

DEAL FOR NEW TREATMENT **PLANT REACHED**



SHOPS GRANTED TO CSI GROUP

The company signed a contract with the Marine and Water Bureau to operate the shops at the new ferry terminal



INSURANCE MOGUL SAID TO BE 'UNABLE TO WORK'

The Chinese insurer that owns NYC's Waldorf Astoria Hotel said its chairman has turned over his duties to other executives



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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES The government learned days in advance of a plan by militants aligned with the Islamic State group to lay siege to a southern city and staged an army raid on a militant hideout that prevented a bigger and deadlier attack, officials said. They said the assault forced the gunmen to prematurely start their attack aimed at occupying the Islamic city of more than 200,000 people. More on p14

INDONESIA Dozens of inmates escaped yesterday from an overcrowded prison in western Indonesia after floods caused a wall to collapse. The head of the provincial Law and **Human Rights Ministry** said at least 21 prisoners had been recaptured and about 30 others were still at large.



JAPAN Crown Prince Naruhito has pledged to devote himself to the role of emperor, like his father, when he assumes the Chrysanthemum Throne. "I will devote myself body and soul to every single duty," Naruhito said.

AUSTRALIA The

Australian government has reached a settlement of around 90 million Australian dollars (USD68 million) with more than 1,900 asylum seekers who sued over their treatment at an immigration camp in Papua New Guinea, a minister and lawyers said yesterday. More on p14

More on backpage

Group suggests schools for Canidrome site.



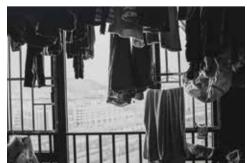






Artists depict rapidly changing Hengqin







Water bill to increase by 5.9pct yearly

The government has signed an agreement with the water supply company in order to allow the latter to increase the water bill by 5.9 percent, on average, per year. In 2017, the water fare will increase by MOPo.33 per degree to MOP5.45 per degree, and it will grow another MOPo.32 per degree next year. In 2019, the fare will increase to MOPo.31, by which time the water fare will be MOP6.08 per degree. Previously, the water supply company had suggested an average increase of 6.2 percent to the water fare.

Communities preserve Ilha Verde hill

Communities living in the vicinity of Ilha Verde took the initiative to ask the companies occupying the area to clean up the hills. Neighborhood associations from Ilha Verde have recently expressed their willingness to preserve the place. The neighborhood is expecting the government to strengthen communications with the hill's proprietors in order to conduct studies related to the conservation, as well as to restore the monuments located on the hill. Currently, the communities are trying to put up fences around the hill to prevent it from being damaged by third parties.

Teenager thought to have committed suicide

A 14-year-old middle-school boy was found dead in the water near Fai Chi Kei. The Judiciary Police (PJ) believes that the boy committed suicide. The corpse was found last Friday afternoon, and the PJ have confirmed that the deceased was a Macau resident. According to the parents, their son, who was attending the first grade of middle-school, was addicted to online games, and had difficulties studying in school, in addition to suffering from health problems. The PJ is still investigating the possible causes for the suicide.

Association suggests building three schools at Canidrome

Julie Zhu

THE Choi In Tong Sam Asso-Laciation has proposed to the government the possibility of saving the football court of the Macau Canidrome and using the remaining land to build schools for students living in the northern area of Macau. Earlier, the government claimed the land where Macau's Yat Yuen Canidrome facility is currently standing and indicated that it should only be used for public purposes after the existing dog racing operations are dismantled.

Lawmaker Lei Cheng I, the vice president of the association, reminded the government of the high demand for schools in the northern areas due to the large number of students living in there.

As Lei noted, across Macau, there are 56,608 people aged nine years old and under, with roughly 41 percent of those living in Our Lady of Fatima Parish, which corresponds to approximately 23,000 children.



Furthermore, he said there is a total of 38,769 kids aged between three and nine years old in Macau, with 17,598 of them-45.4 percentliving in the general northern area of the Macau Peninsula.

Vong Kuoc Ieng, president of the Escola Choi Nong Chi Tai, who is also a vice president at the Choi In Tong Sam Association, commented that, in regard to children aged under nine years

old, "it is unsuitable for them to go to school by crossing regions."

Vong added "taking into account that these regions need more places for students, additional education-affiliated facilities in the community should be considered to respond to the needs."

As noted by the association, approximately 3,170 housing units, both private and public, will be completed soon.

Vong also called on the government to help improve conditions of current schools located in the northern area.

He pointed out that Macau currently has 15 school campuses based on the sites of old public houses and that students studying in these schools lack space for acti-

Nevertheless, Vong called on the government to give importance to the equality concerning the study and development of students.

"[The government] should build campuses for schools of reduced dimensions," proposed Vong.

It is believed to be reasonable for the government to build three at the Canidrome site.

Currently, the Canidrome features a dog track, a football field and a pool.

The association have suggested that the authorities should renovate the football field and the pool, set up additional indoor sports facilities, and open all these facilities to students and local

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAY

Community optimistic on economic development after Duterte's first year

small group from Amacau's Philippine community celebrated the 119th anniversary of Philippine's National Day with traditional folk dances in colorful attire this week.

At the event, Philippine Consul General Lilybeth Deapera paid tribute to her president's social and economic policies and said that her country's new foreign policy direction was heralding closer ties between China and the Philippines.

Deapera also said that the economic initiatives introduced by the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte, who was formally inaugurated one year ago, have the aim of improving the living conditions of overseas workers and creating the employment conditions for them to return to the Philippines in the future.

"It's very relevant because the new administration, which is celebrating its first year, [has the aim of] economic development for everyone so that Filipinos will have a better life, and those who are working abroad will be able to go back home and [find] employment in the Philippines," she said at the event, as cited by public broadcaster TDM.

"All of our programs and plans of the government are [toward] achieving this objective of economic development; eliminating poverty, eliminating drugs and making the country a peaceful place."

In its ascendance to 'membership' of China's Belt and Road Initiative, the Philippines is hoping to attract Chinese investment for its economic development.

This was a point stressed by Deapera during this week's celebration and reinforced by Macau's Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan.

"President Rodrigo Duterte acknowledged during his meeting with President Xi Jinping last month that the 'Belt and Road' Initiative will effectively promote the connectivity and economic growth in Asia and will also bring job opportunities and prosperity to the Philippines," she said, according to a statement published on the Government Information Bureau's platform.

"It is envisioned that the Philippine Government's decision to participate in the 'Belt and Road' Initia-



Lilybeth Deapera (left) and Sonia Chan

tive will enable the country to sustain its growth momentum," added Chan.

Regarding Macau's role in economic cooperation between the two countries, Chan said that the MSAR would "grasp the upcoming opportunities" to advance social, economic and cultural cooperation with the Philippines on a regional level.

This year on June 12, the Philippines commemorated 119 years of independence from Spain. The proclamation of Philippine independence was made in 1898 at the home of revolutionary general Emilio Aguinaldo, when the flag of the First Philippine Republic - made by Filipino patriots in Hong Kong was unveiled.

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HENGQIN

Artists depict 'rapid and irreversible' changes

Daniel Beitler*

new installment to an ongoing exhibition chronicling the development of neighboring Hengqin has been opened to the public at Ox Warehouse gallery, providing snapshots of the island's swift urbanization since 2011.

The island and Special Economic Zone, separated by a thin stretch of water from Macau, is home to an estimated 7,500 permanent residents, despite occupying an area three times larger than Macau. But its rapid development over the last decade has some analysts forecasting that as many as 200,000 people will live there by 2020.

Following two earlier iterations of the exhibition in 2011 and 2015, this year's show has invited seven local photographers and visual artists to reflect on the island's development.

Through their works, the artists unanimously express their concerns over the fate of the locals and their traditional culture, while also emphasizing a sense of futility in the face of the island's urbanization.

Six years ago, Ox Warehouse founder Frank Lei held the first Hengqin-themed exhibition around the concept of "the disappearing neighboring villages." It was a theme returned to several years later and again in 2017.

This year, the exhibiting works are divided into two sections, with the larger part dedicated to new works, and around two-fifths of the available space allocated to returning exhibits.

I have observed that the development in Hengqin is rapid and irreversible, but the people in Hengqin have no choice at all.

> TANG KUOK HOU **PHOTOGRAPHER**

In the exhibition's preface, presented on a wall near the gallery's entrance, organizers of the exhibition describe the progression of the island's development as the transformation from a quaint village into a sprawling theme park.

"Farmland replaced by skyscrapers, the simple oyster island covered with wide avenues, the quaint village turned into a huge theme park [...] and the original villagers now residing in a modern town with tall buildings," it reads.

"Urbanization always comes with ecological and societal drawbacks," warned the exhibition curator, Pal Lok. "Hengqin is only the tip of the iceberg in the sweeping trends of urbanization."

The Times interviewed several of the participating artists in this third iteration of the exhibition and found a consensus on the cost of the development.

"From the last four years, I have observed that the development in Hengqin is rapid and irreversible, but the people in Hengqin have no choice at all. They [are forced] to accept and adapt," said Tang Kuok Hou, who contributed several photographs this year.

Tang's work highlights the contrast between modern Macau and the simpler lifestyles of people from non-urban communities. In one such photograph, the pristine buildings of the University of Macau are juxtaposed with gardeners at the site, who wear improvised cardboard boxes to provide shelter from the

Another artist, Sun Yan, is using the collaboration at Ox Warehouse to exhibit around a dozen black and white pictures of residential life in Hen-

His photographs appear to be deliberately vague in their location, with no obvious architectural references to Hengqin. Those that illustrate apartment interiors could originate from many a traditional, Chinese home, while the nondescript skyscrapers he captures could be found in scores of cities across the mainland.

Sun said that the villagers hold mixed opinions about the sudden large-scale developments. On the one hand, they long for their former homes and communities, but they also share an excitement over their new environment and the steeply rising value of their brand-new apartments.

"Before the development, Hengqin and Macau were more like two worlds; one a commercial society with a highly developed economy, and the other an agricultural town with people who lived by fishing and farming," Sun told the Times. "Two worlds that can see each other but [...] have great differences in terms of social structure, humanity, lifestyle and values."

However, since the modernization of the island, "countless landscapes, people, and memories have become unimportant. These changes [represent] the transformation of lifestyles and values."

Meanwhile, Jack Wong, who like the other participating artists, favors the use of contrasts in his work, argues that the differences between the neighboring cities are ever-diminishing. He proposed that it is inevitable that "the development of Hengqin must connect with Macau."

"The most surprising difference that I observed was that the two cities are getting closer and closer," said the photographer. "[But] we all know that they have different governments, policies and cultures."

Wong also warned that the development of Hengqin could prompt an identity crisis for the MSAR and suggested that local residents here ought to consider what is behind the urbanization.

"Is it an opportunity or a challenge for us?" he pondered. "What is the future role of Macau in the Pearl River Delta? We have to face these problems in our future."

It is an unsettling question that resonates with the other artists too.

"I think that the differences and border [between Hengqin and Macau] will disappear in the future," added Tang, concerned that Macau's uniqueness is being preserved only in a few key aspects. This he cautioned, presents the risk that "someday we will be become a no-personality city."

"Hengqin's yesterday is, in fact, also Macau's yesterday,' remarked Sun. "Will Macau's today be the future of Hengqin?"





Consumer satisfaction recorded historical peak

Julie Zhu

THE Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) published the Macau Consumer Satisfaction Index 2017 this week, and Macau residents' satisfaction regarding shopping and dining in Macau recorded the highest score in the history of the index.

Between May 4 and 23, 810 (876 in 2016) local residents aged over 16 were interviewed over the phone for the annual report. The survey consisted of four sections regarding customer satisfaction: Macau shopping (in particular, clothing) and restaurants, and Zhuhai shopping and restaurants.

Within each category the re-



A shop in Zhuhai. Residents' satisfaction with shopping in the neighboring city has worsened in comparison to 2016

sults have been compiled into indexes of product and service quality, as well as comparisons between prices and goods.

Shopping satisfaction in Macau recorded the highest score (74.3) in 11 years, representing a 3.2 percent increase year-on-year.

Two of the three factors that affected the satisfaction are product quality and service quality and they both recorded the highest scores in history.

In turn, the levels of satisfaction for local restaurants increased 1.6 percent, recording 70.9 points, which also marks the highest point in 11 years.

Macau residents' satisfaction with shopping in Zhuhai has worsened in comparison to last year's results, while their satisfaction with restaurants in Zhuhai has increased.

Regarding the former, a 1.5 percent drop was recorded (66.5 last year, 65.5 this year), while restaurant satisfaction increased 5 percent, now standing at 69.5.

Chan Lai Kow, director of the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) at MUST, noted that Macau's economy has begun to improve after an adjustment period in the past, and as the RMB's exchange rate stabilizes, retailers in Macau will have higher pressure in terms of operating costs.

Under this condition, Chan

suggested that Macau's retailers, in the future, should maintain good product quality and service quality.

Chan pointed out that Macau's retailers should consider how to use promotions to maintain a high level of customer satisfaction.

According to Chan, local retailers and the catering industry should attract and retain more local customers and tourists.

The director suggested that both the retail and the catering industries should improve their comprehensive competitiveness.

According to Chan, local retailers and the catering industry should seize good opportunities to improve their business operation while Macau is developing itself into a world tourism and leisure center and a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

This marks the 11th year the index has been published, and also the 10th consecutive year that Macau has beaten Zhuhai in terms of satisfaction figures.

HK announces new measures, hampering Uber's legalization

HONG Kong's transport minister expressed his view that new carhailing services should run like existing taxi firms, which would involve changing their business models for a chance at being legalized.

Secretary for Transport and Housing Professor Anthony Cheung Bing Leung announced a report on the long-term development of public transport that featured 14 new measures which would likely hamper Uber's hope of fitting into a regulatory regime.

Although the report did not specifically mention

Uber, the Hong Kong government maintains a strong stance against such car-hailing services, evidenced by its police arresting 22 partner-drivers last month on suspicion of picking up passengers.

"The company that you mentioned [...] can run its

businesses like how existing taxi companies do now," Cheung said when asked about Uber, as cited in a report issued by South China Morning Post.

"Some companies are just not willing to be regulated under established mechanisms. They hope

Some companies are just not willing to be regulated under established mechanisms.

ANTHONY CHEUNG SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND HOUSING

they can run their businesses and not come under any regulations. I believe that no country and no government would allow that."

Although the minister acknowledged that the public recently has preferred to hail taxis over the internet, he noted that premium taxis can provide the exact same service.

According to the media outlet, Uber said it was "pleased" to see that the government had recognized the need to improve point-to-point transport services.

Meanwhile Uber Macau



A sign is displayed at an Uber Technologies Inc. office during a driver recruitment event in Hong Kong

is also still hoping for service legalization.

In July last year, Uber Macau hand-delivered copies of around 3,000 e-mails to the Office of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, appealing to him to regulate the ride-sharing sector. However, the firm stated early this year that there were still

no concrete dialogues that were established with the government.

While the company awaits its permission to legally run in the territory, the MSAR has granted an eight-year license to Radio Taxi Service Company – operators of the region's special taxis that can only be hailed through the phone or its mobile application.







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Times

Tourism Office bets on family travel

THE delegation of "The 8th Experience Macau Tour", formed by representatives of travel trade partners and key members of the media from the mainland, is in Macau for a four-day familiarization trip.

Their itinerary includes visiting World Heritage sites, facilities and opportunities to learn more about tourism products targeted for family travel.

According to the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the familiarization trip, themed as "Experience Macao Your Own Style – Parents and Kids Having Fun in Town", attracted over 200 delegates, which represent various tourism institutions and key media from the mainland. The delegation arrived in Macau on Sunday

Kong Shanna, deputy editor of Chinese Satellite TV, has joined the tour for the second time. She stated that the tourism facilities and products in Macau have become more diversified, in turn alluring a wider variety of tourists to visit the city.

Another participant, General Manager of China Travel Service Fujian, Zeng Xu, claimed that family travel in Macau holds a certain attractiveness for the mainland population. The company is hoping to develop more family-friendly tourism products and tour itineraries to Macau after this tour.

Macao Water agrees deal for new treatment plant

ACAO Water, responsible for providing the city's water supply, has reached a consensus with the MSAR government on the building of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant in Coloane, the company informed in a statement released yesterday.

The two parties had been negotiating over the terms of the treatment plant for almost three years. This consensus, "marks a significant milestone" in the company's history of providing water services, claimed Macao Water.

Under the terms of the agreement, Macao Water will be responsible for funding the construction of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant, while the raw water source will originate from the fourth pipeline to be built jointly by the Macau government and local authorities in Guangdong Province.

Construction work will begin shortly and is expected to be



Artist rendition of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant

completed by the end of 2019. When completed, the new water treatment facility will provide a daily production capacity of 130,000 cubic meters of water. This will increase the territory's total daily water supply to a total of 520,000 cubic meters.

According to Macao Water, this should be sufficient to meet the city's water demand for the next 10 years as well as "securing the safety and stability of the water supply" in Taipa and Coloane.

Nacky Kuan, the executive director of Macao Water, said that the company was pleased to have finally reached an agreement with the government.

"The Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant [...] involves a substantial amount of investment that exceeds the investment by far required by the concession contract," she said. The statement from Macao Water did not specify how much the construction would cost the company.

"Nevertheless, based on the long-term interests of the social development of Macau, and taking into account of various objective factors, we made a reasonable request to the Macau SAR Government to adjust the water service fee moderately to balance the financial burden brought by this mega project."

The executive director said that in the past decade, Macau's population has grown by around one-quarter while water consumption is up by 44 percent, "with the islands seeing the most significant growth in water consumption." Kuan expects the water demand to increase at an annual rate of between 2 and 4 percent in the next few years.

"With the upcoming development of the new reclamation areas, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the various large-scale public and entertainment facilities in the islands, the demand for water in that area will inevitably surge," she added.

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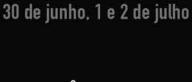
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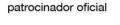


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XCESSU**I**

Times

New ferry terminal retail spaces granted to CSI Group

HE CSI Group Limited has signed a contract with the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) for the concession of operation and management of the commercial areas at the Taipa Maritime Terminal (TMPT).

The concession starts from July 1 this year and will last for three years.

The DSAMA issued a statement yesterday indicating that the company has the duty to provide services to citizens and tourists "as quickly as possible."

The signing of this agreement yesterday includes the placing of vending machines for food/beverages/products, as well as the installation of travel agency counters, hotel reception counters, money exchange offices and bakeries.

Restaurants and duty-free shops will enter into operation gradually at a later stage.

In the statement, DSAMA tries to explain the delay in the

process of opening the restaurants and shops in the new ferry terminal. The bureau stated that it received responsibilities over the TMPT in July last year. One month later it initiated the public tenders for the provision of services such as cleaning, security and maintenance. Many of those services have already been allocated.

Regarding the shops and restaurants, DSAMA stated that, given the fact that the concession is granted in an exclusivity regime and due to one of the competitors withdrawing, "the process took a longer time."

This week the region suffered the influence of the Tropical Storm Merbok and several users of the Ferry Terminal, as heard by TDM, complained that due to the suspension of the ferry services they were stranded, in some cases for periods of over 10 hours, without access to any kind of support services such as restaurants and convenience stores.



Cheang Chi Kam (left) pictured during the new terminal opening ceremony

THE CSI GROUP BACKGROUND

ACCORDING TO the commercial registry documents consulted by the Times yesterday, the CSI Group Limited have been active since May 2003. The company is owned by Cheang Chi Kam and opened with MOP25,000 capital to conduct business related activities for the real estate and import-export industries. In December 2016, the company changed it's profile, add-

ing retail to its operations. Speaking to Macao Daily News in May, Cheang said that the CSI Group is "confident that the Taipa Ferry Terminal will be a large-scale, international, top-of-the-line" venue. Before the contract was formalized, Cheang also said that the group intended to introduce high quality brands and services to provide quality service at the terminal.

URBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Consensus over owners' agreement ratio to endorse building renewal

Renato Margues

THE Urban Renewal Committee has reached a consensus over the regulation of the ratio for the number of owners required to agree in order to move forward with a building renovation by creating a gradated criteria according to the building's age.

"The third specialized commission presented a proposal that was debated and we reached a consensus, at least partially... That all buildings with 30 years or less to be renewed or demolished need the agreement of 100 percent of the owners. As for the buildings in between 30 and 40 [years old, they need the agreement of] 90 percent of the owners and for the ones with over 40 years old it requires 85 percent of the owners to agree [with the decision to renovate or demolish it],' the Secretary for Transport and Public Works,



Raimundo do Rosário

Raimundo do Rosário, said yesterday at the end of the committee's meeting.

Currently the law states that a building's major renovation or demolishment requires full agreement of all building owners. This was reportedly one of the biggest obstacles for the renovation and transformation of industrial buildings into buildings designed for other purposes.

Rosário also mentioned that although such a proposal still needs to go to the plenary meeting to be approved after "small adjustments," the consensus was made clear during yesterday's meeting.

As for the other topics in discussion with the different commissions, the Secretary told the media that they "are all still being debated," but no conclusions have been reached yet."

Nevertheless, Paulo Tse, Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), who is coordinating the first special commission, told the media on the sidelines of the meeting that providing "temporary housing" to the residents of the housing units during the renewal or rebuilding period, was not a possibility. "The resort to some housing units of the public housing building is totally out of question".

"There was a proposal to reclassify some of the units from public housing building as temporary housing [to serve such a purpose]. However, this idea was not well received by some of the members and also not well received by the Housing Bureau (IH) which is the [body that is] overall responsible for social housing," Tse said. He remarkied that the main reason for this non-agreement has to do with the fact that they did not want to "lengthen the waiting period of the Macau residents that have been waiting for social and economic housing."

Tse also added, "we have to wait for the government to designate plots of land for this specific purpose," adding, "in the mean time there will be other measures [that will pass through] subsidized for the residents who will be leaving their present accommodation."

This is a decision that Tse mentioned has been "agreed in principle by the Urban Renewal Committee and that will be submitted to the government to further considerations."

Questioned on the difficulties for the committee to reach agreements, Tse said, "there have been some robust discussions from all quarters because all the members are taking a very serious approach to urban renewal." Tse concluded by saying that this topic is never an easy one anywhere in the world because it affects the livelihood of people directly.

19 venues for electoral campaign

A total of 19 venues will be arranged for election teams to conduct electioneering events, compared to the 17 venues used during the 2013 election. The two new venues are Sai Van Lake Square and Carmo's Fair, election watchdog chairman Tong Hio Fong told reporters after yesterday's Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) meeting. Of the 19 electioneering venues available in the official run up to this year's election on September 17, a total of 13 are on Macau's peninsula, five are in Taipa and one is in Coloane. Tong additionally said the Commission had approved – as of yesterday – six applications for the nomination committee's legal status, from 21 applications submitted so far.

Man arrested for abusing granddaughter

A 69-year-old local man has been arrested for sexually harassing his seven-vear-old granddaughter. The suspect lived with his granddaughter and a few other family members in a public housing unit in Coloane. In the past two years, the man reportedly abused his granddaughter on several occasions. Only until recently, the victim, after learning about sex education at school, realized that her grandpa's behavior was abnormal, whereby she forwarded the information to her mother. The suspect escaped from police investigations until last Saturday, when he turned himself in to the police. The suspect admitted to his crimes and is charged with aggravated sexual harassment of children.

CE lists 'guidelines on how to educate students'

The University of Macau (UM) held its Joint Meeting of the University Assembly (UA) and University Council (UC) for the 2016/2017 academic year in its Ho Yin Conference Hall this week. Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, who is chancellor of UM and chair of the UA, presided over the meeting. According to a statement issued by UM, during the meeting, Chui noted that, "it is very important that everyone earnestly studies and understands the messages of the important speeches made by President Xi Jinping and National People's Congress Standing Committee Chairman Zhang Dejiang during their visits to Macau." The CE added that "these messages should serve as UM's new guidelines on how to educate students."



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MacauDaily 澳門姆目時報。 IMES

China casino marketing scrutinized as Crown court date set

ROWN Resorts Ltd. staff detained in China since October are due in court this month in a case that may determine how casino operators drum up business in the world's biggest gambling market.

The Crown workers have been charged with offenses related to the promotion of gambling, Australia's largest casino operator said Tuesday. Among the 19 scheduled to appear in a Shanghai district court on June 26 is the company's head of international high-roller operations, Australian Jason O'Connor.

It's illegal to gamble or promote gambling anywhere in China, other than in Macau, and the detentions eight months ago raised concerns of a renewed clampdown on overseas casino operators that woo Chinese citizens offshore to gamble. The charges come as Chinese authorities seek to halt hundreds of billions of dollars worth of outflows, some of which exit the mainland via gambling operations.

With a judgment now closer, the case might explain why the Crown staff were targeted and make it clearer to foreign casino operators such as Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts Ltd. where to draw the line in attracting mainland clients without selling themselves as a gambling destination.

"It's a matter of how you strategically market yourself and what you're emphasizing," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang. "You can't be just like 'Hey come to our casino here."

Crown shares headed for a second day of gains after the charges were announced, adding 0.1 percent to AUD12.96 at 10:06 a.m. in Sydney. The stock has increased 12 percent this year as the company pulled out of Macau in the wake of the detentions, announced a special dividend and pushed on with a share buyback.

Macau is the only Chinese city where casinos are legal. Elsewhere in the nation, it's illegal to organize people to gamble. If convicted, the defendants could face up to three years in jail. For operating a casino and for serious cases, the penalty can stretch to 10 years.

The charges against the Crown workers, the most significant development in the case since the employees were rounded up by mainland authorities, follow tighter measures by Chinese authorities to curb capital outflows from the mainland that have drained capital reserves and driven down the value of the currency.



In May, Macau's government announced plans to require facial recognition and identification card checks at ATMs before cash can be withdrawn by mainland users of China UnionPay Co. It's common to see people using multiple cards to withdraw cash from Macau ATMs, with some possibly using other peoples' accounts or cards, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co. analyst DS Kim.

The government is very serious about stopping illegal capital outflows.

WANG GUOQIANG LAWYER

"Overseas gambling is a key way of money laundering and sending capital overseas," said Wang Guoqiang, a lawyer at Shanghai-based law firm Trend. "The government is very serious about stopping illegal capital outflows, so there's a renewed emphasis on cracking down on related activities." While casino and junket operators are monitoring the Crown case for clues, the news didn't dampen the rally in Macau casino shares. Bloomberg Intelligence's index of Macau gaming stocks rose as much as 1.5 percent Wednesday, extending gains that reached a two-year high. Shares soared after a Credit Suisse Group AG note forecast the territory's gaming revenue in June will grow 30 percent from a year ago - an eleventh month of gains.

"The detention has had a chilling effect on most if not all casinos previously marketing into China," said Ben Lee, Macau-based managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGamiX. "The casino companies have modified their behavior but they have a certain level of amnesia."

Melbourne-based Crown declined to comment beyond its statement Tuesday that said the cases have been referred to the Baoshan District Court.

Legal representatives for some of the Crown employees declined to comment and asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the case.

While the proceedings are notionally open to the public, there's no guarantee that will happen, said Shanghai-based lawyer Si Weijiang, a lawyer at Debund Law Offices.

"This is a gray area," Si said.
"Family is allowed to attend, and there is nothing forbidding observers to attend. However, the court officials may choose to deny admission to anyone."

■ While the proceedings are notionally open to the public, there's no guarantee that will happen

The case is Australia's highest profile corporate clash with Chinese authorities since 2010. Stern Hu, the Australian who led Rio Tinto Group's iron-ore unit in China, was found guilty in March of that year of bribery and stealing commercial secrets and sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Shanghai court.

For Crown, the charges may mark the beginning of a resolution after the crackdown triggered a slump in high-roller gambling at the company's Australian resorts and upended the company's international operations. Billionaire James Packer, who's the biggest shareholder, returned to the board, replaced the chief executive officer, and made resolving the situation in China his top priority.

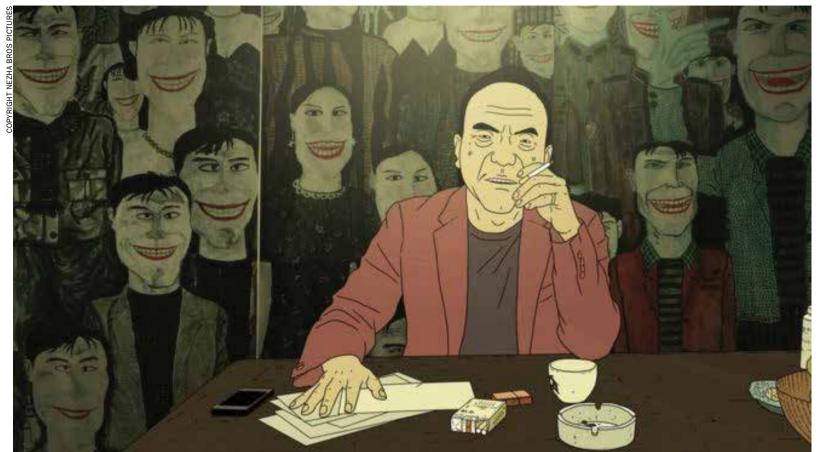
The case is key not only because it might shed light on why Crown staff were targeted, said IGamiX's Lee. Gaming authorities in Australia are also likely to assess the outcome to determine whether Crown is allowed to continue holding casino licenses at home, he said.

"The real bite would be the punishment at home," he said. "This case will have far-reaching repercussions for all and any casinos marketing in any foreign jurisdictions."

Crown's high-roller gaming in Australia cratered as the crack-down deterred VIP gamblers from visiting its casinos. Packer scrapped a spinoff of overseas assets and sold Crown's stake in Macau casino operator, formerly known as Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. Also binned: a proposed initial public offering of a trust holding Crown's Australian hotels.

Under John Alexander, who replaced Rowen Craigie as CEO in February, Crown is focusing on its hotels and casinos in Australia, including a new AUD2 billion (USD1.5 billion) luxury resort on Sydney's waterfront. **Bloomberg**





'HAVE A NICE DAY'

Chinese gangster animation, blocked in France

Stephen McDonell, Beijing

THE makers of a cutting-edge Chinese film that was pulled from the world's premier animation festival following government pressure from Beijing say they still hope the movie will get a run in cinemas at home later this year.

One of the organizers of the Annecy International Animated Film Festival in France, Patrick Eveno,

told French newspaper La Croix, that "Have A Nice Day" had to be withdrawn because they "did not have the right to endanger the film's team".

The makers of the grungy, underworld, black comedy - called Hao Ji Le in Mandarin - reportedly lacked official clearance from Chinese officials to have their work shown internationally.

Producer Yang Cheng told the

BBC that the piece was "about people's desire and fate".

He said that "the Chinese movie industry should be proud of it," adding "it has nothing to do with politics".

He confirmed that it was his team that had asked the Annecy festival organizers to pull the film.

Despite the pressure being brought to bear from Chinese government officials to stop the movie

being shown in France, Yang Cheng said he was still optimistic that Chinese audiences would get to see it.

"We hope it will be shown in Chinese cinemas in the second half of this year," he said.

Recently the Chinese government has taken a harder line on the appearance of films overseas. It requires any work being shown in an international festival to gain approval from the authorities here.

An official from the Movie Bureau within the State Administration of Radio Film and Television (SARFT) told the BBC it would not comment on the matter. Calls to the administration's press office went unanswered.

Have A Nice Day was described in Variety as having a "witty animation style" and as a "gangster caper that literally follows the money".

The work, by Chinese director Liu Jian, is seen as being at the forefront of a new wave of arthouse animation coming out of China.

In one scene a hit man is sent to collect money owed to his boss or inflict an appropriately violent level of punishment.

However, as he pushes a meat cleaver on to the face of his younger target who hasn't paid back what he owes, the two get into a conversation.

The man with the cleaver cutting into his cheek says he always wanted to get a job like that of his assailant, but that his "balls are too small".

Within a short period of time they proceed to speak about girlfriends and plastic surgery; the pressure to get married in China; and loyalty to one's parents.

The dark, funny treatment of these subjects would ring true for a Chinese audience.

An official statement from the Annecy festival organizers said that the decision to withdraw Have A Nice Day had been "imposed upon us".

It goes on: "We're disappointed about the official pressures that have prevented us from presenting this remarkable film this year and we hope that international audiences will soon have the possibility to see it".

Courtesy BBC News

ANBANG

Insurance mogul said unable to work, reported detained

THE Chinese insurer that owns New York City's Waldorf Astoria Hotel said yesterday its chairman has turned over his duties to other executives following a report he was detained by regulators amid accusations of possible financial misconduct.

Anbang Insurance Group Ltd. Chairman Wu Xiaohui was "temporarily unable to perform his duties due to personal reasons," said a one-sentence statement on the company website. It said Wu had authorized other executives to do his work and gave no other details.

Earlier this week, the magazine Caijing reported that Wu, who founded Anbang in 2004 and built it into one of China's biggest insurers, was detained last week by insurance regulators. Citing unidentified sources, it said authorities told the company about the detention but gave no reason.

Spokespeople for Anbang did not respond to phone calls or emails. The China Insurance Regulatory Commission did not respond to questions sent by fax.

Anbang has been under scrutiny since a multi-billion-dollar global string of asset purchases, including buying the Waldorf for USD2 billion, raised questions about how it was paying for its buying spree.

The privately held company said the money was raised from shareholders.

It denied a report by another magazine, Caixin, in April that Anbang improperly used payments from policyholders to increase its capital base.

More recently, the company has suffered setbacks including failing to complete several foreign takeovers. That included the proposed purchase of U.S.-based Fidelity & Guaranty Life for \$1.6 billion.

In May, Anbang was ordered to stop selling two financial products that regulators said violated industry rules.

Other Chinese insurers also have been investigated following complaints of reckless speculation in stocks and real estate. The chairman of the Chinese insurance regulator is under investigation by the national anti-corruption agency.

Regulators say reducing financial risks in the Chinese economy is a priority this year. Rising Chinese debt levels have prompted concern about the stability of the country's financial system.

Anbang has a reputation for unusually aggressive expansion in a Chinese insurance industry dominated by state-owned companies.

Earlier, the company discussed possibly investing in a Manhattan skyscraper owned by the family of Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's sonin-law and adviser. Those talks ended in March wi-



The Anbang Insurance Group's offices in Beijing

thout a deal.

Wu rarely talks to reporters or appears in public, but Caijing said he attended a series of public events in recent weeks. That included a May 12 meeting called by the insurance regulator to study a speech by President Xi

Jinping about financial regulation.

Anbang said it raised 50 billion yuan (\$8 billion) from investors in 2014. That increased its registered capital fivefold to 62 billion yuan (\$9.5 billion), the biggest among Chinese insurers. **AP**



Beijing diplomatic moves punish Taiwan without gutting economy

Ting Shi

HINA'S push to woo Taiwan's remaining friends - seen again with Beijing's move to establish ties with Panama - will probably have a greater impact on President Tsai Ing-wen's political standing than the island's eco-

The long-anticipated defection, which Chinese and Panamanian officials celebrated with champagne this week, left Taiwan with just 20 diplomatic partners and underscored how far relations between Beijing and Taipei have deteriorated since Tsai's election last year. Still, the financial impact was expected to be limited: Panama represented just 0.03 percent of the island's total trade in 2016.

"The switch was politically and diplomatically rather significant, but economically insignificant," said Jonathan Sullivan, director of the University of Nottingham's China Policy Institute, who's currently conducting research in Taiwan. "It may bring pressure to bear on Tsai's China policy. Certainly, that is Beijing's short-term motivation for going after Taiwan's allies."

China has been ramping up pressure on Taiwan in recent months over Tsai's refusal to accept that both sides belong to one country - the framework that underpinned talks with her predecessor. In addition to taking away

three diplomatic allies, China has curbed tourist trips to Taiwan, pushed foreign countries to deport Taiwanese criminal suspects to the mainland and blocked the island from participating in international bodies.

Still, China could do much more if it really wanted to hurt the island's economy. Taiwan exported USD112 billion across the strait last year, it has more than 100 economic and cultural missions overseas, its citizens travel on Republic of China passports, it has trade agreements with other nations and its companies have operations on both the island and the mainland.

The switch was politically rather significant, but economically insignificant.

JONATHAN SULLIVAN UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Beijing hopes that the diplomatic isolation will eat away at Tsai's political support and push voters back to the opposition Kuomintang, which favors better relations with China. Tsai's approval rating fell to 39.4 percent in May, down from almost 70 percent a year ago, according to the Taiwan



A monument honoring the 150 years of the Chinese community in Panama City

Public Opinion Foundation.

The moves show the Communist Party's balancing act with Taiwan, which it considers a province to be reunited with the mainland. While China's leaders might want to force a change in Taipei, they don't want to further alienate Taiwan's 23.5 million residents, who swept Tsai's pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party into power by a hefty margin.

"Oppression and threats are not going to help in cross-strait relations," Tsai said Tuesday. "I can represent all 23 million people when I say, we will not compromise or yield under threat."

Ma Xiaoguang, a spokesman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, rejected questions at a Beijing news briefing Wednesday about whether Panama was lured away with money, saying that "there was no exchange of business interests whatsoever." Taiwan avoided Panama's defection in 2009 in what was seen as a favor by China to the island's then-president, Ma Ying-jeou.

Investors shrugged at the Panama news: The local TAIEX gauge rose 0.2 percent on Tuesday. The economy is expected to expand 2 percent this year, according to a Bloomberg survey - the fastest pace since 2014.

"The Panama incident is unlikely to produce immediate impact on Taiwan's stock market or economy," said Liu Tsung-sheng, president of Yuanta Securities Investment Trust Co., the island's biggest fund with about \$12 billion assets under management. "In the longer term, however, Tsai's administration needs to assess any chain reaction to foreign allies.

The loss of Panama - one of Taiwan's oldest diplomatic partners - carries symbolic weight and could encourage others such as the Vatican or Paraguay to switch. China's economic might has grown considerably since 2008, when Taiwan's election of the more Beijing-friendly Ma prompted an eight-year diplomatic truce.

While losing more allies would concern the Taiwanese people, it was unclear how long China could sustain the approach, said Paul Haenle, a former China director on the U.S. National Security Council who now heads the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center in Beijing.

"Use of coercion has proven ineffective in the past in enticing Taiwan to stop moving away from it," Haenle said. "In fact, it has done just the opposite - the identity foundation for unification has evaporated in Taiwan in recent decades.'

Tsai's history with the pro-independence camp makes her unlikely to move further toward Beijing even if it moves to shut down the informal channels Taiwan uses to conduct commerce with the world, said Chang Ling-chen, a professor of political science at National Taiwan University.

In January, Nigeria ordered Taiwan to move its trade mission from the capital, Abuja, to Lagos, after China pledged to invest \$40 billion in infrastructure in the African nation. In May, the Pacific island state of Fiji closed its representative office in Taipei.

"Even if Taiwan's remaining allies are down to zero, and they all switch to Beijing one after another, it's very unlikely for Tsai to change its cross-strait policy," Chang said. "That'd be unacceptable for her because that'd run counter to her beliefs." Bloomberg

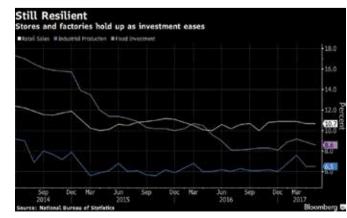
THINA'S wobbly eco-∕nomy threw sand in the wheels of the Federal Reserve's tightening plans back in late 2015. Today, the world's number two economy poses no such constraint.

The International Monetary Fund was the latest to acknowledge China's improved outlook, raising its growth forecast for 2017 for a second time this year to 6.7 percent yesterday. Hours earlier, data showed industrial output steadied in May and the consumer remained a prop for growth, while a pull-back in property investment suggested curbs were starting to bite.

With growth firm for now, capital outflows moderating, foreign exchange reserves swelling again and the yuan strengthening, the People's Bank of China may be relieved that it won't feel obliged to match a widely anticipated interest-rate increase from the Fed. That's

ECONOMY

China braced for Fed as IMF raises outlook, data shows stability



because with the outlook for the rest of the year uncertain, it may be time for a pause in tightening mea-

While China followed the Fed's past two moves with increases in its reverse repo

rates, it's unlikely to do so this time around, according to Bloomberg Intelligence economists.

"With rates on hold, China's policy makers will be scrambling for alternative means to support the yuan

ging agenda," Bloomberg Intelligence's Chief Asia Economist Tom Orlik wrote in a note.

China's stability is playing a central role in the world economy's best period of synchronous growth among developed and emerging economies this decade. Trade volumes have recovered on the back of Chinese demand and the nation's factory prices, while coming off the boil, are helping to keep a floor under anemic global inflation.

The USD11-trillion economy enjoyed its first back-to-back growth acceleration in seven years in the first quarter and, although

and advance the delevera- economists project slower expansion in the second half, it isn't expected to fall short of the government's 6.5 percent full-year growth objective.

That strength has allowed the PBOC to modestly tighten policy to protect the yuan. If Janet Yellen pulls the trigger on another increase, China will be able to handle it, IMF First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton told reporters in Beijing.

Still, the IMF official also cautioned that deep reforms are still needed if China's economy is to head off the risk of a steep correction further down the road.

"It is critical to start now

while growth is strong and buffers sufficient to ease the transition," Lipton said in a press release after the annual Article IV consultations.

China's policy makers can now point to progress in the effort to prevent credit growth turning into a bubble that risks taking the economy down with it when it pops. The pace of growth in M2 slowed to the lowest on record in May, data released later Wednesday showed.

Aggregate financing, a measure of total credit to the economy, also came in below estimates, at 1.06 trillion yuan (\$156 billion) in the month. The PBOC said slower M2 growth will become a "new normal."

Evidence of a robust economy were on display in a slew of data released earlier in the day, pointing to an economy that continues to defy expectations of a sharp slowdown. Bloomberg



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MacauDaily 澳門毎日時報・

SINGAPORE

Feud heats up between prime minister, siblings

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

lengthy tussle heated up yesterday between Singapore's prime minister and his siblings over the last wishes of their father, the founding leader of the city-state.

The feud offers a rare glimpse into cracks in the prominent family after the death of Lee Kuan Yew, who led Singapore with an iron grip for more than three decades and is credited with transforming the resource poor island into a wealthy bustling financial hub with low crime and almost zero corruption.

Lee died a widower in 2015. Much of the family feud is centered around his will directing to have his house demolished instead of being turned into a museum or heritage site.

All three children, including his eldest son and



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

In this file photo (2015), the family members of the late Lee Kuan Yew

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, have publicly supported this. But in a fresh statement, two siblings accused Lee of privately working against their father's will to "enhance his political capital."

Dr. Lee Wei Ling, a wellknown neurosurgeon and her brother, business executive Lee Hsien Yang, claim that the prime minister had obtained a document and lobbied a government committee in hopes of preserving the house, which was built on prime land.

There has been a "misuse of his position and influence over the Singapore government and its agencies to drive his personal agenda," the statement said. "His popularity is inextricably linked to Lee Kuan Yew's legacy. His political power is drawn from his being Lee Kuan Yew's son."

"We do not trust Hsien Loong as a brother or as a leader. We have lost confidence in him," it added.

We do not trust [Lee] Hsien Loong as a brother or as a leader. We have lost confidence in him.

PM SIBLINGS

Such grave accusations directed at a leading official are extremely rare in Singapore. Since taking power in 2004, Lee has sued critics for defamation and won.

Lee, who is currently away on holiday, has denied the allegations. "I am very disappointed that my siblings have chosen to issue a statement publicizing private family matters. My siblings' statement has hurt our father's legacy," he said in a Facebook post.

"I will do my utmost to continue to do right by my parents. At the same time, I will continue serving Singaporeans honestly and to the best of my ability," Lee added. He plans to "consider this matter further" after the trip.

A self-proclaimed authoritarian, Lee Kuan Yew was Singapore's first prime minister from 1959 to 1990. He commanded immense respect for turning Singapore into a success story but also fear. He jailed some political rivals without trial for decades and brought defamation lawsuits against journalists and opposition politicians, which had a chilling effect on dissent.

Last April, Lee and his sister disagreed over the host of public programs held to commemorate their father's death. While Lee felt that the events were "generally appropriate," his sister called it "hero-worship" and said that it was something her father stood against. AP

AD





官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha。 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues。 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata。 趙魯 Zhao Lu。

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PHILIPPINES

Gov't says it learned of Marawi siege plans in advance

THE Philippine government Learned days in advance of a plan by militants aligned with the Islamic State group to lay siege to a southern city and staged an army raid on a militant hideout that prevented a bigger and deadlier attack, officials said.

Solicitor General Jose Calida said in a report that the government received intelligence information at least five days before the militants prematurely launched their bloody assault on Marawi city on May 23 after government forces raided the hideout of militant leaders led by Isnilon Hapilon.

Army troops failed to capture Hapilon in the raid, which sparked a gunbattle in a Marawi village, but military officials said the assault forced the gunmen to prematurely start their attack aimed at occupying the Islamic city of more than 200,000 people. The rebel plan was to launch the attack on May 26 or 27, the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in the country's south.

"Specifically, on 18 May 2017, intelligence reports revealed that the ISIS-inspired local rebel groups were planning to occupy Marawi city, and to raise the ISIS flag at the provincial capitol," Calida said in a report to the Supreme Court, using an acronym for the Isla-



Philippine Senator Sonny Angara (second from left) and wife Elvira pay their respects to Marine PFC Marvin Gomez killed in the fighting with Muslim militants in Marawi city

mic State group.

"The said attack would have served as the precursor for other rebel groups to stage their own uprisings across Mindanao in a bid to simultaneously establish a wilayah in the region," Calida said, referring to the southern Philippine region and the Islamic State province the militants aimed to create there.

Calida defended President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to declare martial law in the entire southern Mindanao region

to deal with the Marawi crisis. Opponents have questioned the grounds cited by Duterte for the martial law declaration and asked the Supreme Court to invalidate his action.

Asked why the government failed to stop the Marawi siege despite its advance knowledge of the plot, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the intelligence information was still being vetted, but the military nevertheless planned a raid on the hideout of Hapilon and

other militants behind the plot.

"From our point of view, we were able to stop something that could have been much, much bigger," Abella told a news conference.

Abella was also asked why top security officials led by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. joined Duterte in a trip to Russia around the time the government received information about the planned Marawi attack. "They

were all on top of the situation. They were actually monitoring everything," Abella said.

When the military managed to verify some of the details of the plot, it staged the raid on Hapilon's hideout, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said. He acknowledged, however, that the military was unaware of the number of armed fighters the plotters could muster.

In his report, Calida said "about 500 rebels marched along the main streets of Marawi and swiftly occupied strategic positions throughout the city" on May 23, adding that the gunmen had "strong combat capability, and seemingly limitless firepower and other resources."

Army Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, a regional military commander, said 150 to 200 gunmen have been isolated in four of Marawi's 96 villages, and dozens of militant snipers have been killed, setting back the militants' lethal firepower three weeks after the bloody siege began.

With the remaining gunmen contained in just a few villages, Padilla said "the worst is over" in Marawi, but added that it was difficult to say when the government could regain full control of the devastated city.

Perched on buildings, some connected by tunnels that gave them mobility, the snipers have made it difficult for troops to wrest back areas under the rebels' control. The gunmen have also used civilian hostages as human shields, Galvez said.

Philippine officials say 191 militants, 58 soldiers and policemen and 26 civilians have been killed in the three weeks of clashes. AP

Australia reaches settlement with suing asylum seekers

THE Australian gover-**⊥** nment has reached a settlement of around 90 million Australian dollars (USD68 million) with more than 1,900 asylum seekers who sued over their treatment at an immigration camp in Papua New Guinea, a minister and lawyers said yester-

Australia refuses to resettle asylum seekers who arrive by boat and pays the impoverished Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru to keep hundreds of them from the Middle East. Africa and Asia.

A trial by 1,905 asylum seekers currently or formerly kept at camp at Manus Island in Papua New Guinea began yesterday in the Victoria state Supreme Court and is scheduled to take six months.



Sudanese asylum seeker Abdul Aziz Muhamat speaks about the immigration camp on Manus Island

The asylum seekers were seeking damages for alleged physical and psychological injuries they say they suffered as a result of the conditions on Manus Island, as well as for false imprisonment following a Papua New Guinea court ruling that their detention was unconstitutional.

The camps on Manus and Nauru were once detention centers, but asylum seekers are now allowed outside the fen-

Their lawyer David Curtain told the court they reached a settlement with the Australian government and the operators of

the male-only Manus Island camp, G4S Australia and Broadspectrum.

The government and operators deny liability as part of the settlement and agreed to pay AUD70 million plus the cost of three years of legal work behind the case, asylum seeker lawyer Rory Walsh said.

Walsh said he did not know how much the government would pay.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said he expected the asylum seekers' costs would add another AUD20 million to the government's bill.

"An anticipated sixmonth legal battle for this case would have cost tens of millions of dollars in legal fees alone with an unknown outcome," Dutton said in a statement. "In such circumstances, a settlement was considered a prudent outcome for Australian taxpayers."

Sudanese asylum seeker Abdul Aziz Muhamat told the Australian Broadeasting Corporation in Port Moresby, where he's receiving medical treatment, that he's "really happy" with the outcome.

One thing that today I found out is, there are some people really down there in Australia, they care about us," he said.

Asylum seeker lawyer Andrew Baker said the money would be distributed according to how long asylum seekers had spent on Manus and what they had endured.

"This settlement is an important step toward recognizing the extremely hostile conditions the detainees endured at Manus Island," Baker said.

He said "no amount of money will be able to fully recognize the terrible conditions these detainees have had to endure."

Baker said Iranian asylum seeker Reza Berati was killed and another 69 asylum seekers injured during a riot in the Manus camp in 2014 involving staff, police and Manus locals. Another two asylum seekers had died from medical complications and at least one of those would have survived with appropriate and timely treatment, Baker said.

The United States is considering resettling up to 1,250 refugees from Manus Island and Nauru under a deal Australia struck with the U.S. when Barack Obama was president.

The Manus camp was scheduled to close by October, Baker said. AP

IK

12 killed, 74 injured in massive London high-rise blaze

Gregory Katz & Danica Kirka, London

deadly overnight fire raced through a 24-story apartment tower in London yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 74 others. One desperate woman threw a baby out of a high window and a man on the ground managed to catch the child, a witness said.

Flames from the inferno lit up the night and smoke spewed from the windows of the Grenfell Tower in North Kensington where more than 200 firefighters battled the blaze. A plume of black smoke stretched for miles across the pale sky after dawn, revealing the blackened, flame-licked wreckage of the building.

"This is an unprecedented incident," Fire Commissioner Dany Cotton told reporters. "In my 29 years of being a firefighter I have never, ever seen anything of this scale."

People in apartments enveloped by the quickly advancing flames and thick smoke banged on windows and screamed for help to those watching down below, witnesses and survivors said. One resident said the fire alarm did not go off.

Police commander Stuart Cundy gave the death toll but added the figure was likely to rise "during what will be a complex recovery operation over a number of days."

Paul Woodrow, head of operations for the London Ambulance Service, said 20 of the injured



were in critical condition.

The London Fire Brigade received the first reports of the fire at 12:54 a.m. and the first engines arrived within six minutes, Cotton said. Flames could still be seen more than 11 hours later.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the blaze, but angry residents said they had warned local authorities about fire issues at Grenfell Tower. The public housing block of 120 apartments was built in 1974 and recently upgraded at a cost of 8.6 million pounds (\$11 million), with work finishing in May 2016, according to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Samira Lamrani, a witness, said a woman dropped a baby from a window on the ninth or 10th floor to people on the sidewalk.

"People were starting to appear at the windows, frantically banging and screaming," Lamrani said, adding the woman gestured that she wanted to drop a baby. "Somebody did, a gentleman ran forward and managed to grab the baby," Lamrani told Britain's Press Association news agency.

Ruks Mamudu, 69, escaped from her first floor apartment wearing only her purple pajamas and bathrobe. She and her grandson sat outside the building and watched people trapped on higher floors cry desperately for help.

"I sat there watching my house burn down and watching people cry for help who couldn't come down," she said.

People at the scene spoke of being unable to reach friends and family inside. Others said they could see people inside using flashlights and mobile phones to try to signal for help from higher floors.

Nassima Boutrig, who lives opposite the building, said she was awakened by sirens and smoke so thick that it filled her home as well.

"We saw the people screaming," she said. "A lot of people said 'Help! Help! Help! The fire brigade could only help downstairs. It was fire up, up, up. They couldn't stop the fire."

The disaster occurred 10 days after a terror attack at London's Borough Market. Some residents initially feared the fire was also terror-related, though authorities discounted that possibility.

In my 29 years of being a firefighter I have never, ever seen anything of this scale.

> DANY COTTON FIRE COMMISSIONER

"The flames, I have never seen anything like it, it just reminded me of 9/11," said Muna Ali, 45. "The fire started on the upper floors [...] oh my goodness, it spread so quickly. It had completely spread within half an hour."

Other witnesses described a white, polystyrene-type material falling like snow from the building as it burned. Some feared the charred tower block might collapse but a structural engineer said the building was not in dan-

ger, London Fire Brigade said, adding "it is safe for our crews to be in there."

Edward Daffarn, a 55-year-old who lived on the building's 16th floor, said the fire alarm didn't ring.

"I'm lucky to be alive. A neighbor's smoke alarm went off and another neighbor phoned and told me to get out," he said.

Daffarn said residents had complained for years to London City Council about building safety, to no avail.

"I consider this mass murder," he said of the blaze.

The Grenfell Action Group, a community organization formed to oppose a nearby redevelopment project, has been warning about the risk of fire at Grenfell Tower since 2013.

The group has raised concerns about testing and maintenance of firefighting equipment and blocked emergency access to the site.

"All our warnings fell on deaf ears and we predicted that a catastrophe like this was inevitable and just a matter of time," the group said in a blog after the fire broke out.

A July 2014 newsletter for residents said the building was designed "according to rigorous fire safety standards." It recommended that in case of a fire residents should stay inside their apartments.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said many questions now need to be answered about tower blocks around the city.

"There will be a great many questions over the coming days as to the cause of this tragedy and I want to reassure Londoners that we will get all the answers," Khan said.

UK Prime Minister Theresa May's Downing Street office says the nation's leader is "deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life in the Grenfell Tower and is being kept constantly updated on the situation." AP

USA

Congressional Democrats sue Trump over foreign payments

DEMOCRATIC lawmakers are suing President Donald Trump over foreign money flowing into his global business empire.

Almost 200 senators and representatives are plaintiffs in a lawsuit alleging Trump is violating the so-called emoluments clause of the Constitution. It's being filed yesterday in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the lawmakers said.

The plaintiffs argue they have standing to sue because the clause says only Congress may approve foreign gifts and payments.

"The framers gave Congress a unique role, a unique right and responsibility," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who helped organize the lawsuit.

Although Trump turned over control of his real estate development, management and marketing company to his adult sons and a senior executive, he did not divest from it. That means he stands to benefit financially from the Trump Organization's

profits, including from foreign governments.

Since he's become president, the Trump Organization has secured dozens of potentially valuable patents, including in China, and collected fees from lobbyists working for Saudi Arabia and other countries using his properties.

The new suit — the third of its kind — says the full scope of foreign payments to the Trump Organization cannot be known because the president has not made public his tax

returns.

Earlier this week, two Democratic attorneys general filed a similar claim. Days after Trump's inauguration in January, a liberal-funded government watchdog filed an emoluments lawsuit. A restaurant group and two individuals in the hotel industry later joined as co-plaintiffs.

Trump and the Justice Department have called these lawsuits baseless. They argue the clause isn't intended to prevent normal business such as



hotel payments and real estate transactions.

Rep. John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat, said he and Blumenthal have amassed the "greatest number of congressional plaintiffs on any lawsuit against a president." He said they're taking the action "not out of any sense of pleasure or partisanship but because President Trump has left us with no other option."

Ahead of the filing, only Democrats were asked to sign on, but Blumenthal and Conyers plan to send letters to their Republican colleagues asking them to join the effort. AP

INFOTAINMENT PRINCES OF THE PRINCES



A Bonsai of My Dream - On the Path to the INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

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

on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 13, 2017 VENUE: Macau Art Museum ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE

TIME: 10AM-6PM DAILY (EXCEPT WEDNESDAYS,

OPEN ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Macau Grand Prix Museum & Wine Museum

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays) VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement

(Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

Monkey King

TIME: 8pm daily (no performances on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP520, MOP780,

MOP1080, MOP1580 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

THRILLER

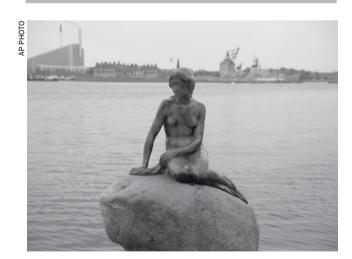
TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Friday) 2pm & 8pm (Saturdays) 2pm & 6pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: September 3, 2017 VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP520, MOP780,

MOP1080, MOP1580 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

Offbear



COPENHAGEN'S LITTLE MERMAID STATUE DOUSED WITH PAINT - AGAIN

Danish police say Copenhagen's famed Little Mermaid statue was found doused with paint early yesterday, for the second time in two weeks.

Police said the bronze was covered in blue and white paint, and "Free Abdulle" was written on the ground in front of the statue. It was not clear who it was referring to.

In a Twitter statement, police said city workers were removing the paint.

On May 30, red paint was doused on the girl-sized statue. No one has been apprehended.

The Little Mermaid was created in tribute to the Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen. Sitting on a rock at the entrance of the Copenhagen harbor since 1913, she has been a popular target for vandals, who have blown her off her perch, beheaded her, and painted her.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:40	Revenge Sr 2
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	Miscellaneous
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

CINETEATRO

8-14 Jun



THE MUMMY

поом 1 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm **Director: Alex Kurtzman**

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Walls

Language: English (Chinese) **Duration: 141min**



RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm Director: Takanori Tsuiimoto

Starring: Orion Acaba, Erin Cahill, Darin De Paul Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN

гоом 3

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm **Director: Cheng Wei-Hao**

Starring: Wei-ning Hsu, Chia-yen Ko, Kaiser Chuang

Language: Putonghua (Chinese, English) **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



1974 MAN DIES IN RACE RALLY **CLASHES**

A march through central London has left one person dead and many more injured as rival demonstrators clashed with police and each other.

One man died at the scene while up to 39 policemen and several demonstrators received treatment for cuts and other injuries.

The National Front was marching to protest against the government's amnesty for illegal immigrants.

As a counter protest, the Liberation group also set up a march to end in the same place on the same day.

Members of the International Marxist Group (IMG), marching with Liberation, clashed with police at Red Lion Square when they attempted to continue on their pre-planned route.

The body of maths student, Kevin Gately, aged 21, was found by St John's Ambulance crew among the fighting. It is not known how he died.

The counter-demonstration's route had been agreed by organisers Liberation and the police to avoid any confrontation with the National Front who were also marching to the same destination, County Hall.

Other scuffles were reported to have broken out near Southampton Row where police horses were being used to separate protesters.

The Liberation group has condemned the violence. A spokesperson said: "This section of the IMG believed that the way to protest was to make an assault on the police which we think is senseless."

Members of the Liberation group had expressed their amazement at the police's decision to allow them to march towards the same destination as the National

"When the police agreed to the meeting I must say I raised my eyebrows. It poses the question of whether they should have foreseen the geographical situation" said Liberation's London Council Chairman Sydney Bi-

Scotland Yard has yet to comment on its decision to allow the two marches to go ahead.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The death at Red Lion Square was the first at a demonstration

in 55 years.

The following weekend hundreds of students demonstrated in Coventry and London after the funeral of Kevin Gately. A pathologist concluded he had been killed by a blow to the head. Following the violent scenes there police stepped up their pres-

ence at all future demonstrations. It is thought 1,200 people marched in the counter-demonstration against the National Front.

The result of the violence was a great deal of publicity for the National Front and their views. This had been the outcome those in Liberation against the march had feared most.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The prospect of failure is not one that you acknowledge. Where other people see risk, you see an opportunity just waiting to be grabbed. This attitude could bring you a lot of success at this



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

This might be one of those times when a romantic relationship becomes so complicated and dramatic that it blocks out every other aspect of your life. Remember that you can direct it as well.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Make sure everyone around you has plenty to talk about for the next week or so. You're out to have fun today and you won't be stopped by any petty-minded peons or frowning naysayers.

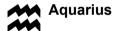


Libra

It's a good time to assess your progress at work or your vocation. You've made great strides, and with any luck, some good connections as well. What is the



Very little could put a damper on your high spirits today -- in fact, it's more than likely you'll bring other people's energy up. You know just the right thing to say to make someone feel



better about whatever.

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Join an activity group or a professional organization. It's a good way to meet people with similar interests -- especially when you're in the mood to get out and mingle with like-minded people.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

If you're spending time with strangers or acquaintances, a gettingto-know-you session might be in order. A sweet, self-effacing approach is twice as likely to succeed as a bold, bulldozing one.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

It's easier to solve other people's problems than your own -- but you have to start looking at what's right in front of your nose. That's why it's a good time to forget about everyone else's dilemmas and special needs.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

While everyone else compliments you on your oh-so-responsible attitude, you might be gritting your teeth and wishing you could throw responsibility out the window.

Scorpio



Sep.23-Oct. 22

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Some of your more materially minded friends might convince you to make a huge purchase. Are you suddenly a status shopper? This may entail more of a financial commitment than you next step going to be. want to make.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

From the starting point, the finish line looks far, far away. However, once you hit your stride, you'll eat up the distance like it's nothing. It doesn't matter whether you're working out, or changing your entire lifestyle.



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Don't give advice unless someone asks for it specifically. If you can manage to keep a low profile, the office hothead will probably sweep right by you without a second



BE HONEST WITH ME-IS THERE ANOTHER WOMANZ



CONDITION

SUDOKU

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Easy

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

Hard

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	8						2
		П				1	3
	2		4				
						7	

NEATHER

MIN

	MIIN	WAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	38	clear
Harbin	15	28	clear
Tianjin	24	37	clear
Urumqi	21	34	clear
Xi'an	18	31	overcast/cloudy
Lhasa	13	25	cloudy
Chengdu	17	23	moderate rain/drizzle
Chongqing	20	23	moderate rain/drizzle
Kunming	19	28	shower
Nanjing	19	29	cloudy
Shanghai	20	27	cloudy
Wuhan	21	25	overcast/shower
Hangzhou	19	28	cloudy/overcast
Taipei	23	27	rainstorm/heavy rain
Guangzhou	25	31	heavy rain
Hong Kong	27	32	shower
WORLD -			

MAX

Moscow	9	15	drizzle
Frankfurt	14	27	clear
Paris	15	27	clear/cloudy
London	12	22	cloudy/clear
New York	17	27	clear

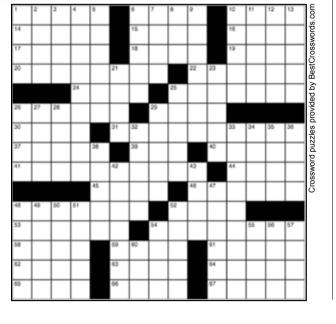
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Take the role of; 6- Name of Isaac's eldest son in the Bible; 10- Land unit; 14- Paris "thanks"; 15- Grazing sites; 16- Carbonized fuel; 17- Love deeply; 18-Caesar's wings; 19- Racetrack boundary; 20- Spanish Miss; 22- Fourth highest peak in the world; 24- Scottish hillside; 25- Eternal; 26- Low bow; 29- Attention getter; 30- Touched down: 31- Proprietor of a bookstore: 37- Actor Leary: 39- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 40- "Mule Train" singer; 41- Accuracy; 44- Diplomacy; 45- Miners' sch.; 46- English Channel swimmer Gertrude; 48- Dwells; 52- A Baldwin brother; 53- Assumed name; 54- Detect; 58- Oodles; 59- __-Tass (Russian news agency); 61- Acid type; 62- Robert ___; 63- Writer Grey; 64- Fixes; 65- Move suddenly; 66- ___ Tu" ('70s hit); 67- Tedious;

DOWN: 1- Latin 101 word; 2- Surrender; 3- 1982 Disney film; 4- Highly flexible; 5-Mountain range; 6- Put on cloud nine; 7- Actress Ward; 8- Penlight battery; 9- Serving no function; 10- Segment of the body of an

arthropod; 11- Raccoon relative; 12- Mrs. Gorbachev; 13- Actress Burstyn; 21- Poetic foot; 23- Monopoly buy; 25- Inquired; 26-"The Sweetest Taboo" singer: 27- "Roots" author Haley; 28- Director Wertmuller; 29-Infield fly; 32- Novelist Joyce Carol ___; 33- One who arrives tardy; 34- Make-up artist?: 35- Business letter abbr.: 36- Nerve network; 38- Investigate closely; 42- Put into a list or an inventory; 43- Long fish; 47- Leave hastily; 48- Stormed; 49- Name on a bomber; 50- Temperate; 51- Map feature; 52- Buenos ___; 54- Hamlet, for one; 55- Chianti, e.g.; 56- Terminates; 57-Optimistic; 60- It paves the way;





ÚSEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222 PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000 Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Telephone – Report 1000

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Panel reports 'culture of fear' in Britain's cycling program

Rob Harris, London

RITISH cyclists operated within a corrosive culture of fear where inappropriate behavior was tolerated by a leadership focused on maintaining the country's Olympic dominance, a panel reported yesterday.

The investigation exposed the toll on the welfare of cyclists due to failings by a leadership which delivered 12 medals on the track at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Cycling has formed the bedrock of Britain's emergence as an Olympic power over the last two decades, with the country surging to second in the medals standings last year.

UK Sport, the governmentfunded agency, has been found to have failed to act on warning signs about the behavioral issues. A previously secret British Cycling report after the 2012 London Olympics concluded there was a "culture of fear and bullying" within an "autocratic leadership.

"The central pursuit of medals and derived National Lottery funding from UK Sport meant that the addressing of cultu-



Annamarie Phelps (center) speaks at a press conference

ral and behavioral issues in the WCP [world class program] which were known since late 2012 was not prioritized," the new review into the "climate and culture" in British Cycling states.

UK Sport chief executive Liz Nicholl said the agency would be "more inquisitive" in the future.

suggestion UK Sport is about a 'winning at all costs' approach is frankly disturbing and is wrong," Nicholl said. "But we have to accept that

there is now evidence of instances when the drive to be the best in the world and the drive to win medals may have contributed to some unacceptable behavior and culture in some world-class programs.'

Nicholl was speaking alongside report chairman Annamarie Phelps at the headquarters of UK Sport, which decides the level of funding for Olympic spor-

The report was prompted by claims by former rider Jess Varnish and other Olympians and Paralympians of sexism and bullying.

A "culture of fear" in the last Olympic period among staff and athletes, the report highlighted, created "an atmosphere of impunity, resulting on occasion in inappropriate behaviors that had no place in a modern workplace.'

Shane Sutton, who quit last year as technical director following allegations of discrimination, was sharply criticized.

"SS did not operate in a way which was always appropriate for a modern work-place, even if highly-pressurized and at the pinnacle of international sporting competition," the report said. "Furthermore, those descriptions again indicate that SS should not have been placed into a leading management position within the WCP without appropriate support, guidance and training also being put in place for him."

Cycling has formed the bedrock of Britain's emergence as an Olympic power over the last two decades

The panel urged British Cycling to instigate a more collaborative working environment where athletes are empowered and not treated like children.

"We accept, in full, the recommendations in the [report] and apologize for where we have failed or fallen short of the standards which we should have achieved," said Jonathan Browning, British Cycling's recently-appointed chairman. AP

Xi Jinping meets FIFA's Gianni Infantino

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with FIFA president Gianni Infantino yesterday amid speculation that China could be planning to bid for a future World Cup.

Xi thanked Infantino for his support for the sports' development in China during a meeting at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's legislature in the heart of Beijing.

"We are aware of the fact that FIFA is paying more attention to the development of football in China these days, and I do believe China-FIFA cooperation has a good future. Thank you," Xi said.

Infantino told Xi, an avowed football fan, that FIFA aimed to help fire up a "new era



of football, not only in China, President Xi, but in the whole world because we are really passionate about football."

The meeting comes indications are growing that China could bid to host the World Cup either in 2030 or 2034 under a plan launched by Xi's administration to obtain international football success.

Along with a massive expansion in the numbers of academies, fields and coaches, Xi's drive aims to turn China's perpetually underperforming team into a World Cup winner by 2050.

China has appeared in one World Cup, in 2002, and drew 2-2 with Syria on Tuesday in a qualifying match, leaving it last in its group. AP

Chelsea 1st to visit Tottenham at Wembley in Premier League

PREMIER Chame League champion Chelsea will be the first visitor to Tottenham's temporary home of Wembley Stadium as part of a tough-looking start to its title defense.

The Premier League schedule for the 2017-18 season was published yesterday, with Chelsea playing Burnley at home in the opening round in mid-August.

It then gets more difficult for Antonio Conte and his team, which takes on Tottenham in the second round before games against Leicester away and Manchester City, Arsenal and Everton at home as part of their first seven games.

Tottenham, which was runner-up to Chelsea last season, is playing its home games in the Premier League at Wemblev this season while a new stadium is being constructed on the site of the club's old White Hart Lane.

Tottenham lost to Chelsea in an FA Cup semifinal match at Wembley last sea-



son, and also lost two of its three games at the national stadium in the group stage of the Champions League.

Its poor record at Wembley has raised questions about whether playing there will hamper the team's title chances, at a time when Tottenham has perhaps its best lineup in a generation.

The Manchester derbies between United and City are on the weekend of Dec. 9-10, at Old Trafford, and the weekend of April 7-8, at Etihad Stadium.

There will be a typically intense schedule of games over the Christmas period,

with teams potentially facing four matches in nine days from Dec. 23-Jan. 1.

In the opening round, Brighton's first ever Premier League game is at home against Man City, while Huddersfield's first top-tier game since 1972 is at Crystal Palace. Newcastle, the other promoted club, starts out at home against Tottenham.

West Ham faces playing its first three games away from its home at the London Stadium - the centerpiece of the 2012 Olympics because the venue will be hosting the world athletics championship from Aug. 4-13.

West Ham's first home game is scheduled for Aug. 19 against Southampton but the stadium will not be ready to host soccer matches at that time. The club said the game will be rescheduled, potentially with Southampton hosting the match.

The Premier League season begins on Aug. 12. AP

■ MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 ®

opinion

Girl About Globe Linda Kennedy



Parasol rage

An exchange between two parasol-holding ladies, parading in different directions on a Beijing pavement. 'Yours up?' 'Up YOURS!' Ah, yes, the recent harsh sun in Hong Kong has brought back some mainland memories.

Seven years ago, during my first Beijing summer, I watched with amusement as June arrived and women started carrying parasols. How Edwardian. Ni hao, sunscreen? Heard of it? Two weeks into summer, and I was gripping onto one for dear life. Imagine midday on planet Mercury, and you had a comparable ferocity to the rays. Sunscreen? SPF-off, mate. It got perspired into a personal puddle within ten paces.

Even short journeys resulted in spoke-offs. A spoke-off is a parasol incident - a major jostle with another woman's pointy-bits (and it is always women. The first man with a parasol will eventually come, given the rise of metrosexuals, but his canopy will be black and called a 'man shield'). Every spoke-off was the same. I lowered my parasol and glowered. The other woman just glowered. Every time I had to change altitude to avoid a mid-air collision. There was not one parasol that registered descent (is the mainland so scared of dissent that anything sounding like it is avoided too?).

I was muttering throughout these spoke- offs, benefiting from the language barrier, convinced most wouldn't recognize a verbal put-down, let alone the need to enact that procedure in relation to their parasol. On the seventh spoke-off, China's first case of parasol rage was unofficially recorded.

'Sooo sorry, didn't mean to get in your way,' murmured quietly turned into a rather louder 'why don't you bloody lower yours, eh?'

You know how it goes with luck. This parasol foe understood enough English to engage in a tactical discussion - 'yours up?' - but I was not to be consoled. Which is when the 'UP YOURS' shout came. Lest there be confusion, I was not encouraging her parasol be elevated to permit passage of us both. She still didn't lower.

I wanted to challenge her to a duel. Parasols at dawn? Then I thought: you wouldn't need one

I always wanted the law to get involved. Couldn't the National People's Committee for the Function of Making Very Vital Laws (I paraphrase) recognize parasol rage? China's legal system then - and still - is in its early stages. Surely the field remains wide-open in terms of setting precedents? Red in the face - part fury, part the effect of sun exposure during repeated parasol-lowering - I planned my moment in court. I would be a 'parasol-legal', arguing on behalf of the polite parasol carrier. Parasol rage would be a new crime. Those provoking it would be 'utter par'sols'.

Now the issue has re-emerged during last week's blistering sun in Hong Kong, I am considering turning to the legal system here. It's still independent, right? Anyway, parasols are patriotic.

It's the assault on my civic pride, as well as my complexion, that stings. Being from rain-soaked Glasgow, I thought there was nothing involving brolly-like implements I couldn't handle. Given how species evolve to cope with their environment, it's just a matter of time before Glaswegians develop three arms so they can carry on the normal business of life and still hold an umbrella. With this heritage, I'd assumed I'd be able to outshine anything - including the Beijing or the Hong Kong sun - when it came to deftly manoeuvering a similar sun shield. But parasols, it seems, are different. Until the parasol rage law comes in, either here or on the mainland, I'll just have to put up and shut up. As required.

STAY THIRSTY: 'MOST INTERESTING MAN' NOW PITCHING TEQUILA

"The Most Interesting Man in the World" is giving up beer for tequila. Goldsmith Jonathan appeared as the sophisticated, eccentric and worldly pitchman for Dos Equis beer for nearly a decade. He's now promoting Astral Tequila. In a new ad, the 78-year-old Gold-

smith nods at his Dos Equis days by

raising a glass of tequila and saying, "I told you I don't always drink beer."

Goldsmith appeared as "The Most Interesting Man in the World" for nearly a decade in ads for Dos Equis beer until last year. The company has continued the campaign with a younger actor.



High **Density** Area

Netflix theater debate hits South Korea as 'Okja' boycott looms



Actor Daniel Henshall poses with fans for a photograph during a promotional event for his latest film "Okja" in Seoul

Youkyung Lee, Seoul

COUTH Korean filmmaker Dong Joon-ho has an answer to where the controversy over the theatrical releases of Netflix movies started: his cinematic ambition.

Bong said yesterday that Netflix never pushed for the theatrical release of his "Okja," but he did so himself so people could see it on the big screen. The controversy has hit home in South Korea where the top three movie chains are refusing the film's simultaneous theatrical and Netflix debuts.

"Okja" by the internationally acclaimed director of "The Host" and "Snowpiercer" was one of two Netflix titles that competed at the Cannes Film Festival last month for the first time, along with Noah Baumbach's "The Meyerowitz Stories." But after an outcry from French exhibitors, Cannes changed its rules to require that films in competition be distributed in French movie theaters.

The debate over Netflix movie's theatrical release was renewed in South Korea after Cannes closed.

South Korea's top three largest movie chains, which control 90 percent of screens in the country, refused to release "Okja" unless Netflix holds off streaming for three weeks. In South Korea, movies are offered on online or other platform about two to three weeks after their big-screen debuts.

"Usually Netflix movies have not pushed ahead with theatrical releases in other countries," he told reporters in Seoul. "It was a controversy that started because of me. As a director, it's natural to have a desire to show the movie

both on streaming and movie screens."

Bong said Cannes should have sorted out the rule before inviting "Okja" and that it was "unexpected" to see an international film festival adopt domestic law in France. Directors are too busy making films to study French law, he said.

"It would have been preferred if Cannes would have put the rules in order before inviting us. Inviting us and then creating a controversy was an embarrassment to us," he said.

Produced by Brad Pitt on Netflix's USD50 million budget, "Okja" features Tilda Swinton as a scion of a multinational food corporation and Jake Gyllenhaal as a zoologist. Their world in Manhattan stands in stark contrast to a farmer girl's who lives on remote mountains in South Korea with a genetically engineered animal named Okja. Part family movie and part political fantasy about the relationship between human and animals in capitalist society, the movie was well received among

Netflix said it continues to work hard with a local distributor to give more opportunities and choices to South Korean viewers to watch "Okja." Its Netflix streaming starts on June 28, or June 29 local time in South Korea.

But no breakthrough with multiplex movie chains is in sight unless Netflix delays the streaming debut.

"It is against the rules of movie distribution system," said an official at CJ CGV, the biggest multiplex movie chain in South Korea. The person was not authorized to speak to media about a deal under negotiation and asked to be anonymous.

While big movie theater operators may boycott, independent movie theaters have agreed to screen Bong's political fantasy on June 29 giving "Okja" screening time, but on few screens.

Bong said he is generally happy the movie will appear in movie theaters that have been eclipsed by the multiplex chains.

"It's a good chance to revisit movie theaters that we have forgotten for a while," he said. "I'm satisfied with the current situations."

For Netflix, it's got little to

The noise created by the film industry could benefit the service, which isn't a popular brand yet in the South Korean streaming market, now dominated by big mobile carriers.



Director Bong Joon-Ho poses with fans



WORLD BRIEFS



QATAR said yesterday it has pulled all of its troops from the border of Djibouti and Eritrea, east African nations that have a long-running territorial dispute which Doha had helped mediate.

LEBANON The Cabinet has approved a new elections law and referred it to parliament for ratification, paving the way for parliamentary elections postponed twice over the past year.

TURKEY A Turkish court has convicted a prominent lawmaker from the main opposition party of revealing state secrets and sentenced him to 25 years in prison.



BRITAIN A deadly overnight fire raced through a 24-story apartment tower in London yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 74 others, police said. The inferno lit up the night sky and spewed black smoke from the windows of the **Grenfell Tower in North** Kensington, where more than 200 firefighters battled the blaze. More on p15

BRAZIL The former governor of Rio de Janeiro state has been sentenced to 14 years and two months in prison for corruption and money laundering.

GUATEMALA A magnitude 6.9 earthquake in western Guatemala near the border with Mexico caused moderate damage to homes, triggered some landslides across highways and injured at least one person.