main London Heathrow hub on Monday, according to the British Airways website. An additional 66 routes were delayed. That brings the total of flights scrapped at Heathrow and Gatwick airports since Saturday to 583.

Luxury spending to rebound in 2017 on Europe, China, Bain says

Robert Williams

TOURISM in Spain and the U.K. will lead a rebound in European luxury spending this year, while Chinese domestic consumption also increases, Bain & Co. said, raising its forecast for global growth in 2017.

Sales of items such as designer handbags and fine jewelry will rise 2 percent to 4 percent to as much as 259 billion euros (USD290 billion), Bain said in a report yesterday. The consultancy had predicted growth of 1 percent to 2 percent in December, and the forecasts exclude currency swings.

High-end labels like Burberry and Prada found it hard to keep up momentum in 2016 amid flagging consumption in China and a terror-related downturn in European tourism. Since then, the outlook has become rosier after market leaders like LVMH and Gucci-owner Kering reported first-quarter sales growth that beat expectations.



While sales will grow faster than expected overall in 2017, performance between brands will become more polarized, Claudia D'Arpizio, the study's lead author, said by phone.

"Consumers are asking for more innovation and more creativity," she said. "We are seeing a bigger gap between winners and losers, driven by the ability of brands to

understand the way the consumers are changing."

Christian Dior, Salvatore Ferragamo, and Kering-owned Brioni were among those that changed designers or chief executive officers during the past year as slower growth prompted luxury companies to rethink their strategies. Brands across the sector have increased investment in e-

commerce and reinforced their offer at entry-level price points in an effort to hook younger consumers.

Through 2020, sales of personal luxury goods will grow 3 percent to 4 percent per year at constant exchange, Bain said in the study, which it publishes twice a year in partnership with the Italian luxury lobby Altagamma.

In Europe, recovering tourist flows and increased consumer confidence will drive growth 7 percent to 9 percent at constant exchange for the region's luxury market in 2017.

Sales will grow 6 percent to 8 percent in mainland China, Bain forecast, as efforts to bring prices in line with other regions encourage consumers to make more luxury purchases at home.

In the Americas, struggling department stores in the U.S. - the world's largest luxury market - and slumping tourism are expected to curb luxury sales, which are expected to decline as much as 2 percent. **Bloomberg**

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Paul Panckhurst

SNAKING queues of thousands of prospective apartment buyers in Hong Kong signaled authorities have made no progress in cooling a red-hot property market, where prices are at records.

People were lining up on Friday and over the weekend at Victoria Skye, a luxury project at the former airport site of Kai Tak, and at the Ocean Pride development by Cheung Kong Property Holdings Ltd. and MTR Corp.

"Successive moves by the government in recent memory to cool the property market only resulted in it becoming crazier," The Standard newspaper said in an editorial yesterday. "The result is a sea of madness."

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority has been tightening rules for lenders, including restricting levels of lending to developers, as it tries to limit financial risks and take some of the heat out of the market. The Centaline Property Centa-City Leading Index of existing homes has advanced 23 percent in the past year, setting new price records week after week.

At a Legislative Council meeting yesterday, HKMA Chief Executive Norman Chan said levels of demand were reminiscent of 20 years ago - before Hong Kong suffered a property bust - and he expressed concern that people with limited financial resources were buying just because they thought prices would only keep going up.

Developers sold 8,616 homes in the first five months of the year, already more than were sold in any first half since new purchasing rules were introduced in 2013, the Hong Kong Economic Times reported.

K&K Property has offered an additional 200 units at Victoria Skye after it sold 306 flats on Saturday, Ming Pao newspaper reported. Cheung Kong will put

Hong Kong throngs of thousands defy bid to cool home market

Successive moves by the government in recent memory to cool the property market only resulted in it becoming crazier.

THE STANDARD EDITORIAL

another 346 up for grabs after selling 496 in a single day, May 26, it said. In both cases, the developers will raise the prices of the additional units by about 2 percent, the newspaper reported.

The Hang Seng Properties Index of developers rose as much as 1.2 percent yesterday, up more than 20 percent this year. **Bloomberg**



Cranes operate at land sites under construction at the former Kai Tak airport area in Hong Kong

Chinese developers surge in HKSAR

CHINESE developers extended Asia's biggest rally this year, with China Evergrande Group surging to a record in Hong Kong. Evergrande soared 23 percent at the close, while Country Garden Holdings Co. and Sunac China Holdings Ltd. gained more than 9 percent. Lianhua Supermarket Holdings Co. rallied 24 percent after Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. agreed to buy a stake in the company. The Hang Seng Index added 0.2 percent, while the MSCI China Index rose 0.2 percent toward its highest level

since July 2015. Mainland markets are closed for holidays until tomorrow.

Shares of Evergrande, the world's most indebted developer, have more than tripled this year, topping all others on the MSCI Asia Pacific Index. While the stock isn't alone among Chinese developers in doing well, with rivals Country Garden and Sunac China being the next best performing in the region, the acceleration in gains is raising questions. JPMorgan Chase & Co. said in a note received Friday that Evergrande's

business isn't sustainable.

Evergrande trades at about 36 times reported earnings, more than double the valuations of Country Garden and Sunac, while yesterday's gain alone added USD4.7 billion to its market value. The rally is also squeezing short sellers and defying analyst expectations. Bearish bets accounted for 20.7 percent of its free float on May 25, according to IHS Market Ltd. data, while its share price is 113 percent higher than consensus analyst estimates for the next 12 months.

Laptop ban may expand to all international flights, Kelly says

Ben Brody

HOMELAND Security Secretary John Kelly said he may ban laptop computers in the cabins of all international flights into and out of the U.S. amid continuing terrorist threats to bring down airplanes, but that a final decision hadn't been made.

"That's really the thing that they're obsessed with, the terrorists: the idea of knocking down an airplane in flight, particularly if it's a U.S. carrier, particu-

larly if it's full of mostly U.S. folks," Kelly said on "Fox News Sunday."

A DHS spokesman said as recently as May 24 that the agency was not actively considering a laptop ban for international flights leaving the U.S. The agency, which has barred devices larger than mobile phones on flights from 10 Middle East and North African airports since March, has been in talks with European Commission officials about extending a prohibition to U.S.-bound flights from the

continent, despite concerns from the European Union.

"It is a real sophisticated threat, and I'll reserve that decision until we see where it's going," he said of when a final ruling might come and what it might be. Kelly's comments were similar to ones he made at a Senate appropriations hearing on May 25 on the DHS's 2018 budget request.

Kelly said the department's Transportation Security Administration "might and likely will"

intensify scrutiny of carry-on luggage as well, because travelers are packing more into them to avoid airlines' bag-checking fees.

"The more you stuff in there, the less the TSA professionals that are looking at what's in those bags through the monitors" are able to discern about bags' contents, he said. "What we're doing now is working out the tactics, techniques and procedures, if you will, in a few airports to find out exactly how to do that



with the least amount of inconvenience to the traveler."

At the same time, Kelly alluded to the possibility that improved bag-screening devices could soon alleviate the need for such strict procedures.

"There's new technologies down the road, not too far down the road,

that we'll rely on," he said.

At least four of the largest companies making such devices have said recently they are developing scanners so much better at detecting explosives than existing X-ray machines that passengers could leave laptops, other electronics and even liquids in their bags. **Bloomberg**

Early China data shows slowdown biting amid credit tightening

THE first hints of China's economic performance this month suggest that a slowdown in growth is taking hold, as policy makers beef up efforts to clamp down on financial risks.

The international-investor optimism that dominated in the earlier part of the year is now souring, as curbs on leverage push up the cost of domestic borrowing. Small and medium-sized companies are also reporting dented confidence, and sentiment among sales managers and in the steel market worsened.

A surprise cut in China's debt rating by Moody's Investors Service last week may mark a turning point for the world's second-largest economy, as momentum weakens following a better-than-expected expansion in the first quarter. Yet the gloom shouldn't spread too far, with consumers still spending, factory-gate prices gaining and home prices defying predictions of a hard landing.

Here's what May's earliest indicators show:

Smaller Businesses

Standard Chartered Plc's Small and Medium Enterprise Confidence Index headed for a second consecutive month of decline in May, falling slightly to 56.9 from 58 in April.

"Both current performance and expectations fell," which put pressure on the labor market and on profitability, economists Yan Se and Ding Shuang at the

AP PHOTO



bank wrote in a note. "Credit access for small- and medium-sized enterprises is tougher" and funding costs have worsened, the analysts said.

ZEW Panel

Global financial market experts veered toward pessimism on the outlook for the eco-

nomy, according to a survey of the China Economic Panel, a joint project of the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim, Germany, and Fudan University in Shanghai.

The reading for expectations slumped to minus 0.1 in May, down from 17.7 last month -

the highest since at least late 2015. The assessment of the current economic situation has also dampened, falling to 12.2 in May from 17.6 in April.

"The rather optimistic sentiment witnessed in the previous survey has thus faded" although the long-term outlook remains stable, said Michael

Schroeder, a senior researcher at ZEW.

Sales Managers

A survey-based gauge of sales-manager sentiment also hit a six-month low at 51.6 in May, dragged down by a sub-index assessing the potential of market growth, according to London-based research firm World Economics Ltd. A reading above 50 indicates expansion.

Managers in services sectors were more upbeat than those in the manufacturing sector, the report said, a sign of the Chinese economy's gradual reliance on consumption rather than investment and export-led growth.

The "economy continued to grow in May but at a slower rate than has been the case for some time," analysts at the firm wrote, "even though sales have remained stable in May, sales managers have expressed worry that the overall growth trend can't continue."

Steel Plummet

The S&P Global Platts China Steel Sentiment Index slumped to 33.1 this month from 45.1 in April, weighed down by the outlook for domestic steel orders. The gauge is based on a survey of between 75 and 90 China-based market participants including traders and steel-mill executives.

"China's steel market is extremely volatile at the moment," Paul Bartholomew, a senior managing editor at S&P Global Platts in Melbourne, wrote in a release. "Underlying demand for flat steel products has been more robust, both domestically and for exports, though overseas customers have started to resist further price hikes." **Bloomberg**

2 killed, 18 injured in knife attack

A man said to be mentally ill attacked 20 people with a knife in southwest China, killing two, authorities said.

The suspect, identified as Chen Guangliang, 30, was detained following Sunday afternoon's attack along a roadway in Guizhou province, according to a statement posted on a local government website.

Two of the 20 injured people taken to a hospital died, the Zhenning County public security bureau said. The remaining 18 were in stable condition as of yesterday, authorities said.

Chen's father told authorities that his son had a history of mental illness, according to the initial statement.

Prior to the attack, Chen

attempted to set fire to a gas station, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Local and provincial police were investigating and no further details were immediately available.

Several high-profile stabblings over the past decade have been blamed on perpetrators who were reportedly mentally ill, calling attention to the dearth of mental health services in China, particularly in rural areas.

Knives also have been used in attacks in the restive Xinjiang region, where authorities said in February that eight people including three assailants were killed and five injured during a knife attack in Pishan county. Gun ownership is sharply restricted in China. **AP**

Hong Kong iconic tramways unveils new logo

THE tramways of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region unveiled a new logo and visual identity on Friday for its century-old tramcars, also known as Ding Ding car.

The background color of the new visual identity of tramcar is green, representing the tramcars are environmental and safe. The new slogan, "catch a ride, catch a smile" is printed on the front of the tramcar. On the bottom of the vehicle, there is a smile expression, meaning tramcars' friendly personality and faithful service.

XINHUA



For the coming months, tramways is also going to make its 160 tramcars smile with an additional sticker on the bum-

per. Besides this new graphic system, Hong Kong tramways also pledged to make its passenger information on stops and website more friendly.

As all tramcars are designed and built at tramways' depot by skillful and experienced craftsman in Hong Kong, to commend the hard work of them, tramways will install a bronze plate on board of each tramcar to remind the public of the unknown heroes.

Hong Kong tramways has been in service since 1904 and operates nowadays a fleet of 164 tramcars. It is the world's largest fleet of double-deck tramcars in operation, carrying about 200,000 passengers every day. **Xinhua**

VIETNAM

Prime Minister says he's confident of 6.7pct growth goal

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said he is confident economic growth this year will meet a goal of 6.7 percent without adding to inflation, despite weak expansion last quarter.

Vietnam is taking steps to bolster the economy as the nation seeks to retain its status as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, the premier said in an interview at the Government Office in Hanoi on May 27.

"Main economic indicators in May are all very good with a strong pickup in exports, foreign investment and agriculture production, laying ground for faster growth in the third and fourth quarters," Phuc said in an interview with Bloomberg Television's Haslinda Amin. The growth target of 6.7 percent "is difficult but it is possible" he added.

The government must balance efforts to spur gross do-



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc

mestic product growth while ensuring inflation doesn't exceed its 2017 target of 4 percent, according to Phuc. "We must curb inflation at the mandate number as we have committed to the National Assembly," he said.

Phuc said tourism is expected to grow 30 percent, agri-

cultural exports will beat the USD32 billion shipped last year, and electronics exports are going to surge - counter forces to the economic headwinds the nation faced in the first quarter. Growth eased to 5.1 percent in the three-month period after Samsung Electronics Co. cut production,

underscoring the nation's reliance on exports.

"The first quarter growth slowed due to a few reasons. Firstly it's because of a drop in our crude oil price," Phuc said. "The second reason is because of the electronics industry - we suffered a loss of about \$1 billion worth of exports from Galaxy Note 7" when Samsung recalled its faulty smartphone last year, he said.

Samsung helped to turn Vietnam into an electronics manufacturing hub almost single-handedly with \$15 billion in investments from the technology giant and its affiliates, including battery-maker Samsung SDI Co. The South Korean company is Vietnam's biggest exporter. Mobile phones and components accounted for 27 percent of Vietnam's exports last year, or almost \$40 billion, according to Samsung.

The government is preparing strategies to increase exports

of its two key products - electronics and agriculture, the prime minister said.

"We have made detailed plans to bolster each industry, down to the product level with thorough studies of different markets to boost exports," he said. In April, the premier called the slower first-quarter growth "very worrisome" and ordered ministries to find solutions, according to a posting on the government's website.

Mobile phones and components accounted for 27 percent of Vietnam's exports last year

Vietnam, which has completed about 16 free trade agreements, began tethering itself to global trade after introducing market-oriented "doi moi" reforms in the 1980s. Exports surged to a record \$177 billion last year, with U.S. customers accounting for about \$42 billion of that - more than double compared with five years ago. **Bloomberg**

PHILIPPINES

Army makes gains in southern city under siege

Jim Gomez, Marawi

PHILIPPINE forces control most of a southern city where militants linked to the Islamic State group launched a bloody siege nearly a week ago, authorities said yesterday, as the army launched airstrikes and went house-to-house to crush areas of resistance.

More than 100 people, including 24 civilians, have been killed in six days of fighting, the government said. Many more were believed to be trapped inside the city.

"I have to rescue my grandfather even at the risk of my life," Khana-Anuar Marabur Jr. said yesterday after police stopped him for speeding through a checkpoint. He said his grandfather had



Displaced residents fleeing to safer areas by a convoy of vehicles stop at a roadside

been sending him text messages asking to be saved. "Get me out of here alive, not dead," one message said. "This war is taking too long."

The crisis in Marawi, which is home to some 200,000 people, has raised fears that extremism in the southern Philippines is increasing as smaller militant groups unify and

align themselves with the Islamic State group. Only small areas of Marawi remain under militants' control after six days of fighting, said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, the military spokesman. In recent days, gunmen have managed to fend off 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. Marawi is a mostly Muslim city. **AP**

"We can control who comes in and who comes out, who moves around and who doesn't, and we are trying to isolate these pockets of resistance that have remained," Padilla said.

According to government figures Monday, the death toll was 105 people - 61 militants, 20 government forces and 24 civilians.

The bodies of several civilians were found on the streets Sunday as soldiers cleared neighborhoods. In one area, the bodies of eight men who appeared to have been executed by militants were found in a ravine, police said. The bodies of four other men, three women and a child were found near a road close to Mindanao State University in Marawi.

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. Marawi is a mostly Muslim city. **AP**

INDONESIA

Police arrest 3 suspected militants after bombings

INDONESIAN police said they arrested more suspected militants yesterday following suicide bombings in Jakarta last week that killed three policemen.

Central Java Police spokesman Djarod Padakova said a man identified as Wahyudi was arrested early yesterday in Sukoharjo district of West Java province and another man was caught hours later in the neighboring district of Karanganyar.

National police spokesman Setyo Wasisto said a third suspect was detained a day earlier in Cibubur, near Jakarta.

Authorities in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, have now arrested a total of six suspects since the May 24 attack in which two suicide bombers targeted police at a bus terminal in eastern Jakarta.

Three policemen and the two attackers were killed and 11 people, both police and civilians, were wounded.

Wasisto said authorities

are still investigating the three men recently arrested, but the suspect arrested on Sunday was believed to have been the last person to meet with one of the suicide bombers, Ahmad Sukri, just hours before the attack.

The May 24 attack was the deadliest in Jakarta since January 2016, when a suicide and gun strike in the central business district killed four civilians and four assailants.

National police chief Gen. Tito Karnavian said DNA tests confirmed that the suicide bombers were Sukri, 32, and Ichwan Nurul Salam, 31, both from West Java.

Karnavian said they were members of Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, a network of about two dozen Indonesian extremist groups that formed in 2015 and pledges allegiance to Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

JAD, which Washington designated a terrorist group earlier this year, has been implicated in a number of attacks in Indonesia over the past year. **AP**

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

Japan public split on idea to cite military in constitution

POLL results released yesterday show that about half of Japan's population supports a constitutional revision that would clarify the legality of the country's military, a new approach Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is proposing as his party struggles to gain public support for a change.

Abe proposed recently that Japan in some way indicate the existence of the Self-Defense Forces, which is not spelled out in Article 9 of the constitution. The article renounces war and the use of force to settle international disputes.

He made the proposal this month in what was seen as a compromise, but opponents see it as a step to justify expanding Japan's military capabilities, which currently have to be kept to a minimum.

In the Nikkei newspaper poll, 51 percent of 1,595 respondents supported including a reference to the Self-Defense Forces in Article 9. Thirty-six percent were opposed.

Recent polls by other major

media outlets also showed mixed results.

Japan decided it had the right under the 1947 constitution to have a military for self-defense, but some legal experts have questioned that, though fewer people do so now.

Abe and his party have maintained the constitutionality of the Self-Defense Forces, saying every nation has the right of self-defense as allowed under the United Nations charter. Citing his party's position, opponents have grown skeptical over Abe's latest proposal and intention of bringing up the Self-Defense Force legality issue.

Experts say Abe's proposal could lower a hurdle for public support and may be good enough for a symbolic first change to the constitution, which Abe

said he wants enacted by 2020. Japan's 70-year-old constitution has never been revised.

The party and its nationalistic supporters view the country's postwar constitution as the legacy of Japan's defeat in World War II

Japan's ruling party has long advocated a more drastic revision, but the public generally supports the war-renouncing



Tokyo citizens attend a protest earlier this month against Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's attempts to amend the nation's pacifist constitution

article. The party and its nationalistic supporters view the country's postwar constitution as the legacy of Japan's defeat in World War II and an imposition of the victor's world order and values weighing too much

on individuals' rights.

The party-proposed revisions to the constitution released in 2012 called for upgrading the Self-Defense Forces to a full armed forces and establishing a military court. **AP**

Bank Indonesia sees 5.4pct growth this year as too optimistic

Karl Salna

INDONESIA'S central bank said economic growth of 5.4 percent this year is too optimistic and the nation should aspire for higher credit ratings to catch up with Southeast Asian peers.

"In our view, the 2017 growth rate should be higher than 2016," Bank Indonesia Senior Deputy Governor Mirza Adityaswara said in an interview in Jakarta on Friday. "Maybe 5.4 percent is still a bit too aggressive, but we think 5.1 percent to 5.2 percent is still a possible number to achieve in



2017."

Indonesia won an investment-grade score from S&P Global Ratings this month after the government took steps to boost revenue and control spending. While the economy is gradually recovering, growth is still short of the 7 percent

initially targeted by the president when he came to office in 2014.

"We have to use the improvement in the credit rating to challenge ourselves to get further improvement," Adityaswara said. Improving the current account balance is key, which means the

nation needs to diversify into non-commodity exports and push for stronger tourism, he said.

While Indonesia is Southeast Asia's largest economy, neighbors including the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia all enjoy higher ratings from S&P. The economies of the Philippines and Malaysia also expanded at a faster pace last quarter.

Global funds poured a record USD6 billion

into rupiah securities this year, helping to drive Indonesia's 10-year yield down by the most in Asia. Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service already rates the nation at investment grade and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said in March an S&P upgrade may help attract as much as \$5 billion in funds from Japan alone.

"Considering that the global situation is quite stable, what we can

expect is funds from Japan, and also funds from maybe European and American pension funds that are purposely not in Indonesia yet to come," he said.

"The key for us is to maintain prudence in managing the macro," Adityaswara said. "The government manages the fiscal prudence, while Bank Indonesia maintains prudence in the monetary policy, basically to make sure inflation is under control and the current account deficit is under control." **Bloomberg**

Nepal celebrates anniversary of Mount Everest conquest

NEPAL'S mountaineering community was celebrating the first conquest of Mount Everest 64 years ago yesterday, as well as this year's climbing season during which hundreds scaled the world's highest peak.

A ceremony was held marking the first successful Everest climb by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide, Tenzing Norgay, in 1953 will also honor several others who have contributed to the climbing industry, said Ang Tshering of the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

The industry suffered back-to-back tragedies in

2014 and 2015, when deadly avalanches forced the mountain's early closure.

This year's season, which began in March and ends tomorrow, saw hundreds of climbers reach the top of the 8,850-meter peak despite severe weather conditions. Last year was also considered a successful season, during which hundreds reached the top but five climbers died.

Six climbers died in the attempt this season, and all but that of American doctor Roland Yearwood had been recovered by Sunday.

The three Sherpa guides who attempted to retrieve Yearwood's body said the



location was too dangerous to reach, according to Murari Sharma of Everest Parivar Expedition agency.

On Sunday, rescuers brought down from Everest the bodies of an Indian climber who died this year and two Indians who died last year. **AP**

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Foster Klug, Hyung-Jin Kim

NORTH Korea's latest missile test yesterday may have less to do with perfecting its weapons technology than with showing U.S. and South Korean forces in the region that it can strike them at will.

South Korean and Japanese officials said the suspected Scud-type short-range missile flew about 450 kilometers yesterday morning before landing in Japan's maritime economic zone, setting off the usual round of condemnation from Washington and the North's neighbors.

It's the latest in a string of test launches by North Korea as it seeks to build nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland, a drive that puts North Korea high on the list of foreign policy worries for Japan, Washington and Seoul.

North Korea already has an arsenal of reliable short-range missiles. While North Korean scientists could be tweaking them — for instance, developing a new solid-fuel short-range missile — the North tests these shorter-range missiles much less than it does its less dependable, longer-range missiles.

This sets up the possibility that North Korea hopes to use the test to show it can hit U.S. targets near and far and emphasize its defiance of U.S.-led pressure on its missile and nuclear programs, which has included vague threats from President Donald Trump and the arrival in Korean waters of powerful U.S. military hardware. Scuds are capable of striking U.S. troops in South Korea, for instance, and the two newly developed missiles tested earlier this month have potential ranges that include

N. Korean missile launch may be testing rivals, not technology



People walk near a screen reporting North Korea's missile launch in Osaka, Japan

Japan, Guam and even, according to some South Korean analysts, Alaska.

The missile was launched from the coastal town of Wonsan, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. It landed in Japan's exclusive maritime economic zone, which is set about 200 nautical miles off the Japanese coast, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said. He said there was no report of damage to planes or vessels in the area.

North Korea is still thought to be several years from its goal of being able to target U.S. main-

land cities with nuclear ICBMs.

South Korea says North Korea has conducted nine ballistic missile tests this year, including one in which four missiles were launched on the same day.

North Korea's state-controlled media had no immediate comment on yesterday's test, but released a statement, without mentioning the launch, that accused Seoul and Washington of "aggravating the situation" on the Korean Peninsula by conducting joint military drills and other "reckless acts."

On Sunday, North Korea also said leader Kim Jong Un had watched a separate, successful test of a new type of anti-aircraft guided weapon system. The report didn't say when the test happened.

The official Korean Central News Agency cited Kim as ordering officials to mass-produce and deploy the system all over the country so as to "completely spoil the enemy's wild dream to command the air."

Trump has alternated between bellicosity and flattery in his public statements about North Korea, but his adminis-

tration is still working to solidify a policy on handling the North's nuclear ambitions.

Monday's launch was North's Korea's third ballistic missile launch since South Korean President Moon Jae-in was inaugurated on May 10. He has signaled an interest in expanding civilian exchanges with North Korea, but it's unclear if he'll be able to push anytime soon for major rapprochement while the North continues to make serious advances in its nuclear and missile programs.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters that "North Korea's provocation by ignoring repeated warnings from international society is absolutely unacceptable."

Suga, the Japanese Cabinet secretary, said the missile fell about 300 kilometers north of the Oki islands in southwestern Japan and 500 kilometers west of Sado island in central Japan.

Suga said Japanese officials will discuss North Korea with a senior foreign policy adviser to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Yang Jiechi. China is North Korea's only major ally.

Besides its regular ballistic missile test-launches, North Korea carried out two of its five nuclear tests last year — in January and September. Outside analysts believe North Korea may be able to arm some of its shorter-range missiles with nuclear warheads, though the exact state of its secretive weapons program is unknown. **AP**

Sri Lanka races to rescue flood victims as 500,000 displaced

HELICOPTERS continued to search in Sri Lanka yesterday through piles of mud for people still marooned after rain-triggered floods and mudslides inundated villages last Thursday, killing at least 169 people and leaving 102 others missing, officials say.

According to several media reports, up to half a million people have been displaced due to the torrential rains and severe flooding.

The rains caused part of Kiribathgala Hill to

come crashing down, burying the 15 homes and their 26 inhabitants under huge rocks, mud and fallen coconut trees, village officer Udari Erabedda said. Soldiers have recovered 12 bodies, including those of two women and a child dug out yesterday. The others remain missing.

The hill in Sri Lanka's Ratnapura district, known for gems and precious stones, is 120 kilometers southeast of the capital, Colombo. Most residents make their living by tending

small plots of tea or spices, or by working in nearby gem mines.

With more rain expected, rescuers are racing to evacuate villagers from the most vulnerable areas around the country. Already, more than 75,000 people have taken shelter in 337 relief camps set up in the south and west.

Army boats skimmed along water-filled village streets, while flood victims waded through the brackish waters to army trucks carrying relief supplies.

"We are displaced and

have no place to go," said Rathana Kumari, who fled her flooded home with her family and took refuge on the Southern Expressway, a highway linking Colombo with the cities of Matara and Galle. "Now we are extremely helpless with our little children. [...] Today, we didn't get anything to eat."

The United Nations said it is donating water purification tablets, tents and other supplies for the displaced. India sent two shiploads of goods and some medical staff, and the Uni-



An aerial view of an inundated area of Kiriella, in Ratnapura district of Sri Lanka

ted States and Pakistan also promised relief supplies.

Mudslides have become common during Sri Lanka's summer mon-

soon season as forests across the tropical Indian Ocean island nation have been cleared for export crops such as tea and rubber. **MDT/AP**

Putin visits France, hopes to mend strained ties with West

Vladimir Isachenkov,
Sylvie Corbet

ON a trip likely to shape Russia-France ties for years to come, Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in France yesterday for talks with newly-elected French President Emmanuel Macron — the candidate he did not back in presidential vote.

The trip offers the Russian leader a chance to turn the page and try to establish a productive relationship with Macron as the Kremlin struggles to mend its bitter rift with the West.

Macron is the first Western leader to speak to Putin after the Group of Seven summit over the weekend, where relations with Russia were a key topic.

The Kremlin has hailed the visit as a chance for Putin and Macron to get to know each other and better understand their

views on a range of disputed issues, including the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and Russia's ties with the European Union.

During his G-7 news conference on Saturday, Macron promised to have a "demanding dialogue" with Russia, especially on Syria. He called it a failure that European nations were not involved in the talks over Syria's future but were being hit by its effects, including the huge number of Syrian refugees trying to get to Europe.

"We must talk to Russia to change the framework for getting out of the military crisis in Syria and to build a much more collective and integrated inclusive political solution," Macron declared.

Macron's invitation for Putin was a surprise after his tough stance on Russia during the French presidential campaign. That contrasted sharply with

AP PHOTO



Demonstrators hold flags and a banner reading "No to Russian aggression" during a gathering at Trocadero next to the Eiffel Tower in Paris

his rivals, including far-right candidate Marine Le Pen and conservative Francois Fillon, who both backed ending Western sanctions against Moscow

over the Ukrainian crisis.

Macron's aides also claimed that Russian groups launched hacking attacks on his presidential campaign but Moscow has strongly denied all allegations of election meddling.

Putin, however, made his preferences in the French presidential election clear by hosting Le Pen at the Kremlin in March. Putin also has frequently met with Fillon, the French prime minister from 2007-2012, and praised him as an experienced statesman.

Analysts say the visit to Paris offers Putin an opportunity to improve ties with France that had steadily deteriorated in the closing months of Socialist Francois Hollande's presidency.

"As a person who pays utmost attention to personal contacts, Putin believes that only a one-on-one meeting could give answers to many questions about Macron as a person and as president of France, as well as his future foreign policy course and his stance on Russia," Tatyana Stanovaya of the Center for Political Technologies, an independent Moscow-based think-tank, wrote.

In October, Putin abruptly shelved a trip to Paris after Hollande alleged that Russia could face war crime charges for its actions in Syria. Hollande also refused to take part in the opening of the newly built Russian

Orthodox Spiritual and Cultural Center in Paris and was only interested in talking with Russia about Syria.

As part of his trip Monday, Putin is to visit the center near the Seine River that includes the Holy Trinity Cathedral. The site was sold to Russia under former President Nicolas Sarkozy amid criticism from rights groups.

Prior to that, Putin and

We must talk to Russia to change the framework for getting out of the military crisis in Syria.

EMMANUEL MACRON

Macron are to talk at Versailles and then tour an exhibition there marking the 300th anniversary of Russian Czar Peter the Great's trip to Paris that was prepared by St. Petersburg's Hermitage Museum.

With Peter the Great widely seen as a ruler who modernized Russia and sought to open it up to the West, the exhibition offers a symbolic backdrop for both to talk about the importance of Russia-France ties.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Russia was dissatisfied with the current level of political contacts.

"The meeting is very important for both Russia and France," he told reporters.

Ushakov said he expects an "interesting discussion" on ways to implement a 2015 Minsk deal for eastern Ukraine, which was brokered by Germany and France. The U.S. and the EU have made the prospect of lifting economic and financial sanctions against Moscow contingent on fulfilling the peace agreement.

The deal has helped reduce the scale of fighting between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine, but clashes have continued and political elements of the agreement have stalled. Ukraine and Russia have blamed one another for the fighting that has left some 10,000 people dead.

Ushakov said that the two leaders will also have a "frank" discussion on Syria, where Russia has backed Syrian President Bashar Assad and France has pushed strongly for his removal. He added that last week's suicide attack on Manchester Arena emphasized the need to pool efforts in the fight against terrorism.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Sunday urged European Union nations to stick together in the face of emerging policy divisions with the U.S., Britain's decision to leave the bloc and other challenges. Merkel also stressed the importance of being good neighbors "wherever that is possible, including with Russia, but also with others."

Human rights activists protested yesterday in Paris over the situation of gays in the Russian republic of Chechnya, holding a banner "Stop homophobia in Chechnya" near the Eiffel Tower.

"It's important that Mr. Putin is ready to hear, we hope, strong words coming from Mr. Macron, to say 'stop' to that homophobia, which has lasted for too long," Cecile Couderiou of Amnesty International said.

Human Rights Watch said last week that high-level officials in Russia's Chechnya humiliated inmates during visits to detention facilities where gay people were being held and tortured. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



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TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: June 4, 2017

ADDRESS: No. 47, Rua de S. Roque

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

EXHIBITION OF CHAN IU PUI

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

UNTIL: July 8, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

LEATHER CARVING

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

UNTIL: June 18, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

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

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 7676

TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP

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

VENUE: No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

AP PHOTO



SHARK LEAPS INTO BOAT AND LANDS ON AUSTRALIAN FISHERMAN

A 73-year-old Australian fisherman said yesterday that he caught a far bigger fish than he hoped for when a 2.7-meter (9-foot) great white shark leapt into his boat, knocking him off his feet.

Terry Selwood was left with a badly bruised and bleeding right arm where the airborne shark struck him with a pectoral fin as it landed on him on the deck of the 4.5-meter power boat Saturday off Evans Head, 725 kilometers north of Sydney.

Selwood sprung up on the gunnel at the bow of the boat to avoid the thrashing shark and steadied himself by clinging to the tubular metal frame of the sun shelter, known as a bimini.

"I didn't give it a chance to look me in the eyes. I wanted to get up and get on top of the gunnel because it was thrashing around madly," Selwood told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Selwood used a hand-held radio to call the Evans Head coast guard and stayed on the gunnel until a rescue boat arrived. The coast guard crew rescued Selwood, but left the shark alone.

Why the shark flung itself over the motor and into the anchored boat is a mystery.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Movie: Frozen
17:10	Revenge Sr 2
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Macau International Dragon Boat Races - Highlights
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

30 MAY

WONDER WOMAN

ROOM 1

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

Director: Patty Jenkins

Starring: Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen, Robin Wright

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



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, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Seth Gordon

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron, Alexandra Daddario

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min

MACAU TOWER

30 MAY - 11 JUNE



WONDER WOMAN

(3D) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Patty Jenkins

Starring: Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen, Robin Wright

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

this day in history



1981 BANGLADESHI PRESIDENT ASSASSINATED

The president of Bangladesh, Zia Rahman, has been assassinated in the south-eastern city of Chittagong.

President Zia is believed to have died at 0430 local time when rebels stormed a government guest house.

He is reported to have been killed by sub-machine-gun bullets when he opened the door of his room to see what was happening outside.

Eight people are thought to have died in the shooting, including a security officer, an officer who was guarding the president and one of the attackers.

The killing was believed to be part of an army rebellion and government forces have taken control of the town after rebel leader Major General Manzur Ahmed fled.

One report on Bangladesh radio said Maj Gen Manzur was hiding in the hills outside Chittagong, while another report said he had been captured.

There are reports that Maj Gen Manzur staged a coup attempt partly because he resented a planned transfer to a non-command post in Dhaka.

Following the death of the 45-year-old president, the rebels announced they were forming a revolutionary committee but diplomats said they had failed to win support from army units across the rest of Bangladesh.

The army, under its chief of staff, Major General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, remained loyal to the Dhaka government and quickly put down the rebellion.

The Bangladesh government said the uprising in the port city had been carried out by a "few miscreants".

In the capital Dhaka, tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets to show their grief at the death of their president, who was widely admired and respected.

Abdus Sattar, who has been named as acting president, has declared a state of emergency and a 40-day period of mourning. He also called on Maj Gen Manzur to surrender.

Dhaka airport is closed and all telephone and telex links to India have been suspended.

Army officers have been involved in several attempts to remove President Zia from office during his six-year rule.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The president was assassinated by a small group of army officers. The killing was alleged to have been ordered by Major General Manzur.

Manzur was later reported to have been captured in a tea garden in Chittagong and killed by army officers.

A military court tried 31 officers in connection with an attempted coup and 12 were executed for complicity in the assassination of the president.

In 2000, a parliamentary committee in the capital Dhaka concluded that the trial of those accused of killing him was not conducted in accordance with the law.

The committee recommended that the families of the 12 army officials hanged for the murder should be compensated.

A member of the committee, a former army officer, told the BBC that the committee considered that the officers were sentenced to death without valid evidence in some cases and were the victims of injustice.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Just because you don't share all of someone's values doesn't mean that you and this new person in your life are completely incompatible. So if you've been thinking about getting closer to them.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Today you won't be content to live life on the surface - you will need to understand the world around you in a deeper way than ever before. Search for the reasons people do things the way they do them.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Somewhere along the line, you may have confused being stubborn with being right. Today the stars are urging you to reconsider your firmly held stance on something, because you are not on the right side of the issue.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

The truth is simple: Someone thinks you would be a good addition to the group, and you should be flattered! Whether you accept their hospitality or not, this is a situation you should savor.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You might be asked to move a few things around today to oblige people who have more influence in the world than you do. Smile and a nod, and you will be handsomely rewarded for your graciousness and flexibility.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

A lot of fun activities are going on around you today, so if you're feeling bored at any point in the day, that's your own fault! You can't wait for an engraved invitation before you join in the fun.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You're feeling good - and eager to push yourself a little bit harder - but be careful. Your ambition could start outpacing your capabilities, and if you push yourself too hard, you may get a nasty surprise.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

When was the last time you hosted a dinner party? The stars say it might be time to assume the host role you perform so well. You don't need an excuse to socialize with your favorite people.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

No matter what the weather might be like outside today, you may find yourself feeling shrouded by clouds. Your moodiness or blue feelings aren't anything to be worried about, though.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Your ability to talk to just about anyone will be challenged today, but you will rise to the occasion brilliantly! When you're stuck having to deal with an abrasive person, keep your chin up and just keep smiling.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You've recently made some amazing headway toward repairing a major problem in your life, but you're not quite out of the woods yet. Be careful not to light the candles on your celebratory cake too soon.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

What others hear as typical newscasts, televised chatter or just noisy small talk, you hear as beautiful words and wonderful sounds. Verbal communication is captivating, so it's an exceptional day for eavesdropping.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	18	26	shower
Harbin	11	23	clear
Tianjin	19	25	shower
Urumqi	18	31	clear
Xi'an	17	33	shower/cloudy
Lhasa	10	19	drizzle/moderate rain
Chengdu	20	30	drizzle/overcast
Chongqing	22	26	shower
Kunming	16	28	cloudy/clear
Nanjing	21	34	cloudy
Shanghai	21	31	clear/cloudy
Wuhan	22	33	cloudy
Hangzhou	20	33	clear/cloudy
Taipei	25	30	overcast/drizzle
Guangzhou	24	32	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	30	cloudy

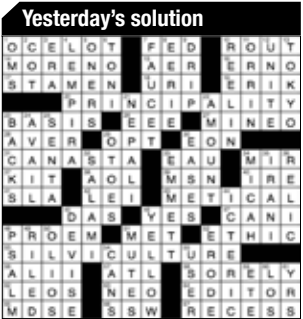
WORLD

Moscow	8	17	moderater ain/drizzle
Frankfurt	20	32	clear
Paris	15	30	clear/drizzle
London	12	21	drizzle
New York	12	17	moderate rain/cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Pelvic bones; 6- Danny's daughter; 11- Jiff; 14- Emollient-yielding plants; 15- Upstate New York city; 16- ___-Locka, FL; 17- Kids toys; 18- Gazette; 20- Self-esteem; 21- Words of comprehension; 23- White as a ghost; 24- Hazardous; 26- Deadlock; 28- Short-tempered; 30- Exorbitant; 31- Sidewalk eateries; 32- ___ is human...; 33- Student stat; 36- Black cuckoos; 37- Make ___ for oneself; 38- Prompted; 39- Tic-___-toe; 40- Halts; 41- Tremble; 42- Annie of "Designing Women"; 43- Thrills; 44- Alfalfa; 47- Penned; 48- Designer Mizrahi; 49- River in central Switzerland; 50- Fire starter?; 53- One who rents land from a tenant; 56- Soccer scores; 58- Test area; 59- Ignited again; 60- Small bay; 61- TV Tarzan Ron; 62- Shouts; 63- Closes in on;

DOWN: 1- "Smooth Operator" singer; 2- Sleep like ___; 3- Imparting color; 4- Cath. or Prot.; 5- Aids; 6- Medium of exchange; 7- Out of the wind; 8- Remote button; 9- ___ Cruces; 10- Theoretically; 11- Second-year students, for short; 12- Fencing swords; 13- Chili con ___; 19- Pronto; 22- Heavens; 25- Angers; 26- Agenda entries; 27- A ___ formality; 28- Shool; 29- Mandlikova of tennis; 30- Lathers; 32- Govt. security; 33- Republic in N Central America; 34- Short dog, for short; 35- Citrus coolers; 37- Envelope abbr.; 38- FDR's fireside ___; 40- Black magic; 41- Fizz ingredient; 42- ___ moss; 43- Stray; 44- Cotton thread used for hosiery; 45- Customary; 46- Cabdriver; 47- Pianist Andre; 49- Indigo source; 51- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 52- Concordes, e.g.; 54- Maiden name indicator; 55- Competitor of Tide and Cheer; 57- The loneliest number;



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Customs 28 559 944	
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After mistake in 2012, Sato learns lesson to win Indy 500

Jenna Fryer, Indianapolis

TAKUMA Sato had victory in sight once before at the Indianapolis 500. When he attempted a last-lap pass, Sato lost control of his car, crashed and Dario Franchitti went on to his third victory in "The Greatest Spectacle In Racing."

In nearly the same position five years later, Sato leaned on lessons learned in that 2012 defeat and became the first Japanese driver to win the Indianapolis 500.

"I do feel after 2012 that I really needed to correct something I left over," Sato said. "In 2012, going into Turn 1 with Dario was a big risk. But you always learn something from those situations, and this time we proved we had what it takes."

In winning for just the second time in IndyCar, Sato had to hold off Helio Castroneves over the closing laps Sunday to deny the veteran a record-tying fourth Indianapolis 500 victory. The two swapped the lead, and Castroneves made one last attempt at a pass for the win that he couldn't make stick.

"When Helio was coming with three laps to go, on a big charge into Turn 1, we went side-by-side," Sato said. "But this time I ended up still pointing in the right direction and still leading. It was job done, and the last two laps the car worked beautifully."

The win was the second straight for Andretti Autosport in the Indy 500 and third in the last four years. An Andretti driver has now won the 500 five times overall dating to 2005 with the late Dan Wheldon.

Last year, it was with rookie Alexander Rossi. This time it was with Sato, who joined the team this season and had largely been overlooked at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The Andretti camp expanded to six cars for the 500 to add Fernando Alonso, a two-time F1 champion who brought massive European interest to the race.

Six cars never seemed to spread the team too thin, and the main issue facing Andretti Autosport was the reliability of its Honda engines. Alonso put on a thrilling show and even led 27 laps but he was sent to the paddock when his engine blew with 20 laps remaining.

Still, his race was spectacular and Alonso simply fell

AP PHOTO



Takuma Sato of Japan celebrates as he crosses the Yard of Bricks to win the Indianapolis 500 auto race

victim to his engine late in the race. The crowd gave the Spaniard a standing ovation as he climbed from his car.

"It's a very nice surprise to come here with big names, big guys, the best in open-wheel racing and be competitive," said Alonso, who didn't rule out a return.

"The last two weeks, I came here basically to prove myself, to challenge myself," Alonso added. "I know that I can be as quick as anyone in an F1 car. I didn't know if I can be as quick as anyone in an Indy car."

The Honda teams had a clear horsepower advantage over Chevrolet, but things were dicey in Indy for more than a week and certainly on race day: Before Alonso's failure, 2014 winner Ryan Hunter-Reay lost his engine and so did Charlie Kimball. Hunter-Reay led 28 laps and was a strong contender late.

Still, Honda had the winning engine at the end and six of the top 10.

"I'm really happy for Honda. They worked really hard to get us here," team owner Michael Andretti said. "I know how big this news is going to be tomorrow when they wake up in Japan. It's going to be huge. I'm really happy for them, that we were able to give them a win with our Japanese driver here."

In a Chevrolet for Team

Penske, Castroneves briefly took the lead but couldn't hold it as Sato grabbed it back. Castroneves was disappointed to fall short of the

four-time winners club — particularly since it was his third runner-up finish.

"Being second again sucks, being so close to getting my

F1 champion Alonso swigs milk at Indy, just not as winner

SURROUNDED by cameras and flashing cellphones, Fernando Alonso picked up a carton of milk and took a huge swig. For much of the Indianapolis 500, it looked like the two-time Formula One champion would have a chance to perform the celebratory routine in the winner's circle.

The 35-year-old Alonso led 27 laps in his much-hyped Indy 500 debut — the third most behind Max Chilton and Ryan Hunter-Reay — before a blown Honda engine ended his day 20 laps shy of the finish line.

It was a disappointing finish to an impressive month for the Spaniard.

"I didn't win, but I will drink a little bit of milk," Alonso said, thanking the media for covering his every move. "You follow me for two weeks every single minute, but I really enjoy. Thanks for the welcoming."

Alonso announced last mon-



Fernando Alonso (center)

th he would take a break from a subpar F1 season and skip the Monaco Grand Prix to race in the Indy 500 for Andretti Autosport. His presence drew worldwide interest for "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" and surely provided a television ratings boost for IndyCar's premier event.

Alonso anticipates a return to Indianapolis Motor Speedway. After all, he wants to become the second driver to secure auto racing's "Triple Crown," which means winning at Monaco, at Indy and at the

fourth," Castroneves said. "I'm really trying. I'm not giving up this dream and I know it's going to happen."

Ed Jones finished a career-best third and was followed by Max Chilton and Tony Kanaan, the highest finishers for Chip Ganassi Racing.

A lot of the Japanese fans are following the IndyCar Series and many, many flew over for the Indianapolis 500.

TAKUMA SATO

A joyful Sato dumped a bottle of 2 percent milk over his head, received a kiss from the Indy 500 Princess and raised his finger in the air. Andretti ran down pit lane to reach Sato's crew, then rushed to hug his driver. Even Franchitti made his way to victory lane to congratulate Sato, who was eager to see the impact of his win at home in Japan.

"This is going to be mega big," he predicted. "A lot of the Japanese fans are following the IndyCar Series and many, many flew over for the Indianapolis 500. We showed the great result today and I am very proud of it." **AP**

24 Hours of LeMans.

"Definitely, yes," Alonso said. "If I come back here, at least I know how it is, everything, and it will not be the first time I do restarts and pit stops and these kinds of things. It will be easier, let's say, adaptations. [...] I need to keep pursuing this challenge because winning the Indy 500 is not completed."

McLaren boss Zak Brown raved about Alonso's first IndyCar race.

"It was outstanding," Brown said. "Fernando didn't put a wheel wrong, showed what a world-class world champion he is today. [...] I think not many race-car drivers in this world are brave enough to do what Fernando just did. Not just from a physical standpoint, but the whole world was watching Fernando race today. He put himself out there and exposed himself, delivered the goods, which isn't a surprise to anyone that has watched Fernando race."

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

WHEN you get to manage Lionel Messi, it sounds downright silly to talk about the challenges awaiting Barcelona's coach-to-be.

Yet whoever the Catalan club picks to replace Luis Enrique will not just be handed a star-studded team led by one of the best players in the world.

The chosen one will also inherit a handful of small, but serious flaws whose handling will determine whether he is a success or failure.

Ernesto Valverde, who recently left Athletic Bilbao, is the leading candidate to replace a worn-out Luis Enrique. The official announcement is expected after the club's board meeting today [Macau time].

"On Monday we will know officially and the coach that comes will have the qualities to carry this team forward," Andres Iniesta said after Barcelona salvaged its otherwise disappointing season by winning the Copa del Rey on Saturday.

"Now our task is to keep winning," Iniesta said. "When you don't achieve your objectives, which is to win major titles, your season wasn't a good one. We know we have things to improve. That's how demanding this club is."

Here is a look at the most pressing issues facing Barcelona's future boss:

THAT MISSING BIT

Despite winning a third straight Copa del Rey, Barcelona took a step back this season. But a look at its numbers will leave Enrique's successor the puzzle of figuring out why.

New Barcelona coach will inherit Messi and the team's flaws



Messi (left) and captain Andres Iniesta pose with the trophy after the Copa del Rey final soccer match between Barcelona and Alaves

Barcelona had the highest scoring attack in the Spanish league with the competition's top two scorers in Messi and Luis Suarez. It also defended well, conceding four fewer goals than champion Real Madrid.

In the Champions League it pulled off one of the most spectacular comebacks in the history of the competition when it roared back 6-1 against Paris Saint-Germain to overturn a 4-0 first-leg deficit. Then it promptly slumped out 3-0 to Juventus after not scoring in either leg.

The difference behind those three extra points that Madrid

earned through 38 rounds and its highs and lows in Europe resides somewhere in the intangible world of keeping up the maximum levels of effort and concentrations week in, week out.

Bridging that tiny gap between very good and sustained greatness is task No. 1 for Barcelona's incoming manager.

MORE MASIA

The steady stream of talent that once flowed from Barcelona's La Masia training academy into its first team dried up under Enrique. The only homegrown player to earn a starting role under En-

rique was Sergi Roberto, a midfielder converted to right back. Rafinha remains a reserve after returning from Celta Vigo, while Pedro Rodriguez and youngsters Munir El Haddadi and Sandro Ramirez left to find playing time.

The academy that has produced current figures Messi, Iniesta, Gerard Pique and Sergio Busquets needs to reclaim its weight on the first team for the benefit of both.

BARCA'S IDENTITY

Nobody can say that Enrique wasn't a winner. He had a perfect first campaign in 2014-

15, repeating the rare treble of Champions League, Spanish league and Copa del Rey first conquered by Pep Guardiola. He followed that with a double of the league and Copa del Rey in 2015-16, and then added a third cup when Barcelona beat Alaves 3-1 in his last match in charge.

Toss in a Club World Cup, a European Super Cup and a Spanish Super Cup, and his team won nine of a possible 13 trophies. Those numbers are on par with Guardiola's 14 of a possible 19 titles from 2008-2012.

But many of Barcelona's purists complained that the team had lost its identity of dominating opponents through superior ball control by its midfield.

Since the arrival of Neymar and Suarez to join Messi up front, the focus on the team has shifted from its midfield to its attack.

Before last season, the club tried to bulk up its midfield by signing Andre Gomes and Denis Suarez. But the team struggled to dictate matches when the Iniesta was off the pitch, leaving Messi as its best playmaker.

If the Barcelona of old is to be the Barcelona of the future, its coach must get more from its other underperforming midfielders to help out Iniesta, who will turn 34 next season. **AP**

Totti bids Roma goodbye after a remarkable 25-season career

IT was a celebration tinged with tears, fear and love. Francesco Totti bid an emotional farewell to Roma after a remarkable 25-season career with his hometown club on Sunday, contributing to a 3-2 win over Genoa in Serie A that secured the Giallorossi a spot in the Champions League.

Almost 60,000 fans inside the Stadio Olimpico stood up and cheered when the 40-year-old Totti replaced Mohamed Salah in the 54th minute. And even if Totti didn't score or set up any goals, his mere presence was what the supporters came to see.

"Unfortunately the time has come. I've cried every day," Totti said in a post-

match speech from the center of the pitch. "It's a decision I made with my wife and my family. I would stay here another 25 years. Thank you Roma."

"I would have liked to write a poem or a song but I've tried to express myself with my feet," Totti added.

Totti then put to rest speculation that he might end his career with another club.

"Excuse me if recently I haven't talked much or cleared up my thoughts," Totti said. "I'm taking my shirt off for the last time and folding it up well and good. The lights are turning off now and I'm afraid. Allow me to have a little fear. Now I need

your help."

During the elaborate post-match ceremony, a huge No. 10 jersey with Totti's name on it was unveiled at the center of the pitch. All of Roma's players put on shirts featuring Totti's No. 10 while the electronic publicity boards lining the pitch read, "Grazie Capitano."

Totti then walked around the stadium's athletic track while holding third child Isabel in his arms, with his other two children and wife Ilary Blasi accompanying him.

At one point, Totti stopped and leaned on the publicity barriers and just stared into the stands. Then he cried on Blasi's shoulder.

Totti also signed a ball

with the words, "I'll miss you," on it and then kicked it into the "Curva Sud" — southern end — of the stadium where the hard-core "ultra" fans sit.

At the conclusion of his speech, Totti told the fans, "I love you."

Roma's victory, courtesy of a 90th-minute goal from Diego Perotti, secured second place.

Roma coach Luciano Spalletti received a long series of boos and whistles — linked to how he has used Totti sparingly this season — when he was introduced before the match.

Fans also reacted negatively when James Pallotta, Roma's American owner, greeted Totti after the match.



Totti is tossed in the air by his teammates

There had been speculation that Totti wanted to play another season and the club was urging him to retire.

Pallotta has offered Totti an unspecified management position.

Thousands of fans wore Totti's No. 10 shirt — in white or red — while others had T-shirts that read simply, "captain forever."

"Let it be known that I lived in the times of Totti," one fan banner read.

Roma wore special shirts featuring a dedication to Totti, and so did Genoa.

On the back of Genoa's shirts, a message read, "25 seasons with only one shirt, 785 appearances, 307 goals, world champion in 2006. Francesco Totti is part of football history." **AP**

opinion

OurDesk

Lynzy Valles



SMEs HERE AND THERE

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have been playing a significant role in the territory – whether in terms of providing local jobs or providing local retail and gaming operators the option of acquiring products and services that are within their reach.

Thanks to the MSAR's policies, which include measures to promote the growth of local SMEs and young start-ups, micro-enterprises are popping up here and there.

This scheme is not new. In fact, the MSAR introduced this scheme back in 2003; and has revised the legal regime of its 'SME Aid Scheme' every three years since 2006. The last revision was made just this year.

With such a move, the local government is aiming to effectively support these enterprises' development to cope with economic development in the territory.

The Macau Economic Services explained that "as the economy of Macau rapidly develops, SMEs are also provided with considerable support and opportunities to develop."

The scheme grants loans of up to MOP600,000 per applicant for various financial purposes, while the maximum period for repayment of the loan is eight years.

Besides the 'SME Aid Scheme', there is also a 'SME Credit Guarantee Scheme,' which assists enterprises with a maximum credit guarantee of MOP4.9 million.

Hundreds of entrepreneurs have taken advantage of this attractive offer – but was it enough to keep the business running, or are there enough residents that have the heart to support such enterprises?

The government has done a tremendous job supporting the growth of SMEs and local procurement, yet a number of these SMEs are suffering from a lack of human resources.

As obvious as it seems, it is likely due to the lack of professionals and/or the difficulty of acquiring imported labor.

I reckon that all of this aid and these schemes for the benefit of SMEs are a large contributor to the success of local SMEs, but without the human resources needed to fulfill their service provisions, it exerts greater pressure on these enterprises to supply quality goods and services.

The majority of the entrepreneurs I have spoken with would argue that the main challenge SMEs face is not the lack of capital – thanks to the government's policy and the gaming operators' support of them – but rather the extreme lack of specialists who are also willing to receive a non-competitive salary.

The formation of these enterprises has also created jobs that have attracted local residents. Yet a significant number of entrepreneurs are undergoing the painful and stressful process of applying for quotas to be able to import workers.

Although there may be no current solutions on how to solve the challenge they are facing, I reckon that they hold high hopes of being granted an easy process for applying for imported workers permits.

Getting quota applications approved has always been an issue in the peninsula as it bids to protect jobs for local residents.

But I wonder whether this goes the same for, say, construction workers?

Local construction workers – who mostly earn some MOP1,200 per day – are ageing and with today's culture, the number of residents wanting to engage in that kind of job is decreasing.

To what extent could the consideration be given for it not to be described as stealing local workers' jobs?

I suppose that is another difficulty.

Nevertheless, SMEs and young start-ups may be in a good position to receive the utmost support from the government and gaming operators.

A few gaming operators even hold training and development sessions to enhance business knowledge of local entrepreneurs for free, and provide a platform to demonstrate their products.

I mean, where else would you receive such great support from local industries?

THE MACAU: SONIA CHAN VISITS VIETNAM
BUZZ AIMING FOR JUDICIAL COOPERATION

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, is currently touring Vietnam, following an invitation from the country's Ministry of Public Security, a statement from her office said. The three-day visit began yesterday.

Chan will meet the Minister of Public Security as well as the Public Prosecutions Office of Vietnam in

order to seek solutions on cooperation between the two parties in judiciary terms, namely on penal matters and the reinforcement of police cooperation. Chan's delegation includes members of several of the SAR's judiciary authorities, namely the Public Prosecutions Office, the Secretariat for Security and the Court of Final Appeal.

CANNES

Palme d'Or goes to Ruben Ostlund's 'The Square'

THE Cannes Film Festival awarded its coveted Palme d'Or award to Ruben Ostlund's Swedish comedy "The Square" on Sunday, while Sofia Coppola became only the second woman to win the best director award.

"Oh my god! OK," the Swedish filmmaker exclaimed after he bounded onto the stage to collect the prestigious Palme, in a rare and somewhat surprising win for a comedy.

In "The Square," Claes Bang plays a museum director whose manicured life begins to unravel after a series of events that upset his, and the museum's, calm equilibrium. The movie's title comes from an art installation that Bang's character is prepping, which invites anyone who enters a small square to be kind and generous.

The film's satire and exploration of moral dilemmas culminated in one of the festival's most eye-catching scenes. A muscled, grunting man pretending to be a gorilla upsets a black-tie dinner for the museum, sniffing attendees and dragging a woman by the hair.

The president of the Cannes jury, Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar, praised the film for exploring the "dictatorship" of political correctness and those trapped by it. "They live in a kind of hell because of that," Almodovar said.

"It's clever. It's witty. It's funny. It deals with questions so important," said French actress and filmmaker Agnes Jaoui, a member of the jury that also included Americans Will Smith and Jessica Chastain. Most odds makers didn't have "The Square" as a favorite to win the prestigious Palme d'Or, the top prize awarded at Cannes.

Coppola won best director for "The Beguiled," her remake of Don Siegel's 1971 Civil War drama about a Union soldier hiding out in a Southern girls' school. Hailed as Coppola's most feminist work yet, the remake thriller told from a more female point of view stars Nicole Kidman and Kirsten Dunst, with Colin Farrell playing the wounded soldier.

Coppola was one of three female filmmakers out of 19 in competition for the Palme this year. The first – and until now, only – female winner



Ruben Ostlund (right) celebrates winning the Palme d'Or award presented by actress Juliette Binoche (back left) and jury president Pedro Almodovar (back right)

of the best director prize was Soviet director Yuliya Ippolitovna Solntseva in 1961.

Diane Kruger was named best actress and Joaquin Phoenix best actor as the festival celebrated its 70th anniversary.

Kruger was honored for her performance in Fatih Akin's "In the Fade." She played a German woman whose son and Turkish husband are killed in a bomb attack. The film alludes to a series of actual killings that shook Germany six years ago, when it came to light that police had spent more time investigating the possible mob connections of migrant victims than the tell-tale signs of the far-right plot eventually uncovered.

"I cannot accept this award without thinking about anyone who has ever been affected by an act of terrorism and who is trying to pick up the pieces and go on living after having lost everything," the actress said. "Please know that you are not forgotten."

Phoenix was recognized for his role in Lynne Ramsay's thriller "You Were Never Really Here," in which he played a tormented war veteran trying to save a teenage girl from a sex trafficking ring.

The actor wore sneakers on stage as he collected the prize. He said his leather shoes had been flown ahead of him. He apologized for his appearance, saying the prize was "totally unexpected."

The French AIDS drama "120 Beats Per Minute" won the Grand Prize from the jury. The award recognizes a

strong film that missed out on the Palme d'Or.

Directed by Robin Campillo, the co-screenwriter of the Palme d'Or-winning film "The Class," the movie centers on the activist group ACT UP in Paris in the 1990s during the AIDS crisis.

The film's docu-drama retelling of that painful period, combined with a burgeoning spirit of unity for the gay community, earned it some of the best reviews of the festival. Vanity Fair called the film "a vital new gay classic." Almodovar said: "I loved the movie."

The jury also presented a special prize to Nicole Kidman to celebrate the festival's 70th anniversary. Kidman wasn't at the French Riviera ceremony, but sent a video message from Nashville, saying she was "absolutely devastated" to miss the show.

Jury member Smith made the best of the situation, pretending to be Kidman.

He fake-cried and said in halting French, "merci beaucoup madames et messieurs."

There were no prizes for the first Netflix releases selected to be in competition for the Palme d'Or: Bong Joon-ho's "Okja" and Noah Baumbach's "The Meyerowitz Stories."

Almodovar had made clear beforehand that he didn't want the Palme to go to a movie that isn't shown on big screens. The Netflix selections prompted protests from French movie distributors and led Cannes to rule out, beginning next year, streaming-only films. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	35-55 Good	
High Density Residential Area	65-85 Moderate	
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



IRAQ's mostly Iran-backed Shiite paramilitary forces reached the border with Syria yesterday after securing a string of small villages west of Mosul, according to a spokesman for the group.

CYPRUS remains "very, very close" to an agreement to reunite the ethnically-divided island despite a breakdown in talks last week, a U.N. official said yesterday.



FRANCE-RUSSIA French President Emmanuel Macron hosted Russian President Vladimir Putin at the sumptuous Palace of Versailles yesterday for what the newly-elected French leader said would be "demanding" talks on Syria, the Ukrainian crisis and other thorny issues driving the rift between Russia and the West. More on p14

GERMANY Senior security officials in Germany said yesterday they are optimistic about intelligence sharing with the United States and Britain, despite friction in other policy areas in recent months.

VENEZUELA A 20-year-old man from the opposition Popular Will Party has become the most recent person to die in a wave of anti-government protests held almost daily since the end of March, Venezuelan authorities said.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published tomorrow. The Times will be back on the stands on Thursday June 1. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.