



DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

During an event in Macau, calls were made for society to reevaluate how drug addicts should be treated

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SONIA CHAN SUPPORTS NATIONAL ANTHEM LAW

The Secretary for Administration and Justice says Macau should adopt China's new national anthem bill

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



USA The Supreme Court is letting a limited version of President Donald Trump's ban on travel from six mostly Muslim countries take effect, a victory for Trump in the biggest legal controversy of his young presidency. The court said yesterday that the ban on visitors from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen can be enforced if those visitors lack a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States."

INDONESIA Rescuers in Indonesia are searching for a German hiker who has been missing for five days since he began climbing a dormant volcano, an official said yesterday.

AP PHOTO



MONGOLIA A horse salesman, a former judo star and a nationalist who wants Mongolia to gain a greater share of its mineral wealth were vying to be Mongolia's new leader as the Central Asian's nationals headed to the polls. More on p14

KOREA Pyongyang has rejected an offer from South Korea to form a united North-South team for the Winter Olympics in 2018. The games are to be held in South Korea next February.

More on backpage

Chiang barred from HK ahead of Xi's visit

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AP PHOTO



Crown Resorts staff sentenced in China on illegal gambling charges

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Honorary guests release balloons at the event to raise awareness across the city

Drug abuse awareness day stresses rehabilitation over punishment

Daniel Beitler

YESTERDAY was the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, as decreed by the United Nations. Seeking to raise awareness of the societal problems instigated by drug abuse, the international event was observed a day earlier in Macau, on Sunday, with an event organized by the Drug Abusers' Rehabilitation Association (ARTM) at Praça da Amizade.

Bringing together several concerned associations from across Macau, the drug abuse awareness event featured a total of 10 individual booths and an information installation in the middle of the square.

Carrying the slogan, "Support; don't punish," the booths were occupied by associations such as the Young Men's Christian Association of Macau and Indonesian anti-drug group, Hindari Narkoba.

One booth was selling charity artworks produced by children

and young adults, while another offered passersby the chance to paint a t-shirt with an anti-drug message. A third booth, operated by ARTM's psychology counselor Joel Tam, featured a wire loop game, which honorary guest Philippine Consul General Lilybeth Deapera tried her hand at and almost completed.

The ARTM booth also allowed visitors to don a pair of goggles that obscured the user's vision and reproduced - in an exaggerated manner - the optical impairment caused by alcohol intoxication.

Referring to the event's slogan, Tam explained that the message is a call for society to reevaluate how drug addicts should be treated. "Support; don't punish' means that addicts need support, but punishment lowers their intention to seek help," he explained.

Rute Borges, coordinator at ARTM, was leading Sunday's activities as the chief representative of the anti-drug abuse organization. She told the Times

that there is a problem with the way the authorities treat drug addicts as criminals.

"We are trying to fight for the right to consider drug abuse as a disease and not punish those who are users," said Borges. "They [drug abusers] have a disease, so they need to be treated."

The information installation in the center of the plaza contained warnings about the use of several drugs, including alcohol, heroin and ecstasy. It read in large print: "Stay away from drugs; stay true to yourself."

It also contained a list of some of the current punishments for drug use and trafficking. According to the notice, possession of illicit drugs for personal consumption carries a sentence of three months to one year, while selling, offering, distributing or transporting drugs is punishable by up to 15 years and a fine of MOP700,000.

The aforementioned penalties for drug consumption and distribution originate from a bill,

approved last year at the Legislative Assembly, which introduced tougher sentences for narcotics users and traffickers.

A proponent of the bill, Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan, argued at the time that a rise in drug trafficking cases necessitated the new penalties as the "[current] deterrent effect is minor."

“We are trying to fight for the right to consider drug abuse as a disease and not punish those who are users.”

RUTE BORGES
ARTM COORDINATOR

But ARTM President Augusto Nogueira is adamant that tougher prison sentences will not have an effect on discouraging drug abuse. He has stressed on previous occasions that rehabilitation is a more effective remedy than penalization.

This is an opinion shared by his colleague, Borges. She said that from the experience of other jurisdictions, punishments do not serve as a reliable deterrent, and heightening their severity is unlikely to discourage users.

In her opinion, Macau ought to adopt similar measures to those implemented in some European countries - particularly Portugal, which decriminalized the private consumption of all drugs in 2001. Drug use among young adults has consistently fallen over the interim period in Portugal, and advocates of decriminalization attribute this to the policy of decriminalization.

Nevertheless, according to statistics released after a meeting

between the Social Welfare Bureau and the Narcotics Control Commission last month, the number of Macau youngsters on a list of registered drug abusers fell considerably in 2016. The total number of registered drug users in the territory last year was 548, representing a drop of about 55 percent year-on-year.

"I think Macau is a bit far from [decriminalization] right now," noted Borges. "We have a syringe exchange program for people with a dependence [...] this is a good start and we hope to develop from there."

Despite its legislative independence, Macau is subject to the ideology championed by Beijing, which includes a non-negotiable tough stance on drug use, justified under the pretext of morality.

According to the Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, "illicit drugs bring calamity to any country and people. [...] Launching an anti-drug struggle to eliminate the drug scourge is the historical responsibility of the Chinese government."

Beijing's sensitivity to drug addiction is understandable given the significance of the "Century of Humiliation" in the Chinese national consciousness. Referring to the period of intervention by foreign powers between 1839 and 1949, the Century of Humiliation began with the first Anglo-Chinese Opium War.

The mainland's Information Office, in a statement dated June 2000, described "wiping out the scourge of opium" as "a miracle acknowledged by the whole world."

"The history is something that we need to think about. It's always relevant," said Borges.

"In mainland China, [a policy focused on rehabilitation] is not very likely [...] but we are a bit more open in Macau, so maybe we can bring some new methods for tackling the problem [of drug abuse] to China," she added.

MACAU'S MOST POPULAR DRUG

ASKED ABOUT the prevalence in Macau of crystal methamphetamine, commonly known as "ice", the coordinator of the Drug Abusers' Rehabilitation Association, Rute Borges, said that the drug has become the most popular narcotic among all age groups. "In Macau, there are teenagers using [crystal methamphetamine] in schools and we know that the foreign communities living in Macau are using it

a lot, as well as many Chinese people," said Borges. "It also affects older people. We have had some cases of people aged 60, 65 and 70 years old who are using the drug." The reason for its prevalence is due to its comparative affordability, she said, "but it's also the worst drug. It creates damage very fast, both physically and mentally. This is a very worrying development here in Macau."

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Chiang barred from HK days before Xi Jinping visit

SCOTT Chiang was barred from entering Hong Kong yesterday and was forced to return on a ferry to the MSAR, after an immigration officer in the neighboring SAR told him that he had failed to meet the requirements for entry.

The New Macau Association (ANM) president, who will step down from the role after the September 17 Legislative Assembly election, claimed that the decision is linked to the visit of President Xi Jinping this week on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong's handover to Chinese sovereignty. Xi is visiting the territory between June 29 (Thursday) and July 1, marking his first visit to Hong Kong as China's president.

Standing in the concourse of the Macau Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal, Chiang explained via a social media live stream the sequence of events leading to the refusal of Hong Kong immigration authorities to permit his entry.

He said that the purpose of his visit was a "clinic appointment" in Hong Kong, which he described as "routine business" on a monthly basis.

After arriving in Hong Kong, he was stopped at a self-service



Scott Chiang in a still image taken from video

machine at the immigration gates and subsequently escorted to a room where an immigration officer interviewed him.

The female immigration officer enquired about the purpose of his visit and Chiang claims to have been forthcoming with the officer. He said that although he was in possession of the medic-

ine related to his clinic visit, he had no evidence of the appointment itself.

"In the interview they focused [a lot] on what I am going to do [in Hong Kong] and whether I am going to meet with anyone," said Chiang on the live broadcast. "They were also very interested in how much cash and

[how many] credit cards I brought [with me]. Maybe they are still stuck in a time when some foreigners would bring large sums of money to finance the rebels in town."

However, according to Chiang's account, he told the immigration officers that he did not feel obligated to prove

his purpose for entering Hong Kong.

"I was denied entry to Hong Kong for no real reason. I was told that I failed to fulfill the requirements for entering Hong Kong. I asked, 'what is the criteria?' The [immigration officer], who was quite honest with me, said that [that] was all she could tell me no matter how many times I asked," he continued.

"It goes without saying that we all know what the real reason is: It's because someone important is coming to town. You better watch out, you better not cry, because Xi is coming to town."

You better watch out, you better not cry, because Xi is coming to town.

SCOTT CHIANG

Chiang also compared the experience of Hong Kong residents being barred entry to Macau, evaluating that the Hong Kong system was "more efficient".

Chiang announced his resignation from pro-democracy group ANM late last month after a controversial board decision demoted him from the second candidate on the election ticket order to the third. He later said he would postpone his resignation until after the election. **DB**

JUNHO, MÉS DE PORTUGAL COMEMORAÇÕES DO 10 DE JUNHO DIA DE PORTUGAL, DE CAMÕES E DAS COMUNIDADES PORTUGUESAS

Exposição de pintura portuguesa
ALFREDO LUZ, CRUZEIRO SEIXAS E JOÃO PAULO
Clube Militar de Macau
8 a 24 de junho | 18:30

Festival de Gastronomia e Vinhos de Portugal
PRIMAVERA 2017 com os chefes
JOSÉ JÚLIO VINTÉM E CATARINA P. ÁLVARES
Clube Militar de Macau
de 9 a 19 de junho

Encontro com o escritor
JOAQUIM FURTADO
Café Oriente - IPOR
13 de junho | 18:30

Espectáculo
"NO PRECÍPIO ERA O VERBO"
Teatro D. Pedro V | 4 de junho | 20:00

Inauguração da exposição do cartoonista
RODRIGO DE MATOS
Espaço expositivo do Consulado-Geral de Portugal
5 de junho | 18:30

Inauguração da exposição de aquarelas "NOTURNO" de
FILIPE MIGUEL DAS DORES
Albergue SCM | 6 de junho | 18:30

Inauguração da exposição coletiva dos alunos dos
CURSOS DE GRAVURA da Casa de Portugal em Macau
Espaço expositivo da Residência Oficial do Consul-Geral de Portugal
10 de junho | 18:30

Concerto com
JOÃO CAETANO
Grande Auditório do CCM
2 de junho | 20:00

Inauguração da exposição "DEBRIS" de
VHLS
Oficinas Navais n° 1
Centro de Arte Contemporânea
31 de maio | 18:30

MOSTRA DE CINEMA PORTUGUÊS
Cinemateca Paixão
30 de junho, 1 e 2 de julho

Cerimónia do HASTEAR DA BANDEIRA
Consulado-Geral de Portugal
10 de junho | 9:30

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de 5 a 22 de junho

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17 de junho a 2 de julho

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Twin panda cubs celebrate first birthday

Twin panda cubs in Macau celebrated their first birthday on Sunday. The occasion marked the first time they met the public, while being accompanied by their mother. The twin brothers, Jianjian and Kangkang, sat on the ground eating their birthday cakes made of bamboo, while visitors watched them from behind glass windows. One of the panda care team members said Jianjian now weighs approximately 23 kilograms and Kangkang weighs approximately 22 kilograms. Kangkang, the younger brother, has a significant amount of weight as he only weighed 53 grams at birth. The two brothers and their parents will meet the public in Macau every afternoon during the summer vacation.

Cases of child abuse increased in 2016

Last year, the Children Protection Center handled 41 assistance requests concerning domestic violence cases involving child abuse. The center said that the number of child abuse cases increased more than 60 percent in 2016 (a domestic violence law came into effect last October) when compared to 2015. The majority of the children abused are aged between three and five years old. The most common type of abuse was physical abuse, followed by cases of children witnessing scenarios of domestic violence, and the sexual child abuse. The latest information from the Social Welfare Bureau reveals that 32 domestic violence cases were recorded as child abuse thus far this year.

Sonia Chan supports China's national anthem law

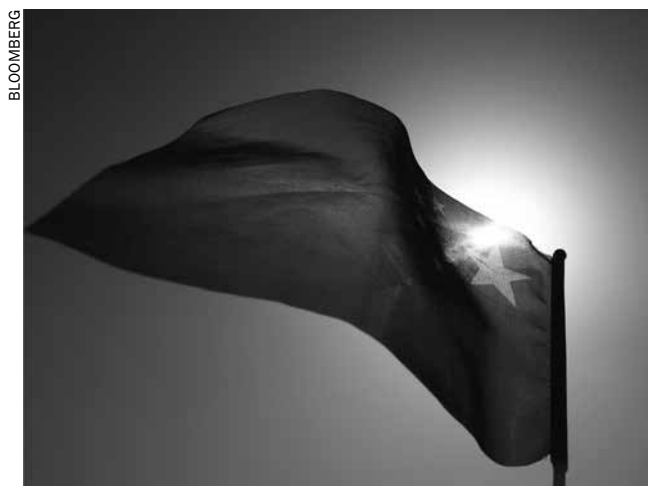
SONIA Chan, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, said that "it is mandatory" for Macau to implement China's national anthem laws.

A draft law on the national anthem was submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China for its first reading last Thursday.

The draft law lists the events where the national anthem should be played or sung, as well as events where it should not.

Chan recently responded to the above draft law.

"I think it is the right of the NPC to amend the Basic Law. We all know that the national flag law and the national symbol law are both being implemented in Macau as national laws.



"I think that if a national anthem law is proposed in the future, then it is mandatory that it be implemented in Macau as a national law," said Chan.

She remarked that "the national flag, the national symbol, and the national anthems are our country's dignity."

The law draft proposed that the national anthem

should not be performed at funerals or other improper events, nor should it be used in advertisements or as background music at public places.

The national anthem is "March of the Volunteers," with lyrics by poet Tian Han and music composed by Nie Er.

According to the draft, those who maliciously

modify the lyrics or play and sing the national anthem in a distorted or disrespectful way can be detained for up to 15 days by public security departments.

Qiao Xiaoyang, member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, during a group deliberation meeting regarding the law, which took place on Sunday, pointed out that it will be listed in the Annex III of the Basic Law in both Hong Kong and Macau.

Qiao said that, in Hong Kong and Macau, any legal articles which can reflect the state sovereignty, and any territorial integrity, national flag, national symbol, and national diplomacy which reflect one country, should all be included in the Basic Laws' annex.

Another NPC Standing Committee member, Liang Shengli, considers it unsuitable for any person to use the national anthem as a ringtone on their mobile devices.

He suggested that another article should be added to ban people from using the anthem as an alarm or as a ringtone on electronic devices. **JZ**

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Thai restaurant launches culinary classes



THE Grand Lapa's NAAM Thai Restaurant has announced a new initiative titled "Cook & Taste", in which renowned Thai chef Pairoj Kaoropwongchai will personally host a series of cooking classes and food tasting sessions. The weekend classes will be held at the NAAM Thai Garden, where Chef Pairoj will share cooking tips and authentic recipes with all Thai food lovers.

The three-hour classes allow interested participants to observe, learn from and cook alongside Pairoj. The classes include demonstrations on preparing a delicious three-course Thai meal. Each course will be followed by a tasting session, during which the chef will share cooking tips.

No experience is required to participate; classes are structured to suit everyone from amateur enthusiasts to culinary experts.

Last Friday, Pairoj met with the media and gave a free

cooking lesson to those in attendance. In this exclusive class, members of the media were introduced to seasonings and ingredients used in the preparation of Thai food. Pairoj also demonstrated how to make green curry with chicken and eggplant, using a special type of eggplant and chili. He said all ingredients used were available in local food markets.

Classes begin on Sunday, July 9 and run from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.. Each class requires a minimum of two participants and a maximum of six. Participation costs MOP600 per person, which includes a welcome drink, a certificate and a specially made apron.

The Michelin-starred NAAM Thai Restaurant was named after the Thai word for water. It features a central pond and glass panel walls that create a relaxed, contemporary feel.

Pairoj's extensive cooking career includes stints in Bangkok, Indonesia and Taiwan. **JZ**

CRIME

Scams on money exchanging schemes growing

Renato Marques

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) informed in a press conference yesterday that more cases related to crimes of money exchange have been reported over the weekend. This follows information released last week of a local resident who was robbed when performing this kind of transaction.

This time, the cases reported all related to mainland residents in both the victims and suspects.

The first case occurred on June 20 when the victim, a 30-year-old woman from the mainland, met two suspects in a casino in Cotai who offered to exchange money from RMB to HKD at a favorable rate.

The woman accepted the offer and handed them RMB470,000 cash, believing that she would receive in exchange HKD520,000.

The victim then was led to a hotel room in the same building in order to effect the transaction.

The suspects used first a PayPal account and then an online banking account to transfer an equivalent

to RMB70,000 to the victim, claiming after that they were experiencing problems using online banking and trying to postpone the remaining transaction to the next day.

The victim refused to delay the transaction, but she was forced to leave the room by the men who stated that there was no way to perform the transaction at that time and they would do it at a later opportunity.

The woman returned to the same room the next day (June 21) and tried to find the men from 11 a.m., without success, until she found them at 10 p.m. in a restaurant within the casino area. She approached them to request her money.

They denied knowing the woman or having had any deal with her. The dispute that followed led the casino security to call the police to intervene.

The women filed a complaint against the two men for high-value swindling.

A separate case took place on June 23 at around 1.30 p.m. A 34-year-old man from the mainland was involved in a similar

scam carried out by another two suspects (aged 37 and 24), also from the mainland.

Like the previous victim, the man was lured into the currency exchange scheme. This time he made use of two online banking accounts to transfer electronically RMB50,000 and RMB38,550 respectively to his scammers.

According to the information collected, he was expecting to receive an amount of HKD100,000 in exchange.

Similarities from the first case continue in that the scammers transferred HKD55,000 into the victim's account as a first transfer, claiming that the victim's second transfer to their account was not yet viewable.

On the basis of such claims the men postponed the second transfer, exiting the casino. The victim followed them trying to force them to repay him and eventually he ended up being attacked by the two suspects who then ran away.

The victim decided to seek help from the police and pressed charges

against the two suspects.

Very quickly, the PJ found and arrested the first suspect, completing the arrests around one hour later, when the second in-

dividual was caught while trying to cross into the mainland at the Border Gate.

When questioned by the police, both suspects de-

nied the crime.

They were presented to the Public Prosecutions Office on the basis of the crime of high-value swindle.

Hostel in Inner Harbor used for drug consumption

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has performed an operation targeting a hostel in the Inner Harbor district on Praça de Ponte e Horta, on suspicion of being used for drug trafficking and consumption, a PJ spokesperson informed yesterday in press conference held at their headquarters.

In the operation held on June 23, the police said they intercepted a Thai woman (44), holder of a Hong Kong identification card, who had several instruments used in drug consumption in her room.

When questioned by the police, she admitted the crime but when taken to the PJ headquarters, the force learned that she had previously been arrested for a similar crime back in 2015. At the time she had been deported from the region and imposed with a penalty forbidding her from reentry for a period of five years.

The PJ also found out that she was not stopped from entering the region this time since some of the information on

her documents was different, such as her parents' names and other personal data.

Although she had been already deported, she was convicted with one year and seven months of imprisonment, which she never served.

This time, she was arrested on the accusations of drug consumption and possession of drug paraphernalia, which adds to the accusation of presenting false declarations regarding her identity.

Over the course of the same operation on June 23, the police also found, in another room of the same hostel, two Filipino citizens (aged 29 and 35) possessing the same kind of paraphernalia who also tested positive for drug consumption.

Aside from that crime, the police also found that the two men were overstaying in the region as their permanent authorization had already expired.

They were presented to the Public Prosecutions Office on the basis of these crimes. **RM**

China sentences 16 from Australia's Crown Resorts to prison

Louise Watt, Andy Wong

A Chinese court sentenced 16 Australian and Chinese employees of a casino company to nine to 10 months in prison yesterday after they pleaded guilty to gambling-related charges, the company and an Australian official said.

Nineteen defendants, including three Australians from the sales and marketing team of Australia's Crown Resorts Ltd., were convicted by the court in Shanghai. Three defendants, who had been released on bail last Nov. 11, were not fined or sentenced to prison, Crown Resorts said.

Casino gambling, the marketing of casinos and organizing overseas gambling trips involving 10 or more people are illegal in mainland China. The case against Crown Resorts' staff came as authorities crack down on gambling as part of a wide campaign against official corruption.

Eleven defendants were sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and five to 10 months, Crown Resorts said. Their time spent in detention since Oct. 14 will count toward their sentences.

Jason O'Connor was sentenced to 10 months in prison and a 2 million yuan fine

The 16 were also fined a total of 8.62 million yuan (USD1.3 million), which Crown Resorts is paying ex gratia, the company said in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange.

"The three Australians and the other defendants pleaded guilty," the Australian Consul General in Shanghai, Graeme Meehan, said outside the Baoshan District People's Court.

According to Crown Resorts, the 17 current and two former employees were convicted of offenses including organizing gambling parties or being engaged in gambling as one's main business, which carry a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

Jason O'Connor, head of Crown Resorts' international VIP programs, was sentenced to 10 months

in prison, and Australian-Chinese dual nationals Jenny Pan and Jerry Xuan received sentences of nine months, Meehan said.

The company said the court fined O'Connor 2 million yuan (\$293,000), Pan 400,000 yuan (\$59,000) and Xuan 200,000 yuan (\$29,000). O'Connor, who is based in Melbourne, Australia, was also ordered deported.

"Crown remains respectful of the sovereign jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China and does not intend to comment further at this time," the company said.

Crown Resorts' vice president in China, Malaysian Alfreed Gomez, was also among the defendants. The Malaysian consulate in Shanghai didn't respond to a request for comment.

Following the arrests in October, Crown Resorts began withdrawing from its Chinese business to concentrate on the Australian market. Last month it said it raised \$987 million after it sold off the last of its stake in a decade-long joint-venture casino operator in Macau, a Chinese enclave where gambling is legal.

Casino operators across Asia have sought to lure Chinese high-



Crown Resorts employee Jiang Ling (left) and her American husband Jeff Sikkema (right) leave the Baoshan District People's Court

rollers who have avoided Macau — the world's biggest gambling market — because of Chinese President Xi Jinping's ongoing corruption crackdown. At the same time, the government has been trying to stop the flow of Chinese money into foreign casinos.

In 2015, police arrested 13 South Korean casino managers and 34 Chinese agents for allegedly selling packages with free tours and free hotels. At least seven South Korean managers later received prison sentences of 13 or 14 months, according to court verdicts posted online. They were also ordered to pay fines up to 150,000 yuan (\$22,000).

The industry has been known to skirt China's ban on promoting gambling trips by touting destination packages rather than gambling, or by advertising Macau resorts as venues for events like boxing matches.

"So long as you don't mention gambling, or credit, you're fine,

but that's a very thin line," said Sudhir Kale, CEO of GamePlan Consultants, who has previously done consulting work for Crown Resorts.

He said there are two ways for foreign casino operators to serve Chinese customers, who face restrictions on the amount of money they can take overseas. The first is through junkets, essentially by being middlemen who lend money and collect on debts. The second is by lending money directly to customers, a model which Crown Resorts appeared to be pursuing, said Kale, who is also a professor of marketing at Australia's Bond University.

"I think it was the lure of cutting out the middlemen that got them a bit into trouble," Kale said.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said consular officials would continue to provide assistance to the Australians and their families until they are released. **AP**

ANALYSIS

Message to Asia's casinos: Place your bets elsewhere

Angus Whitley, Daniela Wei

CHINA just sent a clear message to casinos sprouting across Asia: don't peddle your baccarat here. A Shanghai court yesterday convicted 19 Crown Resorts Ltd. current and former staff of illegally promoting gambling on the mainland, handing out prison sentences of as long as ten months. While they could have faced a maximum of three years under Chinese law, there was no escaping China's warning to foreign casino operators that see the country's richest citizens as their most lucrative target market.

The crackdown on Australia's largest listed operator was China's broadest enforcement of a law that bars the promotion of gambling on the mainland as authorities seek to halt hundreds of billions of dollars of currency outflows. The convictions coincide with a planned new wave of Asian casinos, from



Australian Consul General Graeme Meehan arrives at the Baoshan District People's Court in Shanghai

Japan to Australia, that are poised to make a fresh push to attract business from China.

"That makes it a lot more important that they make it clear what the rules are," said Colin Hawes, associate professor at the law faculty of the University of Technology Sydney who specializes in Chinese corporate law. "It's more like a warning that they can't be engaging in that kind of activity on the Chinese mainland."

China banned gambling when the Communist Party

took over in 1949 on moral grounds, according to state media. Macau, the world's largest gaming center, is the only Chinese territory where casinos are allowed to operate. Regulation there is tightening, making it an easier pitch for overseas operators — and the middlemen who lend money — to woo Chinese gamblers to other Asian gaming hubs.

More than one third of the revenue at Crown's Melbourne and Perth resorts last fiscal year came from international visitors, pre-

dominantly from mainland China, according to Crown's latest annual report.

In Japan, where lawmakers legalized casinos last December, Las Vegas Sands and MGM Resorts are among those vying for a slice of that potential USD25 billion market. A hot tourism destination for Chinese, Japan is following the lead of other Asian governments that are endorsing legal gambling in the region that embraces games of chance.

Crown, whose largest shareholder is billionaire James Packer, is itself developing a new AUD2 billion (\$1.5 billion) luxury resort on Sydney's waterfront that will focus solely on high-stakes gamblers.

Foreign casino operators are allowed to promote their hotels and restaurants on the Chinese mainland but not their gaming facilities. China's renewed clampdown on any overseas company that breaks this law

makes it harder for gaming companies that have little else to peddle in China but poker or baccarat tables.

"Compared with Macau's casino resorts, other casino properties in the region have less non-gaming elements that they can legally market in China," said Richard Huang, an analyst at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Hong Kong. "Their marketing campaign in China would be more challenging in both gaining brand reputation and complying with laws."

Other operators are also now expanding gaming to online and phone betting, with an eye to attracting Chinese players. Philippines and Vietnam now allow phone betting that's banned in Macau, and provide favorable tax structures and policies for gaming. Philippine casinos reported as much as 110 percent increases in gaming revenue from high-stakes players, the majority of whom are from China —

from \$27 billion in bets placed last year.

The gambling operations are causing concern in China, where authorities have sought to halt billions of dollars worth of outflows that have pushed down the value of the currency and drained capital reserves — some of which exit the mainland through overseas gaming. Philippine authorities in late April arrested 55 Chinese nationals wanted in Beijing for alleged involvement in an online gambling syndicate north of Manila.

It may take time to see whether casino and junket operators heed China's warning. "Foreign casinos may take this as a caution and stop promotional activities in China for some time," said Shanghai-based lawyer Si Weijiang, a lawyer at Debund Law Offices. "It's unlikely that such activity will disappear. When there is money to be made, there will be people trying to make the money." **Bloomberg**

Air Macau provides long-haul service to Europe via transfer

MACAU'S local airline has added a new transition airport in southwest China's Sichuan Province and expanded its long-haul service to include more European cities. This information was revealed by Air Macau on Friday in a seminar presenting new products to travel agents and local media.

Air Macau said the new long-haul destinations include some European cities with exiting routes run by Air China to Chengdu, the capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province. According to Xinhua, in conjunction with transition airports in Beijing and Shanghai, this means that the Macau carrier can provide flights to Paris, London, Munich, Rome, Milan, Athens, Madrid, Stockholm, Barcelona and Vienna.

Local travelers can also use such transition services to go to New York, Washington D.C., Vancouver, Montreal, Havana, Sao Paulo, Hawaii and Colombo through Air China's network, Air Macau added.

According to Air Macau, the two carriers worked out a fast-track procedure to significantly minimize the transition time in airports of Chengdu, Beijing and Shanghai. For example, in Chengdu, there are four transition check-in counters designated solely for transition passengers who only need to reclaim their baggage at a final destination airport.

According to a preparatory research by Air Macau, the majority of passengers traveled from and to Macau via Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). Considering the capacity of HKIA and the ship transition between Macau and Hong Kong, the new long-haul service by Air Macau is expected to save travel time and trouble of baggage lifting during ship transition. **MDT/Xinhua**

ANALYSIS | GAMING

Japan's casinos will do just fine without high rollers

David Fickling

IS Japan's USD40 billion casino industry about to be strangled in its cradle? That's one way of looking at proposed regulations that would effectively ban junket operators from the gambling resorts the country is due to start opening early next decade. Activities such as exchanging money for chips and lending money for wagers will have to be handled in-house rather than farmed out to third parties, Isabel Reynolds and Takashi Hirokawa of Bloomberg News wrote last week.

Such a crackdown would certainly deal a mortal blow if implemented in Macau. The territory's big six resorts rely on junket operators to recruit mainland high rollers to its gaming tables, and get around rules that prevent Chinese residents from taking more than \$50,000 a year out of the country.

Even in recent years when Beijing has tried to rein in the activities of high rollers, VIP gambling, where junkets predominate, has made up between 50 percent and 60 percent of Macau's casino revenue.

That's just revenue, though - and any business with an eye to investment will want to pay attention to earnings, too. On that front, the advantages of VIP gambling are much less apparent, because high rollers are notoriously low-margin customers.

A table dedicated to a VIP gambler can see tens of millions of dollars staked over the course of a night. That's attractive to casino owners both in terms of productivity per square meter of property, and cash liquidity for the casino as a whole.



VIP gamblers aren't stupid, though. They overwhelmingly play baccarat, where the probabilities are only slightly more in the house's favor than a coin toss. Moreover, they have the pick of Asia's gambling resorts to find whichever table will offer them the best chance of beating their odds. They expect private-jet flights, breathtaking penthouse suites, and Michelin-class meals, and the junket operators will want their cut of the profits, too.

At Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s Macau casinos, winnings from VIP tables came to just 3.2 percent of bets last fiscal year, versus 22 percent of the wagers on mass-market tables. VIP bets amounted to two-thirds of the cash staked at the resorts, but just 29 percent of the money that came in as revenue through house wins.

That's even before you consider some of the risks involved in getting enmeshed in the junkets trade. One issue, highlighted by the panel drafting Japan's new regulations, is crime. "The junket system brings the risk of money laundering, organized crime and illegal high-interest loans," Masayuki Watanabe, a lawyer with Miyake & Partners in Tokyo and a member of the panel, said in a report.

Even chasing Chinese VIPs directly carries risks. Crown Resorts Ltd. has shuttered most of its Asian offices and sold out of a 27 percent interest in Macau's Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd. since its employees were arrested last October [on charges related to promoting gambling, a crime on the mainland].

A much better model for Japan's casinos can be found in Singapore, which bans junkets

at its two casino resorts. That conservatism doesn't appear to have done the city-state's casino investors any harm: Operating return on assets at Marina Bay Sands has been markedly better in recent years than at Las Vegas Sands' Macau properties. Return on invested capital at the other resort operator, Genting Singapore Plc, has only modestly underperformed Melco, the Macau company rated most highly by analysts.

For all its gilded image, junket-based VIP gambling in some ways resembles a high-volume, low-margin business like discount retailing more than it does a luxury industry. Japan, with its vibrant pachinko-parlor gambling culture and wealth of tourist attractions, will find that its casinos get by just fine without it. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM CELEBRATES DRAGON BOAT TEAM'S ACHIEVEMENT



MGM hosted a celebration for its dragon boat team last Friday. The MGM dragon boat team snatched several titles at this year's Macau International Dragon Boat races, including two championships for the small dragon boat race: women's category 200m and the invitation standard dragon boat race - open category 500m - C final. The women's team also won the first runner-up in the standard dragon boat race - women's category 500m.

Moreover, the women's team was the only local fema-

le team that made it to the final round of the International Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race - women's category 500m.

According to a press release by MGM, the team was treated to gourmet food, dance performances as well as a video that captured the highlights of the races. Each team member also received a red envelope as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the races.

Grant Bowie, chief executive officer and executive direc-

tor of MGM China said: "The dragon boat team is one of the best examples of how our Golden Lion team members unleash their greatness. I am extremely proud of them, as their dedication, perseverance and courage take them to scale new heights."

Evea Chan, a member of the dragon boat team, said, "It is like a dream come true. One of the reasons I believe we can roar to this new height is the powerful support of our team members who cheered us all the way."



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Cyprus signs deal to build 'Europe's largest casino'

Menelaos Hadjicostis, Nicosia

CYPRUS signed a deal yesterday for the construction of what officials say will be Europe's biggest casino.

The small Mediterranean island nation's government backed proposals from a consortium made up of Hong Kong-based Melco International, the U.S.'s Hard Rock and local firm CNS Group to build the casino resort in the coastal town of Limassol.

The proposed casino will include 136 gambling tables and 1,200 gambling machines, while the adjoining luxury hotel will have a 500-room capacity, a health spa and 1,500-seat concert hall.

According to Cyprus' Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism Minister Yiorgos Lakkotrypis, the resort will cost more than 500 million euros (USD558 million) to build and will create around 4,000 new jobs during construction. He said another 4,000 jobs will be created once the resort is up and running.

Lakkotrypis predicted that the project will attract around 300,000 additional tourists to the east Mediterranean is-

land annually.

"The project as has been proposed foresees the creation of Europe's only integrated casino resort," Lakotryppis said at a signing ceremony. "The casino resort will among other things include Europe's largest casino."

Andy Choy, president of Melco's resorts and entertainment division, told The Associated Press that the resort should be built by the first half of 2020.

An interim casino in Limassol and four smaller casinos in Cyprus' other cities will start operating early next year, said Choy.

"We understand that gaming is something that you entrust to an operator that has world-class systems in place to ensure that you get the type of economic development that you're looking for," said Choy.

Choy added that the consortium's priority will be to keep in check the project's social and environmental impact.

Cyprus tourism officials expect to reach another record number of tourist arrivals this year after a record-setting 2016 which saw almost 3.2 million holidaymakers arriving to the island.

Tourism contributes more than 20 percent of Cyprus' economy. **AP**

Google said to face EU antitrust fine as soon as today

GOOGLE is set to face a record antitrust fine from the European Union today for promoting its own shopping search service over those of smaller rivals, according to two people familiar with the probe that has dramatically sped up in recent days.

The fine for Google, expected to top a previous USD1.2 billion record, will skirt the usual rules that see all of the EU's 28 commissioners discuss controversial decisions at a weekly meeting. Instead, EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager will lay out a decision that's been rubber-stamped by her colleagues in a so-called written procedure, said one of the people who spoke on condition of anonymity.

An announcement will cap a seven-year probe fueled by complaints from News Corp., Axel Springer SE and Microsoft Corp. European politicians



have called on the EU to sanction Google or even break it up while U.S. critics claim regulators are targeting successful American firms.

The EU's investigation focuses on how Google shows searches for products, a lucrative market that links consumers to retailers. Smaller price-comparison websites say they've been harmed because Google's own shopping service prominently shows photos and prices of

products above search results and Google fails to show rival sites high enough in the search results to allow them to pull in any meaningful advertising revenue.

Google said it was continuing to engage constructively with the European Commission and believes "strongly that our innovations in online shopping have been good for shoppers, retailers and competition." **Bloomberg**



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Coal on the rise in China, US, India after major 2016 drop

Matthew Brown & Katy Daigle, Beijing

THE world's biggest coal users — China, the United States and India — have boosted coal mining in 2017, in an abrupt departure from last year's record global decline for the heavily polluting fuel and a setback to efforts to rein in climate change emissions.

Mining data reviewed by The Associated Press show that production through May is up by at least 121 million tons, or 6 percent, for the three countries compared to the same period last year. The change is most dramatic in the U.S., where coal mining rose 19 percent in the first five months of the year, according to U.S. Department of Energy data.

Coal's fortunes had appeared to hit a new low less than two weeks ago, when British energy company BP reported that tonnage mined worldwide fell 6.5 percent in 2016, the largest drop on record. China and the U.S. accounted for almost all the decline, while India showed a slight increase.

The reasons for this year's turnaround include policy shifts in China, changes in U.S. energy markets and India's continued push to provide electricity to more of its poor, industry experts said. President Donald Trump's role as coal's booster-in-chief in the U.S. has played at most a minor role, they said.

The fuel's popularity waned over the past several years as renewable power and natural gas made gains and China moved to curb dangerous levels of urban smog from burning coal.

Whether coal's comeback proves lasting has significant implications for long-term emission reduction targets, and for environmentalists' hopes that China and India could emerge as leaders in battling climate change.

While the U.S. reversal is expected to prove temporary, analysts agree that India's use of coal will continue to grow. They're divided on the forecast for China over the next decade.

Industry representatives say the mining resurgence underscores coal's continued importance in power generation, though analysts caution its long-term growth prospects remain bleak.

The U.S., China and India combined produce about two-thirds of the coal mined worldwide, and the latter two na-

AP PHOTO



tions also import coal to meet demand. India's production expanded even during coal's global downturn.

"If you look at those three countries, everyone else is irrelevant in the scheme of things," said Tim Buckley, energy finance director for the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

Burning coal for power, manufacturing and heat is a primary source of the carbon dioxide emissions that scientists say is driving climate change. Reducing such emissions was a critical piece of the 2015 Paris climate accord that Trump announced this month he wants to exit.

Almost every other nation continues to support the deal, including China and India. China, India and the U.S. produce almost half of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Coal accounts for almost half of greenhouse emissions from burning fossil fuels, according to the Global Carbon Project. China is by far the world's largest coal user, consuming half the global supply.

China has committed to capping its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and some have suggested it might accomplish that up to a decade earlier. Xizhou Zhou, a senior energy analyst with IHS Markit based in Beijing, said the recent uptick in coal production that the AP identified raises doubts about such optimism, but he added that China is still expected to meet its 2030 deadline.

"Coal consumption will continue to increase, mainly driven by Asian countries," Zhou said. "We're seeing a recovery starting this year and an increase until the mid-2020s before you see coal plateau globally."

China and the U.S. accounted for almost all the decline, while India showed a slight increase

China's production rose more than 4 percent through May, according to government figures, compared to a drop of more than 8 percent for the same period a year earlier.

Hundreds of mines shut down in China last year and the government forced others to cut back hours in a bid to reduce an oversupply of coal and boost prices. The government has since relaxed that policy and production is rebounding.

Also, as China continues to recover from a 2015 economic slowdown, it's seeing increased manufacturing and new investments in roads, bridges and other projects. That creates more demand for electricity, most of which continues to come from coal even after huge Chinese investments in wind and solar power.

Despite the announced cancellation or suspension of 100 coal plants, others remain under construction, meaning consumption of coal for power will continue to rise, Zhou said. Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Pakistan also are building new plants.

In India, where 70 percent of electricity comes from coal, production has long been increasing in defiance of global trends. The country has long argued it has both a right and an obligation to expand power generation as it extends electricity access to hundreds of millions of people who still have none. India also is seeking to reduce its reliance on imported coal by mining more of its own reserves.

An AP review of reports from the Coal Ministry of India found that mining among state-owned companies, which comprise the overwhelming majority of the nation's production, grew 4 percent in the first five months of this year.

In the U.S., the bulk of the increase occurred in major coal-producing states including Wyoming, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Prices for natural gas, a competing fuel in power generation, edged up in early 2017, helping coal, said Andy Roberts of the consulting firm Wood Mackenzie. That's expected to be a temporary boost given the nation's huge natural gas supplies. A cold winter in parts of the U.S. also benefited coal by increasing power demand.

World Coal Association Chief

Executive Officer Benjamin Sporton acknowledged that it's been "a difficult few years for coal" but argued that the market remains strong, particularly in China and India.

"All the signs point to a positive upward trend," Sporton told the AP.

Still, coal's dominant role in providing electricity has been eroding. China now has more renewable energy than any other nation. Its Communist Party leaders have vowed to invest USD360 billion in the sector through 2020.

India's government has said it needs no more coal-powered power plants and last month canceled 13.7 gigawatts in proposed plants, enough to power more than 10 million homes if the plants ran at full capacity. It has promoted renewables with a raft of incentives and declared that power from some solar installations should be used first when demand goes up.

Analysts said India is struggling to adjust to what appears to be a "new normal" — with its growth in electricity capacity outstripping the rise in demand. Manufacturing has not grown as quickly as hoped, and though transmission is steadily expanding to reach more households, 260 million Indians are still off-grid.

As a result, the country's power plants are running at below 60 percent of capacity on average — down from 2009, when India was using 75 percent of its capacity.

"The private sector is not undertaking any new investment in thermal energy" such as coal plants, said Ashok Khurana, director general of the Association of Power Producers in India. "There's no sense in it."

Trump's advocacy for reviving the coal-mining industry stands as an exception among the three nations' leaders. Yet the U.S. also is where coal's rebound could be briefest.

Cheap natural gas, a growing appetite for renewable energy and stricter pollution rules spurred utilities to shut down or announce retirements for several hundred U.S. coal plants. U.S. utilities that invested heavily in alternatives are considered unlikely to revert to coal, Roberts said, meaning market forces and not Trump's politics will play the biggest role in determining the industry's future.

Buckley, the energy finance specialist, said he expects the mining increases of 2017 to emerge as an anomaly and global declines will soon resume. But he noted that many existing coal plants will continue operating for years to come.

"We're not talking about the end of coal tomorrow or the end of coal next decade. We're talking about a 40-year transition," he said. **AP**

LIU XIAOBO

Jailed Nobel Peace laureate given medical parole

Didi Tang, Beijing

IMPRISONED Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate and dissident Liu Xiaobo has been transferred to a hospital after being diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer, his former lawyer said yesterday.

The deteriorating health of China's best-known political prisoner was immediately met with dismay by the country's beleaguered community of rights activists and lawyers, who called it a blow to the democracy movement.

Liu, 61, is receiving treatment at a hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang, lawyer Mo Shaoping told The Associated Press. Liu was diagnosed on May 23 and prison authorities then granted him medical parole, though it was not clear exactly when he was transferred to the hospital, Mo said.

Liu, a literary critic and China's most prominent democracy campaigner, was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009 after being convicted of inciting state subversion for writing and disseminating Charter '08, a manifesto calling for an end to single-party rule.

The following year, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize by the Norway-based Nobel committee, which cheered China's fractured, persecuted dissident community and brought calls from the U.S., Germany and

others for Liu's release, but also infuriated Beijing. In April, Beijing finally normalized relations with Oslo after a six-year hiatus.

It was unclear what exact treatment Liu was receiving but as of 10 days ago his condition was stable, Mo said, citing Liu's family. He noted, however, that medical parole is only granted to prisoners who are gravely ill and unable to be treated at the prison's medical facilities.

■ Liu, a literary critic and prominent democracy campaigner, was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009

Mo said Liu was likely to be closely guarded at the China Medical University No. 1 Affiliated Hospital in Shenyang and unable to receive visits from friends or return home. "Normally, most people will be allowed to go home, or to be with their families, or hospitals, but Liu Xiaobo is a special case," Mo said.

"I don't think he will be allowed to meet with people other than close relatives," he added.

Mo said he believed Liu's wife,



Liu Xia, wife of Liu Xiaobo, poses with a photo of her and her husband during an interview at her home in Beijing in 2012

Liu Xia, had traveled to the city. At Liu's apartment building in Beijing, AP journalists were accosted yesterday by half a dozen plainclothes and other security

officers and physically blocked from going beyond the first floor.

Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, said he was not aware of the latest de-

velopment in Liu's case.

The news of Liu's diagnosis shocked and saddened fellow human rights activists who have admired the sacrifices Liu and his wife have made in the hope of achieving peaceful political change. Activists have also been alarmed by Liu Xia's gradual descent into depression after the soft-spoken poet and artist was forcibly sequestered by state security at home during her husband's imprisonment.

"It's known that Liu Xiaobo and his family have made a tremendous sacrifice for the cause of freedom and democracy in China," said Shanghai-based legal scholar Zhang Xuezhong. "This is unfortunate news for him and his family, and it's a blow to China's democracy movement, as so many people have placed hope in him, and rightfully so."

Zhang said no effort should be spared in treating Liu, and his family must be fully informed of his treatment plans. "His life is so important that I think he should get the best possible treatment with full knowledge of his family, even if his family has to make agreements" with the government, Zhang said.

Guo Yuhua, a professor of sociology at the elite Tsinghua University in Beijing, said she was angered by the news. "Those with conscience have given so much to this country, yet they are persecuted by the totalitarian rule," she told AP. "Those who have done evil will sooner or later be held accountable, and written into the history to be spat on forever."

She urged Beijing to provide the best medical treatment for Liu and facilitate his travel if he and his family wish to seek treatment outside China. "Life and dignity should be first and foremost in this case," Guo said. **AP**

SICHUAN

Landslide site evacuated over concerns of second slide

RESCUE crews were ordered yesterday to evacuate the site of a deadly landslide in southwestern China over concerns of a second landslide, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The order was issued after radar detected shifts in the ground where the mountains collapsed early Saturday, Xinhua said. It wasn't clear if the rescue efforts had been suspended.

The massive landslide buried the entire village of Xinmo in a mountainous region of Sichuan province. Ten bodies have been found, and 93 people remain missing. A couple and their month-old infant are the only ones rescued so far.

Experts say the mountains



flanking the village of more than 100 residents are structurally damaged and prone to landslides after two major earthquakes, including a magnitude 7.9 quake that killed nearly 90,000 people in 2008 in Wenchuan, 40 kilometers away.

Saturday's landslide carried an estimated 18 million cubic meters of earth and rock — equivalent to more than 7,200 Olympic-sized swimming pools — when it slid down from steep mountains. Some of it fell from as high as 1.6 kilometers. **AP**

Vatican worries about 'forcibly removed' bishop in Wenzhou

THE Vatican is expressing "grave concern" for a Chinese bishop who it says was "forcibly removed" from his office several weeks ago.

The Holy See in a statement yesterday said neither Catholics in Wenzhou diocese nor the prelate's relatives know where or why Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin was taken.

The Vatican recognizes Shao's appointment as bishop; Chinese authorities don't.

The Catholic church and the ruling Communist authorities of China have wrestled for decades over Vatican insistence



Church in Lower Dafei Village near Wenzhou

only the pope can appoint bishops.

Last week, a Vatican-affiliated missionary news service said Shao's disappearance is believed to be part of an attempt to persuade him to join the Communist-control-

led Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association church.

The Vatican, saying it's "profoundly saddened" by Shao's case and "other similar episodes," expressed hope he'll return quickly. **AP**



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NEW ZEALAND

Law student launches climate change court case

Nick Perry, Wellington

A New Zealand law student is taking the government to court in hopes of forcing it to set more ambitious climate change targets.

The case brought by Sarah Thomson, 26, began yesterday in the High Court in Wellington and is scheduled to last three days. It could be several months before a judge releases a decision.

Thomson is challenging the government over commitments that include a pledge under the Paris climate accord to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

In court filings, Thomson argued that pledge and the process for reaching it were "illogical, irrational, unreasonable and unlawful."

She says the government needs to throw out the target and set a new one.

"I want New Zealand to do more," Thomson said outside the court. "I want the government to take it seriously. I want them to actually care about the future of young New Zealanders because we're



Sarah Thomson

the ones who are going to be dealing with the consequences."

Climate Change Issues Minister Paula Bennett said in a statement that "we are very comfortable that our Paris target is fair and ambitious, and that it was set only after a thorough process of consultation."

The government argued in court filings that the Paris agreement is the best way to address climate change on a global level, and that New Zealand is such a small nation that even if it stopped its emis-

sions entirely it wouldn't make a noticeable difference.

Thomson said she was inspired by other climate change cases worldwide, including a 2015 case in which a Dutch court ordered the Netherlands to slash greenhouse gas emissions. The Dutch government has appealed.

She said lawyers and scientists have helped by doing pro bono work on her case.

"I'm arguing that every single country needs to do its part," she said. **AP**



INDONESIA

Obama and family go river rafting during vacation

FORMER U.S. President Barack Obama and his family were seen on a river rafting trip yesterday as they vacationed in Indonesia, where he lived for several years as a child.

Obama, his wife, Michelle, and their daughters, Sasha and Malia, rafted on the Ayung River on the resort island of Bali, where the family arrived last week.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo had invited Obama to take a holiday in the country after leaving office, and has invited the family to visit the

presidential Bogor Palace in West Java during their nine-day trip. The former president is also scheduled to speak at an Indonesian Diaspora Congress in Jakarta on July 1.

Obama moved to Indonesia in 1967 at age 6 after his divorced mother remarried an Indonesian man. She stayed on after the marriage broke up, working as an anthropologist and development aid worker, but Obama returned to Hawaii when he was 10 to live with his grandparents. **AP**

AD

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MONGOLIA

Next president elected amid allegations of graft, financial upheaval

MONGOLIANS voted yesterday in a presidential election dominated by allegations of graft and concerns about financial upheaval in the landlocked country.

A horse salesman, a former judo star and a nationalist who wants Mongolia to gain a greater share of its mineral wealth were vying to be the Central Asian nation's new leader.

The three candidates were seeking to succeed Tsakhia Elbegdorj of the Democratic Party, who has served the maximum of two four-year terms.

While the nation of 3 million had been an oasis of democratic stability since the end of communist rule nearly three decades ago, its politics have grown increasingly fractious amid an economic crisis and accusations of corruption among the ruling class.

Speaker of the parliament and horse dealer Miyegombo Enkhbold was representing the Mongolian People's Party, which won a landslide victory in legislative elections last year. He faced off against judo champion



Speaker of Parliament and People's Party presidential candidate Miyegombo Enkhbold casts his vote at a polling station in Ulaanbaatar yesterday

and business tycoon Khaltmaa Batulгаа of the Democratic Party, with Sainkhуu Ganbaatar of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, who has been a vocal critic of mining giant Rio Tinto, rounding out the field.

Nearly 2 million people were registered to vote in the election.

For 30-year old district government office worker and mother Tserendejid Bayanbaatar, resto-

ring the economy and creating jobs for young people were top concerns.

"I want the future president to support young people and young families, support their work environment and create conditions for stable incomes," Bayanbaatar said.

Avirmed Dangaa, an accountant and former municipal official, said creating stability was

important.

"I made my choice based on my beliefs and hopes," said Dangaa, who favored Enkhbold. "I see that young people are strong and confident in their voice, so I want young people to actively vote. And I want the future president to support young people and young families, support their work environment and create conditions for stable incomes. Stable government is the basis for economic growth. Trust of foreign investors is restored if the government is stable."

Battulгаа has a large following among urban entrepreneurs and youth.

"I don't like corruption and favoritism, which is prevalent everywhere in all levels of Mongolian government. I voted against these corrupt officials," said Enkhmaa, a 28-year-old entrepreneur and Battulгаа supporter, who gave only her first name.

Sandwiched between Russia and China, resource-rich Mongolia has been roiled by financial upheaval and the increasing draw of China's economic and

political influence that competes with its ties with the democratic West, especially the United States

Foreign investment in Mongolia has slumped in recent years following weaker commodity prices and high-profile disputes between the government and large investors including Rio Tinto. Mongolia's economy grew just 1 percent last year, down from 17.5 percent in 2011, when it was the world's fastest-growing. It now has USD23 billion in debt, more than double the size of its economy. Unemployment is roughly 9 percent, with about one in five Mongolians living in poverty.

The country recently secured a \$5.5 billion International Monetary Fund-led bailout to stem its financial crisis, with a \$500 million bond repayment due in January 2018. Enkhbold's party pledges to continue the IMF's program, including higher taxes and spending cuts, while Ganbaatar has criticized the IMF.

Election results are expected early today. **AP**

JAPAN

Air bag recalls, lawsuits lead Takata to file for bankruptcy

Tom Krisher, Marcy Gordon & Mari Yamaguchi

SHATTERED by recall costs and lawsuits, Japanese air bag maker Takata Corp. filed yesterday for bankruptcy protection in Tokyo and the U.S., saying it was the only way it could keep on supplying replacements for faulty air bag inflators linked to the deaths of at least 16 people.

The company's bankruptcy filings cleared the way for a USD1.6 billion takeover of most of Takata's assets by rival Key Safety Systems, which is based in Detroit but owned by a Chinese company.

Takata's inflators can explode with too much force when they fill up an air bag, spewing out shrapnel. Apart from the fatalities, they're responsible for at least 180 injuries worldwide.

So far 100 million infla-

tors have been recalled worldwide, the largest automotive-related recall in U.S. history. That includes 69 million in the U.S., affecting 42 million vehicles.

Takata's president Shigehisa Takada told reporters in Tokyo that with the company rapidly losing value, filing for bankruptcy protection was the only way it could carry on.

"We're in a very difficult situation, and we had to find ways to keep supplying our products," Takada said. "As a maker of safety parts for the automobile industry, our failure to maintain a stable supply would have a major impact across the industry."

"There was no other way," he said.

Takada said he intends to leave Takata's management once it is handed over to Key Safety Systems and things are running

smoothly.

"It would be a big nuisance for the new company if a person like me were to get involved in its management," he said.

The bankruptcy filings by Takata, founded in 1933 as a textiles maker, led the Tokyo Stock Exchange to announce it was delisting the company.

Under its agreement with Key, remnants of Takata's operations will continue to make inflators to be used as replacement parts in the recalls, which are being handled by 19 affected automakers.

Takata will use part of the sale proceeds to reimburse the automakers, but experts say the companies still must fund a significant portion of the recalls themselves.

The process could take years. One of Takata's lawyers, Nobuaki Kobayashi, said it was too early to estimate the total

eventual cost of the recalls and would not confirm Japanese media reports that they exceeded 1 trillion yen (\$9 billion).

"It's likely every automaker involved in this recall will have to subsidize the process because the value of Takata's assets isn't enough to cover the costs of this recall," said Karl Brauer, executive publisher of Kelley Blue Book and Autotrader.

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said yesterday it was setting up "advice windows" to help any affected small and medium-sized suppliers that might face difficulties due to Takata's troubles.

More than 70 percent of the airbags recalled in Japan have been replaced, and 36 percent in the U.S., said Hiroshi Shimizu, a Takata vice president. He said progress of the recalls in other coun-



Takata Corp. CEO Shigehisa Takada bows during a press conference in Tokyo yesterday

tries was unknown.

Takata and the automakers were slow to address the problem with the inflators despite reports of deaths and injuries. Eventually they were forced to recall tens of millions of vehicles. The scope of the recalls means some car owners face lengthy waits for replacement parts, meanwhile driving cars with air bags that could malfunction in a crash.

The problems stem from use of the explosive chemical ammonium nitrate in the inflators used to deploy air bags in a crash. The chemical can deteriorate when exposed to hot and humid air and burn too fast, blowing apart a metal canister.

At least \$1 billion from

the sale to Key is expected to be used to satisfy Takata's settlement of criminal charges in the U.S. for concealing problems with the inflators. Of that amount, \$850 million goes to automakers to help cover their costs from the recalls. Takata already has paid \$125 million into a fund for victims and a \$25 million fine to the U.S. Justice Department.

Attorneys for those injured by the inflators worry that \$125 million won't be enough to fairly compensate victims, many of whom have serious facial injuries from metal shrapnel. One 26-year-old plaintiff will never be able to smile due to nerve damage, his attorney says. **AP**



SOUTH AFRICA

Rhino breeder plans online auction of horn

Christopher Torchia, Johannesburg

A rhino breeder in South Africa is planning an online auction of rhino horn, capitalizing on a court ruling that opened the way to domestic trade despite an international ban that was imposed to curb wi-

despread poaching. The online sale of rhino horn belonging to breeder John Hume will happen Aug. 21-24 and revenue will be used to "further fund the breeding and protection of rhinos," according to an auction website. Van's, a Pretoria-based auction house, is overseeing the sale and a "physi-

cal" auction will occur on Sept. 19, it said.

Rhino breeders believe poaching would be undercut by a regulated trade in rhino horn, though critics say trade will spur poaching that has occurred at record levels in the past decade. Poachers killed 1,054 rhinos in South Africa last year, a 10 per-

cent drop from 2015, according to the government. By some estimates, South Africa has nearly 20,000 rhinos, representing 80 percent of Africa's population. Asia has several rhino species, including two that are critically endangered.

Hume has more than 1,500 rhinos on his ranch and spends more than USD170,000 monthly on security for the animals, in addition to veterinary costs, salaries and other expenses, the auction website said.

"Each rhino's horn is safely and regularly trimmed by a veterinarian and capture team to prevent poachers from harming them," it said, adding that Hume has a stockpile of more than 6 tons of rhino horn.

Hume plans to sell half a ton of rhino horn in the upcoming auction, which is the first of its kind, said Johan van Eyk of the Van's auction house.

"We're not sure what people would prefer — it's just to give them the option," van Eyk said of the plan for both online and regular auctions.

He said the auction house supports trade in the horn of captive rhinos because "you can farm the horn and it grows back on and you still have the animal, you still protect the species."

Some consumers of rhino horn believe it can cure illnesses if ingested in powder form, although there is no evidence that the horn, made of the same substance as human fingernails, has any medicinal value. Rhino horn is also seen by some buyers as a symbol of status and wealth.

This year, South Africa's Constitutional Court rejected a government appeal to preserve a 2009 ban on the domestic trade, which was imposed as rhino poaching accelerated in response to growing demand for horns

in parts of Asia, especially Vietnam.

An international ban has been in place since 1977.

Responding to setbacks in the courts, the South African government has drawn up draft regulations for a domestic trade and limited export of rhino horns. Those guidelines would allow a foreigner with permits to export "for personal purposes" a maximum of two rhino horns.

Opponents of a legal trade argue that any exported horns would be hard to monitor and likely would end up on the commercial market, defying global agreements to protect threatened rhino populations. They say legalization will spur poaching as illegally obtained horns are laundered into the legal market, similar to the exploitation of elephant ivory. Hume and other breeders counter that a trade ban has not worked and that alternative policies, including a legal market, should be pursued.

On June 13, South African officials announced the arrest of two travelers bound for Hong Kong and the recovery of 10 smuggled rhino horns in an operation at the main international airport in Johannesburg.

Some conservationists, however, say the conviction rate of suspected rhino poachers or horn traffickers is relatively low and have expressed concern about cases of possible corruption in law enforcement.

A suspected rhino poacher who was seriously injured in a shootout with authorities disappeared on Friday from a hospital in the South African city of East London, and police are investigating whether he escaped because of the negligence of an officer who was supposed to be guarding him, the News24 website reported. **AP**

SOUTH SUDAN

Press censored, reporters restricted in civil war

As South Sudan's civil war creates the world's largest refugee crisis and widespread allegations of sexual and ethnic violence, the government is clamping down on the news media, journalists charge.

This is starkly evident in the country's newspapers, which the government in May started censoring by blanking out articles it deems critical.

In addition, 15 South Sudanese journalists have been arrested, beaten, jailed, threatened or denied access to information in the past four months, according to the Union of Journalists in South Sudan.

At least 20 members of the foreign press have been banned from or kicked out

of South Sudan in the past six months, the Foreign Correspondents' Association of East Africa says.

With the civil war more than three-and-a-half years old, journalists say they are hard-pressed to report on alleged atrocities amid warnings by the United Nations and others of "ethnic cleansing."

In her first public statement on the issue, U.S. Ambassador Molly Phee told The Associated Press that the pattern of denying visas to foreign journalists violates international standards.

"U.S. law prohibits assistance to the government of South Sudan until they take effective steps to protect freedoms of expres-

sion, association and assembly," Phee said. Such direct financial assistance to a government doesn't include humanitarian aid, which this year amounts to USD391 million.

Since South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, the media landscape has become grim. Reporters without Borders ranks the country 145th out of 180 states in its 2017 World Press Freedom Index, down five slots from the previous year.

The Committee to Protect Journalists says South Sudan has muzzled the media for too long and is urging President Salva Kiir not to use the accreditation of foreign journalists "as a new tool of censorship and

retaliation against foreign media."

In March, Austrian freelancer Simona Foltyn was told to leave the country by the Media Authority, a regulatory body created by South Sudan's government.

"The [Media Authority] managing director told me that I'd only been reporting about conflict and sexual violence," Foltyn said. "And that I hadn't been writing anything positive about South Sudan."

The blocking of journalists is getting worse, said Alfred Taban, a veteran South Sudanese reporter and chairman of the Association for Media Development in South Sudan.

"Who at this time, if he's a



real journalist, would write articles that aren't critical about South Sudan?" Taban asked.

A spokesman for South Sudan's government, Ateny Wek Ateny, said the government doesn't interfere with the Media Authority's activities.

"I don't entirely agree with the decision to reject

journalists, but anyone who is trying to incite the people of South Sudan is not wanted in this country," Ateny said.

The government established the Media Authority in February to regulate journalistic practices. It is funded by the government and some board members are government officials. **AP**

what's ON



BLACK AND WHITE - WORKS BY LEONG WAN SI
TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: June 28, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

MACAO ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAO ARCHIVES' COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

COLOUR SHAPE LOVE - WORKS BY JOAQUIM FRANCO

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

A GOLDEN WAY OF LIFE - TRES'ORS

TIME: 12pm-9pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: September 3, 2017

VENUE: Level 2, MGM Art Space (via Grande Praça)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

MACAO ARTS WINDOW 2017 - HUNDRED SPECIES - WORKS OF PEGGY CHAN

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

LOVE OF MACAU - PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat



TOP DOG, BRYNNETH PAWLTRO, ELECTED MAYOR OF KENTUCKY TOWN

Being mayor is a ruff job but somebody has to do it.

According to WDRB-TV, a small Kentucky town has, for the fourth time, elected a dog to be its mayor. Jordie Bamforth says her 3-year-old pit bull Brynneth Pawltro beat out a cat, a chicken and a donkey, among others, to become the next mayor of Rabbit Hash, 125 kilometers north of Lexington.

Bobbi Kayser, who works with the town's Historical Society, says the election started in the late 1990s as a fundraiser.

"We charge you a dollar for your vote, you vote as often as you want."

The election money usually goes toward town improvements but this year it will be used to help repair the town's General Store which was destroyed in an electrical fire.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Revenge Sr 3
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr 1
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

22-30 JUN

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

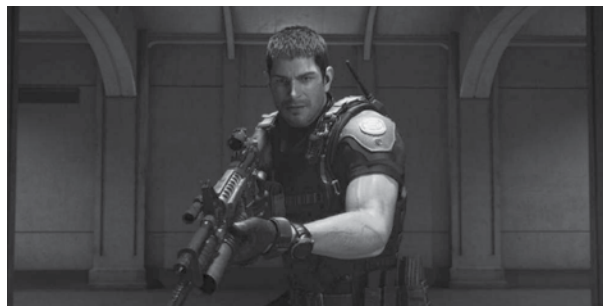
2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Michael bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min



RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA

ROOM 2

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

Director: Takanori Tsujimoto

Starring: Orion Acaba, Erin Cahill, Darin De Paul

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 93min



A FAMILY MAN

ROOM 3

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

Director: Mark Williams

Starring: Alison Brie, Gerard Butler, Willem Dafoe

Language: English

Duration: 118min

MACAU TOWER

22 JUN - 5 JUL



TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Michael bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min

this day in history



1963 WARM WELCOME FOR JFK IN IRELAND

The US President John F Kennedy has received a rapturous welcome on an emotional visit to his ancestral homeland in County Wexford, Ireland.

On the second day of his four-day trip to Ireland, the president travelled by helicopter this morning to County Wexford.

Hundreds of wellwishers cheered and waved flags on his arrival at Wexford town and a choir of 300 boys greeted him singing "The Boys of Wexford", a ballad about an insurrection in 1798.

The president left his bodyguards to join them in the second chorus, prompting one American photographer to burst into tears.

Once the singing was over, Mr Kennedy shook hands with as many schoolchildren as he could reach.

He was then driven to the nearby port of New Ross from where Patrick Kennedy, his great-grandfather, had set sail for a better life in America back in 1848 during the potato famine.

In a speech at the quayside he said: "When my great-grandfather left here to become a cooper in East Boston he carried nothing with him except two things - a strong religious faith and a strong desire for liberty.

"I am glad to say that all of his grandchildren have valued that inheritance."

At Dunganstown, five miles (8kms) south of New Ross, President Kennedy visited his ancestral homestead, a small croft building and farm.

The president and two of his sisters who accompanied him on this trip met 15 of their cousins, including the current owner of the homestead, Mary Ryan who welcomed him with a kiss on the cheek.

Tea had been laid out on trestle tables in the yard and a banner declared "Welcome home, Mr President".

America's first Catholic president spent about an hour chatting with his Irish family, cut a large cake and with tea-cup in hand said: "I want to drink a cup of tea to all those Kennedys who went and all those Kennedys who stayed."

He was then driven to Wexford town where he made much of Ireland's subjugation and religious persecution by the British.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In Dublin the following day, President John F Kennedy made a point of acknowledging Ireland's struggle for freedom from the British during a speech to the joint sessions of the Irish Parliament. He received the freedom of the cities of Limerick and Galway before leaving for Britain and a meeting with the British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan.

Four months later, in October 1963 Irish PM Sean Lemass made a state visit to the United States to strengthen ties with America, where some 38 million citizens claim to be of Irish descent.

On 22 November 1963, John F Kennedy was assassinated, shot in the head as he drove through Dallas, Texas, on his way to a political festival.

His ancestral homestead in Dunganstown was turned into a museum in 1999.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
This isn't a good time to send any mixed messages. The people you're dealing with at the moment need clear, concise statements from you and if you can't seem to say what's on your mind, write it down

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Planning for the short term is a piece of cake, but the long term is a whole other story. For some reason, you don't have any problem seeing the immediate future, but when looking ahead, the details begins to blur

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Flirting is your favorite way to get attention and you aren't happy if even one person in the room is distracted by anything other than you. There's nothing wrong with trying to captivate the masses.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
There's still so much to do and you have so very little time to complete all of the tasks that were assigned to you. It might be time to swallow your pride and beg for a little assistance.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You better hope the road you're on doesn't come to a fork, because with the mood you're in, you'll be standing there for hours trying to decide which way to go

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You don't mean to put your foot in your mouth, but for some reason, you keep doing it over and over again. It might be best to try to get your message across using as few words as possible right now.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
A new topic of discussion would be appreciated. Everyone you know has been talking about the same thing forever, and you'd love to have something different to discuss, if only for a moment.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You're the first person to step up and take a dare, but don't be surprised if your willingness to try just about anything doesn't pay off. Don't try too hard to impress other people -- it's never worth the effort

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You have a million things to do and everyone wants more of your attention than they already have. While it's nice to feel this popular, you may have to put up some barriers.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
If you work in a technical field or have a particularly intellectual hobby, don't expect your friends and relatives to know automatically what you're talking about today. You may have to go into much more detail.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Someone telling you that you're unique, odd or strange would be the best compliment you could receive. You love to stand apart from the rest of the crowd and you don't mind it in the least.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
You have a better chance of being right if you're just a little less specific than you usually are. Instead of guessing a certain number, state a range of numbers and hope that the winning one is in between.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	21	34	clear/cloudy
Harbin	19	32	clear
Tianjin	24	35	clear
Urumqi	17	29	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	23	35	clear/cloudy
Lhasa	11	23	thundershower/cloudy
Chengdu	18	30	cloudy
Chongqing	20	31	overcast/cloudy
Kunming	15	22	moderate rain
Nanjing	22	31	cloudy
Shanghai	23	28	overcast/drizzle
Wuhan	22	31	overcast/cloudy
Hangzhou	22	28	overcast/shower
Taipei	27	34	overcast
Guangzhou	27	34	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy

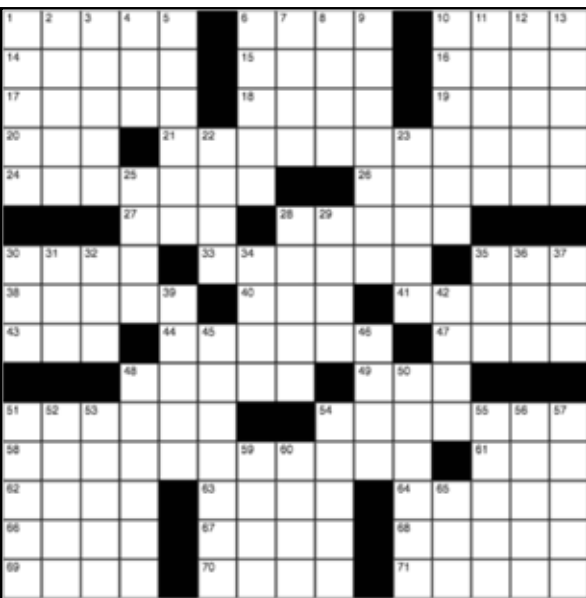
WORLD

Moscow	11	20	drizzle/cloudy
Frankfurt	16	27	clear/drizzle
Paris	17	29	overcast/drizzle
London	14	21	cloudy/moderate rain
New York	16	25	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- See eye to eye; 6- Nixon pal Rebozo; 10- Frost; 14- Low cards; 15- Ethereal; Prefix; 16- Fashion mag; 17- Sublease; 18- Lost traction; 19- Put ___ on it; 20- Bond rating; 21- Class regarded as superior; 24- Astringent; 26- Tenant; 27- Blink of an eye; 28- Got up; 30- Doctrines; 33- Capital of Cuba; 35- Ancient; 38- Large artery; 40- ___ Tin Tin; 41- U-Haul competitor; 43- Miss Piggy's query; 44- Keep possession of; 47- Boundary, WWE wrestler; 48- City on the Ruhr; 49- Nocturnal bird; 51- Asexual; 54- Serving no function; 58- Give the illusion of three dimensions; 61- Fur scarf; 62- Parade spoiler; 63- Part of QED; 64- ___ is human...; 66- Columnists' page; 67- Used to be; 68- Like some vbs.; 69- Cong. meeting; 70- Skyrocket; 71- ___ Dame;

DOWN: 1- Gillette razors; 2- Big; 3- Cooperative race; 4- Observe, viewing organ; 5- Executor's concern; 6- Fundamental; 7- Morays; 8- Londoner, e.g.; 9- Phantom; 10- Last car?; 11- Paella pots; 12- Wonderland girl; 13- Color anew; 22- Rolling in dough; 23- Actor Romero; 25- Hey, you!; 28- Birdlike; 29- Sari-clad royal; 30- Descartes's conclusion; 31- Great Lakes canals; 32- Hosp. procedure; 34- Comedian Johnson; 35- Eccentric; 36- Relay race part; 37- Rap's Dr. ___; 39- Upbeat, in music; 42- Scream; 45- Shuns; 46- Sniffer; 48- Edits; 50- Entered; 51- Big dos; 52- Flip out; 53- Spring sign; 54- Absolute; 55- Movie critic Roger; 56- More tender; 57- Beetle Bailey's boss; 59- Cream-filled cookie; 60- ___ avis; 65- Guadalajara gold;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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BOXING | BATTLE OF BRISBANE

Horn says he has the plan to beat Manny Pacquiao

John Pye, Brisbane

WHILE Manny Pacquiao has been out running along the river and attracting attention downtown since arriving on a chartered flight with a huge entourage, Jeff Horn has been preparing for their WBO welterweight world title bout in the quiet, outer suburbs.

It's a contrast that suits the 29-year-old former Australian schoolteacher, who is doing everything possible to keep grounded ahead of Sunday's "Battle of Brisbane" against Pacquiao, an 11-time world titlist in eight divisions.

An Olympic quarterfinalist at the 2012 London Games, Horn has built a 16-0-1 record with 11 knockouts since turning pro in 2013. Top Rank promoter Bob Arum saw him take down South African veteran Ali Funeka on the undercard of heavyweight Joseph Parker's WBO world title fight in New Zealand last December and decided Horn was worthy of a shot at the great Pacquiao.

And so with ESPN televising the fight in the United States, and up to 55,000 fans expected at Suncorp Stadium, Horn was asked how he would describe himself to those who may know little of him except that



he's taking on Pacquiao.

"I guess I'm a real competitor. I try and treat people the way I like to be treated," he said. "I'm going to get in there hard. I've trained hard for this fight. I'm going to give Manny Pacquiao a really hard fight."

Pacquiao has been in this position plenty of times since turning pro in 1995 and has a 59-6-2 record with 38 knockouts. He has had two wins — on points against Jessie Var-

gas and Tim Bradley — since his loss to Floyd Mayweather in April 2015 in a bout that generated a world record pay-per-view audience.

Horn reckons his last fight was in front of 1,500 people, and jokes "there's not much difference in the crowd size, is there?"

"Where I've fought before has been in a small location, so the crowd seems louder than it is — kind of echoes in the room,"

he said. "But to be in a stadium like Suncorp, the Cauldron, who knows. I've never been in a situation like that. The more pressure that's on me for a fight, the better I perform."

The bout is expected to draw an Australian record boxing crowd and is being staged at a venue best known for hosting brutal rugby league matches in the State of Origin series between Horn's Queensland and New South Wales.

The Queenslanders have dominated the annual series for the last decade, and Horn is drawing on that in his preparations. He sat in the capacity crowd for a recent rugby league match to get a feel for what it could be like.

"It's the dream location to fight," Horn said. "I'm a Queenslander. Born in Brisbane. All things that I'd go to are at Suncorp Stadium — all the massive events. To be fighting there myself, and be center of attention for that event. It's mind-blowing for me."

■ The bout is expected to draw an Australian record boxing crowd

Horn's long-time trainer, Glenn Rushton, has devised a 10-point plan by analyzing Pacquiao's fights against Mayweather, Vargas and Bradley, and thinks Horn is capable of producing an upset win.

"I said to him, follow the plan and we win the fight, simple as that," Rushton said.

Horn only needed the weekend to commit it to memory, and is confident it can be a recipe for success.

"It's a plan [...] I've heard him speak to me about 1,000 times, so reading over it is just like listening to him talk to me in the ring," Horn said. "What he's written down is spot on. We can get the job done if I can follow it." **AP**

FOOTBALL

Chile feels the fatigue from its all-out play in Confed Cup



KNOWN as one of the hardest-working squads in the world, Chile is starting to feel the wear and tear of its all-out style in the Confederations Cup.

And things won't get any easier for the South American champions when they face Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal in the semifinals.

Chile secured its semifinal berth with a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Australia yesterday [Macau time], and the team will have only two days of rest before facing Portugal Wednesday [Thursday, 2am] in Kazan. The European champions played its last group stage match on Saturday, a breezy 4-0 win over New Zealand in which Ronaldo was substituted with more

than 20 minutes left.

Mexico faces Germany in the other semi in Sochi on Thursday [Friday, 2am].

"We're obviously at a disadvantage," Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi said. "Having an extra day of rest at this stage of the tournament, and after the great effort that we've been making, favors the opponent."

Pizzi rested some starters against Australia, but Arsenal striker Alexis Sanchez and Bayern Munich midfielder Arturo Vidal played the full 90 minutes. Several times during the match, Sanchez gasped for air and rested his hands on his knees after a run, not showing his usual burst of speed.

Chile plays a very aggressive style, with high pressing and relentless attack. It helped the team win back-to-back Copa America titles in 2015 and 2016, but it also exposes its defense to counterattacks, something Ronaldo and strike partner

Andre Silva will be ready to pounce on.

"Our style of play is very physically taxing, the players have to make a great effort," Pizzi said. "Other teams know it, they prepare for us, they don't take the initiative, and then they capitalize on our mistakes."

Chile and Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Charles Aranguiz left the game at halftime with an unspecified injury after a hard tackle by Tim Cahill, and Pizzi said he was "in a lot of pain."

On a positive note, goalkeeper Claudio Bravo returned after a 2-month layoff because of a calf injury and showed no signs of rust.

"World-class players have that ability," Pizzi said. "We're talking about one of the best goalkeepers in the world, with an extraordinary career, and we're very happy that he's back with us." **AP**

opinion

Our Desk
Renato Marques



WE SHOULD HAVE A 'SAO JOAO' FESTIVAL PER WEEKEND

Last weekend Macau celebrated one of its many traditions. The "São João" (Saint John's) Festival is more than simply a step back into the century-old Portuguese traditions. It is also (or supposed to) be the celebration of the city of Macau and its glorious win of the "Battle of Macau" in 1622 when a conflict of the Dutch-Portuguese War fought in the then-Portuguese settlement in the South China Sea.

According to historical accounts, the Portuguese, outnumbered and without adequate fortification, managed to repel the Dutch in a much-celebrated victory on June 24, after a three-day battle in which the Portuguese military force was widely helped by all the local population.

History aside, the festival was revived 11 years ago in a joint initiative from several local associations which includes the Macanese Association, Casa de Portugal, the Pensioners' Association, the Association for Macanese Education, the International Institute of Macau and, from this year, the Young Macanese Association.

This year's edition was undoubtedly the record holder in both the number of participants and of visitors, demonstrating not just that there is a real interest from people in such an event but also that the communities of Macau can achieve some form of unity when it is most needed.

That is what I believe occurred this year with the poor outlook for a lack of celebration for the event as a consequence of a conflict between the event's organizers and the Transport Bureau that put the cultural festival at stake until almost one week prior to the starting date.

The communities responded positively and made the festival the "best ever," if I'm allowed to state it that way.

When I speak about these Macanese communities I'm of course including not only the visitors to the festival and the organizers, but all of those involved, including the vendors that (in many cases) put a lot of effort to present a new and improved festival in comparison to previous editions. It was clear how much "professionalism" had been put into it; in the decorations, the presentation of goods for sale, the upgrade of equipment and also, and very importantly, in the language proficiency.

The head organizer Miguel Senna Fernandes has said several times previously, this is definitely not a festival for the Portuguese, nor the Macanese, not even for tourists, but for all of them and moreover, for the local communities, non-resident communities and all of those that decided to join.

When I left the event area on Saturday evening, I had only one idea in mind – Why can't we have "these kinds" of events more often?

Funnily enough what I saw last weekend was the best example of what the government seems to have been saying for a long time in calling Macau a place for "economic diversification" and a "World Tourism and Leisure Center," in addition to several other jargon terms that no one seems to understand. What I saw over the weekend was also a real opportunity for a "business tryout" like a mini-business incubator opportunity, where people could test their ideas and skills in a real-life context, as well as show their "talent" in many fields that range from the gastronomy, to the arts and crafts.

I really wish that there were more "São João," in the Saint Lazarus neighborhood or in any other area of the peninsula and the islands.

That is exactly what Macau needs. Something that puts a "spark in the eyes" of tourists and locals alike.

THE TRUMP TO WELCOME INDIA'S NARENDRA MODI TO WHITE HOUSE

President Donald Trump meets today [Macau time] for the first time with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Their meeting comes amid uncertainty over the relationship because of differences on trade and other issues.

Trump has focused on outreach to China, India's strategic rival, as he looks to Beijing to rein in North Korea. But Washington and New Delhi share concerns about China's rise as a military power.

In advance of the meeting, the Trump administration approved India's purchase of nearly two dozen unarmed surveillance drones. The deal, estimated to be worth about USD2 billion, is still subject to congressional approval.

India reportedly wants the drones for surveillance of the Indian Ocean — waters that China's navy increasingly traverses after establishing its first overseas base in the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAQ Syrian Kurdish forces say they have seized a new district from the Islamic State group in its self-declared capital, Raqqa.

CYPRUS The Greek Cypriot president of Cyprus has rejected a United Nations document that was supposed to act as a guide during a crucial summit this week to determine whether a deal reunifying the island is possible.



SOUTH SUDAN As South Sudan's civil war creates the world's largest refugee crisis and widespread allegations of sexual and ethnic violence, the government is clamping down on the news media, journalists claim. *More on p15*

MALI A Swedish man kidnapped by Islamic militants in northern Mali nearly six years ago has been released from captivity, the Swedish government confirmed yesterday. There was no immediate word on the fate of a second hostage, from South Africa, who was also seized in Timbuktu.



VENEZUELA Young protesters broke down a metal fence guarding an air base in Caracas before being repelled by security forces firing tear gas in another day of anti-government protests in Venezuela's capital.

COLOMBIA A tourist boat packed with about 160 passengers for the holiday weekend capsized Sunday on a reservoir near the Colombian city of Medellin, leaving at least six people dead and 31 missing, officials said.

UK

Northern Ireland party signs deals to support Conservative gov't

Danica Kirka, London

The leader of a Northern Ireland-based party struck a 1.5 billion pound (USD1.9 billion) deal with British Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservatives yesterday to support her minority government in a crucial vote on her legislative package later this week.

Democratic Unionist Party leader Arlene Foster said the funding would "address the unique circumstances" of Northern Ireland. As part of the deal, funds will be provided to boost Northern Ireland's economy and offer investment in new infrastructure, health and education.

May said that the two parties "share many values."

"We also share the desire to ensure a strong government, able to put through its program and provide for issues like the Brexit negotiations, but also national security issues," May said. "So the agreement we have come to is a very, very good one."

But the figure is certain to raise questions at a time of funding pressure to support police and security services following several extremist attacks as well as a national housing crisis following a devastating fire in a London high-rise that killed at least



DUP MP Jeffrey Donaldson (sitting left) and Government Chief Whip Gavin Williamson sign documents inside 10 Downing Street yesterday

79 people. The other parts of the United Kingdom are also certain to object to special consideration for Northern Ireland.

Foster's party had demanded tangible benefits for Northern Ireland in terms of jobs and investment in order to offer its support for May, who lost her majority in the House of Commons in a snap election earlier this month. The prime minister needs the DUP's 10 lawmakers to back her legislative program in order to stay in power.

As part of the deal, money will be earmarked to address a bottleneck between three busy roads in Northern Ireland, and to open up "new opportunities for growth and connectivity" in digital infrastructure.

In an annex outlining the deal, the government said it

"recognizes that Northern Ireland has unique circumstances within the United Kingdom, not least as a consequence of responding to challenges of the past," and would therefore allocate 50 million pounds a year for two years "to address immediate pressures in health and education."

But critics, including members of May's Conservatives, have objected to any kind of alliance with the DUP because of some of its views, including opposition to same-sex marriage and abortion.

Northern Ireland's other political parties have also objected to any kind of alliance with the DUP, as it jeopardizes the government's pledge to be a neutral arbiter as part of the Good Friday agreement, which brought peace to Northern Ireland after decades of sectarian strife. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Wang Ying



Actresses perform during an event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China at the Foley Square in New York. Over 10,000 Chinese Americans gathered downtown on Sunday to celebrate the date.