



LOCAL FIRM PROVIDES SOFTWARE FOR DUBAI SHOW

■ P2 MDT REPORT



MAN LOST HKD160,000 TO PHONE SCAM

A man has fallen victim to a phone scam in which criminals presented themselves as police officers

■ P2 CRIME



RISING POLITICIAN UNDER INVESTIGATION

It is confirmed: Sun Zhengcai is being investigated for violations of party discipline

■ P11 CHINA

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WORLD BRIEFS

THAILAND Police say they have arrested 44 people — 19 Chinese citizens and 25 Taiwanese — suspected of running a telephone scam. The suspects made calls over the internet in which they claimed to be banking officials and accused their targets of financial crimes.



CHINA's foreign minister says he hopes construction of a new Thai railway can start immediately so Thailand will have better access to Chinese markets.

HONG KONG equities climbed to a two-year high amid speculation mainland investors are buying the city's stocks to escape a small-cap selloff onshore. The Hang Seng Index rose 0.5 percent at the close.

JAPAN Grilled by opposition lawmakers as approval ratings for his Cabinet sink, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday repeated his denials that he misused his influence to help a friend in a growing favoritism scandal. The questioning outside parliament's ordinary session, a rare occurrence, underscores the ruling Liberal Democrat party's eagerness to regain public trust. *More on p13*



NEW ZEALAND British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson joked on his visit to New Zealand yesterday that a traditional Maori greeting could be misinterpreted as a head butt elsewhere. *More on p12*

More on backpage

FOLLOWING SERVICE SUSPENSION

Uber drivers wondering what to do next ■ P7 MDT REPORT



In this photo taken this week, the Olympic village is seen under construction in Tokyo. Japan has begun its three-year countdown to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo with relays, concerts and dancing meant to help drum up public enthusiasm for the event. The 2020 Games will be Japan's first summer Olympics since 1964.

Japan marks three-year countdown to Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games ■ P13

FSS expenditures increased 14 percent

In 2016, expenditures involving the Social Security Fund (FSS) were recorded at MOP3.9 billion, representing an increase of 14 percent year-on-year, according to the latest FSS report. Over the past year, the FSS handed out a total of MOP3.43 billion for retirement and disability pensions, with amount representing a 15 percent increase when compared to the previous year. The amount also represents 88 percent of the total amount of payments processed by the FSS in 2016. Most noticeably, the FSS income increased 4.35 percent last year, although income related to gaming decreased 4.84 percent when compared to 2015.

Over 150 phone scams recorded in 3 days

From last Friday until last Sunday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) and the Macau Customs Service both received a total of 154 reports of phone scams. All reports indicated that the unknown criminals pretended to be Customs officers, or workers at the Immigration Department in an attempt to defraud the public. No losses have been reported. According to the PJ, 54, 67, and 33 cases were reported on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, respectively. According to most reports, a woman speaking Mandarin was making requests to the public for their personal information. The PJ emphasized in their statement that the Macau government will never ask residents to provide any piece of their personal information through a phone call, and reminded the public to be wary of such scams.

Arrest made in fatal abduction case

A mainland man, surnamed Li, has been arrested for an abduction case that resulted in one death. Last May, a body was found in a residential unit at the Zona de Aterros do Porto Exterior (ZAPE). The victim was illegally imprisoned after having borrowed money from usury groups he had met in casinos in the region. Li, one of the five criminals who is believed to have contributed to the death, was arrested on the night of July 22, and is now charged with the practice of violence, usury and other offenses.

Local firm provides software for world-class show

MACAUI-BASED technology company Parafernalia Lda has won a bid to provide the Computerized Maintenance Management System for 'Imagine,' a show combining fire, water and light effects, in Dubai Festival City mall.

'Imagine' offers a multi-sensory experience by harnessing the power of light, water, and fire, combined with aqua screens, 30 fountains and a surround-sound system. The development itself comprises residences as well as amenities for business and entertainment.

Parafernalia Lda has developed a range of software systems, including comma CMMS (a large-scale, multi-user, cloud-based maintenance management system), Toolist (a web and android app to manage tools and equipment) and Toodo (a mobile productivity tool for teams).

Rui Alves, co-founder and managing director of Parafernalia Lda, told the Times that its partnership with Laservision

Mega-Media, the Australian company that created 'Imagine,' has increased their credibility in the region.

Alves said that he is proud to see a local company compete in world-class projects.

"We [the company] fit in. We're good enough to provide products that can compete with American and European products [and] we're based in Macau and that's a very interesting thing," Alves affirmed.

The company has supplied their products to firms in Australia, the U.S., U.K. and Dubai. Alves said it has been more successful outside of Macau than in the region.

The technology consulting and software development company also plans to enter the mainland market, adding that they have advantages over firms abroad.

"There are a lot of companies that do similar work to what we do but it's an incredibly difficult market for them in a way because geographically, we are in



Rui Alves

the best place compared to these companies," said Alves.

Alves believes there is potential to supply products to the neighboring region.

"We've managed to put in the seeds for other partnerships that will develop our products further," he said, hinting that

there are already possible partnerships underway.

The co-founder also remarked that technology companies have a significant market in Macau, particularly in software development.

The firm is seeking more potential clients in Macau. **LV**

CRIME

Man lost HKD160,000 to phone scam

A man has fallen victim to a phone scam in which criminals presented themselves as both Macau and mainland police force officers.

The man lost around HKD160,000 to the con artists, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a press conference yesterday.

The total amount of money lost was exchanged in two currencies; HKD69,000 and RMB90,000. The victim's identity was not disclosed by the PJ.

The story traces back to July 20, when the victim received a phone call in the afternoon, with the party initiating the phone call claiming to be from the Macau Customs Service.

The person impersonating a customs officer

told the victim that the Macau Customs Service had a file that the victim needed to collect. After this the con artist transferred the phone call to another con artist who spoke Mandarin.

This second con artist told the victim that he had applied for a Macau and Hong Kong travel document for a mainland person and the victim protested that he had not lodged the aforementioned application.

The second con artist then asked the victim to provide his personal information, and transferred the call to a third scammer who claimed to be a member of the mainland's police force.

The third con artist told the victim that he was involved in financial crimes linked to

RMB2 million, and then transferred the call to a fourth con artist, who told the victim that he should buy a new phone to get in contact with mainland police officers to ensure that their phone calls were not monitored.

The victim later bought a new phone to contact the fake police officers.

The criminals told him to open a mainland bank account and transfer his money to that

specific account. The criminal insisted that this was necessary for "further investigation."

At a later point, a fifth criminal, who claimed to be a mainland prosecutor, told the victim to transfer all his assets to that account. The victim then transferred the total amount of money mentioned above to his mainland account.

Following the fifth criminal's instructions, the victim installed a tracking system on his

phone, the phone which he had used to contact the criminals and perform the transactions mentioned above.

On July 23, the criminals called the victim again and told him that he had been put on the mainland's wanted list, and that he needed to pay RMB500,000 to cancel the arrest warrant.

The victim then informed his father, who reported the events to the police. **JZ**

TWO PEOPLE BLACKMAILED AFTER NAKED ONLINE CHATting

THE PJ have released information about two cases of people who were blackmailed after participating in video chats with strangers while being naked. The first case took place last week. The victim talked to a stranger online for ten minutes while naked. After the video

chat ended, the criminal blackmailed the victim asking for MOP30,000 if the victim did not want the videos to be posted online. The second case traces back to last March. The victim also chatted naked online with a stranger, and was later blackmailed, initially for RMB888.

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ENVIRONMENT

Sewage treatment plant renovation ongoing

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On has signed a notice approving a 24-hour construction work period at the water sewage treatment plant at the Macau Peninsula.

The all-day work began yesterday and will continue until Wednesday morning. It will be completed in two batches of 12 hours.

The plant is currently replacing its effluent emissary. The replacement had been previously planned to be completed in three days.

Chui's approval was given after the public's urgent appeals regarding the treatment plant, as people kept complaining about the negative influence on the environment triggered by the construction project being conducted within the plant.

Following the public's complaints regarding the construction, the CE permitted the project to be conducted over the 24-hour period, in the hope that the procedure could be completed faster.

"Given the fact that the Macau Peninsula Water Sewage Treatment Plant's effluent emissary is severely damaged, and that it influences the plant's operation," the notice reads, "it is necessary to conduct the replacement construction as fast as possible."

The approval statement explains the reasoning behind the necessity of a 24-hour construction time: "Taking into account the urgency of the works, as well as in reducing the sewage emissions during the construction period, and also the odors that the plant will spread to its neighboring water quality, and also taking into account the impact it will cause to the living environment in the vicinity."

During this period, the treatment plant will temporarily stop its operations.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, has admitted that the water sewage will be discharged to a nearby water area without treatment during the construction work period.



TOURISM

More overnight stays in June

VISITOR arrivals totaled 2,378,615 in June 2017, up slightly by 0.9 percent year-on-year but down by 7.5 percent month-to-month, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Overnight visitors increased by 10.1 percent year-on-year while same-day visitors decreased by 9.1 percent.

The average length of stay rose by 0.1 days year-on-year to 1.3

days, while the average length of stay for overnight visitors dropped by 0.1 days year-on-year to 2.1 days. However, the average length of stay for same-day visitors remained unchanged at 0.2 days.

Visitors from mainland China increased by 1.8 percent year-on-year to 1,544,237 in June, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme (704,720) rising by 5.8 percent.

Mainland visitors came mainly

from Guangdong Province, Hunan Province and Fujian Province.

Visitors from the Republic of Korea (66,758) surged by 42.2 percent, while those from Hong Kong (491,687) and Taiwan (86,180) dropped by 3.9 percent and 9.9 percent respectively.

Moreover, visitors from the United States (15,213), Australia (5,954), Canada (4,517) and the United Kingdom (3,862) registered year-on-year decreases.

Analyzed by mode of transport, the number of visitor arrivals by land (1,319,674) was similar to that of June 2016, with those arriving through the Border Gate (1,136,712) only decreasing by 1.8 percent.

Visitor arrivals by sea (842,418) edged up by 0.1 percent year-on-year; those disembarking at the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal (506,891) slightly increased by 0.8 percent, while those arriving at the Taipa Ferry Terminal (335,527) edged down by 0.9 percent.

Meanwhile, visitor arrivals by air increased by 9.9 percent year-on-year, with those arriving at the airport rising by 9.8 percent.

In the first half of 2017, visitor arrivals totaled 15,564,303, up by 5.4 percent when compared to the same period of 2016, overnight visitors rose by 13.1 percent, while same-day visitors dropped by 1.8 percent.

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Mainland reports one more H7N9 case

The Health Bureau (SSM) has issued a statement reporting that a case of the virus H7N9 (avian influenza) has been confirmed in Jiangsu province. Chinese health authorities reported to SSM that the aforementioned case was recorded between July 14 and July 20. The patient is a 62-year-old female mainland resident, who is currently in a critical condition. According to information provided by SSM, cases of H7N9 have been detected in 26 provinces across China, including Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, Shanghai, since September of 2016. SSM has called upon the public to pay attention to personal hygiene in order to prevent cases of H7N9 infection.

Gov't presses CTM to reduce call charges

The government has formally requested telecommunications provider CTM to reduce charges for international long-distance calls. Authorities expect the charge reduction to be implemented within this year. In a recent meeting with the Legislative Assembly Follow-up Committee for Public Administration, the government praised CTM for its services in the last year, but said that there is still room for improvement. According to the government, CTM recorded MOP10 million less in monthly income last year after a charge reduction.

IC organizes 35th Macau Young Musicians Competition

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is organizing the 35th Macau Young Musicians Competition which will be held from July 22 to 30 at the Macau Science Centre and the Institute for Tourism Studies. Contests in different categories will be held across the two locations simultaneously. The "Competition for Special Prizes" will take place on August 3 at the Institute for Tourism Studies. The competition schedules, rules, and regulations, and the jury list for this year's competition is now available at the website for the Macau Young Musicians Competition. According to a press release from the IC, if a participant has a relationship or is associated with any members of the jury panel, the participant needs to notify the IC by email prior to the competition. If they fail to do so, the organizer has the right to disqualify the individual and withdraw any winnings presented.

Pansy Ho could launch Macau budget airline

AIR Macau's franchise will be renewed in 2020 and the government is set to consider whether to keep the airline as the sole home airline in the city. More room for a second home airline to enter the city's aviation market may be created when the Civil Aviation Authority receives an interim report from consultants on the future development of the industry later this month.

An aviation policy expert from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr Law Cheung-Kwok, noted to South China Morning Post that there is a common trend in

the aviation industry to liberalize the sector.

"As Air Macau is mainly controlled by Air China and is also a partner of Cathay Pacific, the fact there is only one airline that has a dominant market position in Hong Kong and Macau suggests there should be a more liberalized regime for the operation of new airlines in Macau," Law said.

Law added that he would advocate for the liberalization of the number of airlines and other supporting services in aviation operations in Macau.

Macau's civil aviation authority

stated that it would study the "pros and cons" of the final report once it is submitted at the end of the year.

According to the Hong Kong newspaper, the timing of these events could lead to a new proposal from businesswoman, Pansy Ho, to launch a budget airline for the city. Ho is the chairwoman of Shun Tak Holdings and daughter of gaming tycoon Stanley Ho.

Ho attempted to launch a Macau budget airline in 2004 and another airline, Jetstar Hong Kong, in 2015, but both attempts failed.

"I think it might have been the wrong timing and I believe there



Pansy Ho

might still be opportunities," Ho said to The Australian newspaper last month when asked about the possibility of relaunching Jetstar Hong Kong.

"I believe there will be opportunities about, simply because the whole region we are operating out of is also evolving," she added.

Research indicates playgrounds are unsafe

RECENT research by the Association of Building a Good Home Together found hygiene and safety issues in many of Macau's outdoor playgrounds.

A report published by the association found problems with 87 parks, gardens, and recreational areas that are listed on the website of the Civic and Municipal Bureau (IACM). Common issues include but are not limited to design, hygiene and safety. Similar problems were found among nine other recreational areas which are not included on the IACM's website.

The report states that children's entertainment



facilities in Macau are not evenly distributed among districts and do not allocate sufficient space for each child. In the district of Santo António, where the population density is the highest in Macau, there are not enough facilities to cater to children in the area. In older communities, the percentage of

park space each child can use is even smaller.

The report also states that some facilities are old and partially damaged, posing a risk to the children using them. Some facilities in a few areas remain accessible to the public despite ostensibly being closed for maintenance.

Countryside parks have

even more serious maintenance issues.

Of Macau's 96 parks and recreational areas, 45 have children's entertainment facilities such as slides, swings and climbing structures.

The association criticized the majority of parks and recreational areas for the lack of diversity, excitement and challenge in the design of their equipment and facilities.

The association also rated the hygiene in nearly 60 percent of children's playgrounds as average or bad, and blacklisted five sites.

The association found that only three amusement areas were equipped

with hygienic amenities. These three amusement areas met with hygiene expectations by having faucets but none of the recreational areas covered by the report offered full-scale sanitization facilities.

Last year, IACM was slammed by the Commission of Audit for its poor maintenance of the region's public facilities, including children's playgrounds. The Commission detected "many problems concerning facilities and equipment and hygiene conditions in municipal facilities for leisure purposes, which include the aforementioned children's playgrounds."

EDUCATION

Over 450 students join UM's Portuguese summer course

MORE than 450 students from ten countries are taking part in the University of Macau's 31st Portuguese language summer course.

The course is organized by the Department of Portuguese under UM's Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH). The course lasts for three weeks from July 17 to August 4, and will cater for several levels of proficiency including beginner, basic, intermediate and advanced language learners. The course will also offer lessons to those at a superior level and will include a class in Chinese-Portuguese translation.

FAH Dean, Professor Hong Gang Jin, said at the opening ceremony that 23 instructors from different parts of the world have been invited to teach the course.

The goal of the course is to ex-

pose students to different cultures, as well as to help them develop three critical skills – namely communication, critical thinking, and creative thinking, so that they can become competent global citizens.

The number of participants in this year's course is the highest in 31 years, attracting students from countries including East Timor, Thailand, Moldavia, the United States and India.

Aside from lessons in the classroom, participants in the course will have the opportunity to take part in cultural exchange activities, such as Portuguese folk dance and lectures on the history of Macau. Students will also have the chance to visit local museums and the historic center of Macau, and will be able to join a seminar on Macau's cultural heritage.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, attended the closing ceremony of the 13rd Military Summer Camp for Macau Young Students held by the PLA Macau Garrison.



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Uber's exit leaves drivers wondering what to do next

Daniel Beittler

RIDE-SHARING app Uber announced its withdrawal from Macau last week for the second time. The suspension, which took effect late on Friday night, leaves many of its approximately 3,000 full-time and part-time drivers out of work.

Demand for resident employees remains high in Macau. As the unemployment rate has not edged more than 10 basis points either side of 2 percent since 2012, as many as 3,000 new labor applicants can be comfortably absorbed by the city's industries.

The problem concerns the illegality of working as a driver for an unregulated taxi service, punishable in the city by a fine.

While there is no evidence to suggest employers might be discriminatory in reviewing applicants that were former drivers, the possibility remains that some may view a stint at Uber as a stain on a resume. Alternatively, leaving a two-year gap on a resident's resume, given the scarcity of unemployment, might be seen as a red flag by prospective employers.

The Times spoke with two Uber drivers to understand their perspective on the company's second withdrawal from Macau and what they plan to do next.

One part-time driver in his late-20s, "Red Mercedes", said that he expects Uber to return in the future. Citing Uber Macau's withdrawal statement, Red Mercedes said he was confident that "the suspension is only a temporary measure."

Being a part-time driver, Red Mercedes was not concerned



Applicants stand inside an Uber office during a 2015 driver recruitment event in Hong Kong

I guess we will pick up the newspaper on Saturday morning and start looking for jobs.

UBER DRIVER

about losing one of his sources of income.

However, full-time driver "Blue Nissan" was slightly more concerned about what he would do this week, now that Uber's Macau service has been deactivated.

The 23-year-old local driver started with Uber in December 2015, just a few months after the service launched in the territory.

Less than a year later, in August 2016, Uber announced that they would halt their operations in Macau due to hefty driver fines that, according to the company, amounted to more than MOP10 million.

An online petition demanding that the government enter into a dialogue with the company over its legalization and regulation collected more than 20,000 signatures. Although the government refused to back down, Uber nevertheless agreed to reinstate the service.

"The closure of Uber was inevitable," Blue Nissan told the Times on Thursday night, reflecting on its most recent announcement and adding that most of his Uber driver associates share the same opinion. These drivers do not think that the service will return, but admit that the company's suspension has been a long time coming.

"I guess we will pick up the newspaper on Saturday morning and start looking for jobs," said the driver on the penultimate day of the company's operations.

Blue Nissan claimed that he used to work in the junket industry, where he earned commission from high-rollers engaging in rogue side-betting at the casinos.

For this reason, he said he was unconcerned about being stopped by the police as a driver; shrugging when asked about it and implying that it was not a big deal.

The young driver was stopped three times by the police and each time he had to change his car because the authorities took note of his license plate number. He was fined in each case and confirmed to the Times that Uber settled the fines on his behalf.

According to several reports, although the police crackdown in the territory likely led to Uber's latest decision to withdraw from Macau, it had little impact in deterring the drivers themselves. One reason it was considered ineffective was because of the company's policy to cover driver fines.

Several customers of the service told the Times last week that their drivers were unafraid to pick up and drop off passengers in view of law enforcement officers. One user reported to the Times that after she pointed out a police officer stationed near her arranged drop-off point, the driver told her that the officer "was not that sort of police."

Meanwhile, Red Mercedes expressed his dissatisfaction that local authorities did not do more to accommodate ride-sharing services. He said that it was "pathetic" that Macau could not – or would not – regulate such services, especially given Beijing's decision in July last year to greenlight Uber rival, Didi Chuxing.

He said that his impression is that mainland China is usually "more conservative and controlling [of industry]," and if any country would refuse to give in to ride-sharing apps, it would be China.

"This sort of [regulation] can happen in China, but it can't happen here?" the young driver exclaimed.

Asked about the potential for Didi Chuxing to step in now that Uber has given way, Blue Nissan said that it was unlikely as Macau authorities want to protect the local taxi industry. "It is a completely different case than that of China," he said.

Even so, locals will miss Uber, the 23-year-old predicted.

"People [in Macau] might be a little upset [by Uber's closure] because there are no [comparable] alternative means of transportation," he said. "The taxi service is not good and the buses are overcrowded. So, people will probably miss Uber."

corporate bits

BOUTIQUE SPA AT THE PARISIAN MACAO GIVEN AWARD



The Parisian Macao's luxury boutique spa, Le 'SPA'tique' triumphed in the 'Luxury Emerging Spa' Country Category at the 2017 World Luxury Spa Awards. A public ballot was held at the awards to ensure that the nominees and awardees were deserving, and that the results are a reliable reflection of the quality of service in the field. To be presented this award is a celebration of achievement in service excellence within the industry.

According to the Parisian Macao's press release, Tracy Lord, Director of Spa Operations at the Parisian and the Conrad Cotai Central said, "we are absolutely thrilled to have received this recognition for Le SPA'tique. This is a highly competitive field and to have come through as winner is a huge endorsement not only of our products and facilities, but especially our highly trained and dedicated staff who take great pride in the wonderful work they do."

Le SPA'tique's facilities include 12 treatment rooms, vitality pools and lounges, a sauna, a steam room, experience showers, a barber shop for men with hair and signature shave services, hair boutique with nail treatments and retail boutique with a full selection of LING skincare and lifestyle gift items.

PARENT-CHILD STAY PROMOTION AT LANGHAM PLACE, GUANGZHOU

Langham Place is offering special room and suite promotional packages that are suitable for a parent-child stay. The hotel will use cartoon elements in their choice of children's bedding and will provide special toiletries, bathrobes and slippers for children. Upon guests' arrival, animal-shaped desserts will be offered as a welcoming treat. In addition, the hotel will provide some children's toys.

As for dining options, the two Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurant, Ming Court, will accommodate children by offering kids' menus which include four animal-shaped dim sums.

Meanwhile, the Open Kitchen will be offering an international cuisine buffet, including seafood, Guangzhou delicacies, and a chocolate fountain that the hotel predicts will be popular among their youngest guests.

In addition, the Open Kitchen will organize parent-child cooking classes. Participating parents and their children will learn how to cook dishes under the guidance of a professional chef.

A variety of other activities will also be launched this summer at the hotel including tea-tasting classes and pottery classes.

SOFITEL TO OPEN IN FOSHAN

Sofitel announced yesterday the opening of Sofitel Foshan in Guangdong province. The hotel is located in Lecong in Shunde, a city known for its appreciation of furniture design.

According to a press release from Sofitel, the new hotel will be 236 meters high with 62 floors, making it the tallest hotel in the city. The hotel will have 325 guest rooms with four themes including modern, post-modern, neo-Chinese and classic French.

In addition, the hotel will feature an in-house furniture gallery display on the 9th and 10th floors, offering unique art pieces and designer furniture.

"With a long history of fine ceramic production, Foshan has morphed into a furniture and accessories hub in recent years. The city's enriched culture blends perfectly



with the design and architecture of Sofitel's DNA," said Michel Molliet, Chief Operating Officer of AccorHotels Greater China.

Dining outlets at the hotel include an all-day dining restaurant, Kwee Zeen, and an Italian restaurant, Allegria, which will offer authentic Mediterranean food. There are also three bars: Noble Bar, Le Bar - Lobby Lounge and the city's first Sky Bar.

Sofitel Foshan is the brand's first property in Foshan and will stand as the 23rd property in Sofitel's Greater China network.

Cape Verde moves to create innovative Special Maritime Economic Zone

THE project of the future Special Economic Zone (EEZ) of São Vicente, Cape Verde, is a priority for the government and the country is preparing to receive the first facility of this kind, focused on the maritime sector and created with the support of China in the Portuguese-speaking countries.

On a recent visit to the island, accompanied by the ambassador of China, the Cape Verdean Prime Minister, Ulisses Correia e Silva, said the integrated project provides for maritime transport, port operations, fishing, specialized logistics support services as well as tourism, science and specialized education in the sea sector.

“I have no doubt that we have found the solution and from here we can make all the difference in the medium and long term, in order to get the economy to work and grow, generating jobs and income, creating investment opportunities for entrepreneurs and achieving people’s happiness,” said Correia e Silva.

He said the feasibility study for the project was being prepared, based on the government’s initial concept and with a view to accelerating the implementation of the project.

“The government and our partners, particularly China, are willing to do that.



City of Praia, Cape Verde

We need to bring the other side – Mindelo society – on board,” he said.

The Cape Verdean government has predicted that the project will be operational by the end of the current term, in just over three years.

From China, support for the project was guaranteed by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a meeting in Praia with his Cape Verdean counterpart Luís Filipe Tavares.

Wang Yi noted the importance of Cabo Verde’s geographical position at the time, adding that the Cape Verdean government “expressed a willingness to participate in the Chinese government’s, ‘Belt and Road’ initiative.”

In an interview with Macao Magazine, published in the next issue, Ulisses Correia e Silva said that China is a “privileged partner” in the project, for its role in supporting its creation, but also given the possibility of the EEZ being able to provide services to Chinese companies and to the wider market.

The advantages of the project include the “archipelago’s strategic” location between Europe and West Africa, as well as China’s experience in the creation of EEZs, the Cape Verdean prime minister said in an interview on the sidelines of the recent meeting of Portuguese-speaking entrepreneurs, in the Cape Verdean capital, Praia. **MDT/Macauhub**

BRAZIL

China interested in Angra 3 nuclear power plant

THE China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) is interested in participating in the conclusion of construction of Brazil’s Angra 3 nuclear power plant which have been halted since 2015, daily newspaper O Globo reported.

According to the Brazilian newspaper, 70 percent of the Angra 3 nuclear power plant is completed, requiring an investment of USD13 billion so that it can finish the work that has been ongoing for thirty years.

CNNC is competing for the completion of the work with Franco-Japanese consortium Areva/Mitsubishi and Russia’s Rosatom.

O Globo said CNNC is not only interested in the Angra 3 project but also in selling nuclear reactors to Brazil.

Brazil’s National Energy Policy Council (CNPE) is expected in September to make a decision on whether the construction project will continue when it is due to negotiate with foreign stakeholders and Brazilian company Eletronuclear (Eletronuclear S.A.).

The chairman of Eletronuclear, Wilson Ferreira, recently said the work can only be completed in 2021. Angra 3 is under construction on Itaoca beach, in Angra dos Reis, in the state of Rio de Janeiro. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Alfred Liu, Vinicy Chan,
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WeWork said in talks to rent in HK's bar district

WEWORK Cos., the co-working space company that's among the world's most valuable startups, is in advanced talks to rent a building in Hong Kong's popular nightlife district near the city's business center, according to people familiar with the matter.

The New York-based firm is seeking to rent Hotel LKF by Rhombus on Wyndham Street, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information hasn't been publicly disclosed. The boutique hotel, located in the Lan Kwai Fong district that's known for its bars and nightclubs, closed down on July 1 and will be converted into an office building by the middle of next year, the owner Peterson Group said in June.

WeWork's expansion in the world's priciest property market comes as soaring office rents have pushed some financial firms and hedge funds out of the financial district. Demand for flexible and shared offices is surging in Asia, with the area taken up by such work spaces in Hong Kong's central business district expected to double this year to 250,000 square feet, according to property broker Colliers International. Flexible work spaces accounted for

BLOOMBERG



about 9 percent of the office space in the city's financial district as of 2016, Colliers said.

Spokeswomen at Peterson Group and WeWork declined to comment. The agreement isn't fi-

nal and negotiations may still fall through, one of the people said.

WeWork rents out flexible office spaces to startups, freelancers and businesses and runs more than 20 office projects across Asia. As

part of its expansion across Asia, WeWork announced a joint venture with SoftBank Group last week in Japan and plans to open its first office in Tokyo in 2018. WeWork earlier this month raised

USD760 million in a funding round that values it at about \$20 billion after the investment, said a person familiar with the matter, ranking it among the world's five most-valuable startups.

The company last year rented more than 100,000 square feet in Hong Kong's Wan Chai and Causeway Bay areas, according to data from Jones Lang LaSalle Limited. Hotel LKF, which includes 14 floors of rooms and nine floors of retail space, is housed above Gordon Ramsay's Bread Street Kitchen & Bar restaurant, which is expected to stay.

The average annual prime office rent in Hong Kong is \$112 per square foot, higher than the \$86 per square foot in London's city center and \$82 per square foot in midtown New York, according to data from Colliers.

Co-working spaces let people stay in traditional office areas while reducing rental costs, Denis Ma, Hong Kong research head at Jones Lang LaSalle, said in a phone interview.

"Twelve months ago, when we talked to developers and asked them what kind of tenants they were targeting to fill up their new buildings, most would've mentioned large international banks. Fast forward to today, most will say they're talking with co-working operators," said Ma. **Bloomberg**

Southeast Asian ride-hailing app Grab raises USD2.5b

JAPAN'S Softbank and China's top ride-hailing firm Didi Chuxing are pouring USD2 billion into the latest round of financing by cash-hungry Southeast Asian taxi app Grab.

Grab said yesterday that it expects another \$500 million will come from other existing and new investors. Its last announced cash injection was in September when it raised \$750 million led by Softbank, whose chief executive Masayoshi Son is Japan's richest person and a self-styled tech visionary.

Grab is vying to dominate the market for car and motorbike hailing in Southeast Asia, where it competes with traditional taxis and rival apps such as Uber.

In Indonesia, the region's biggest economy and most populous country with more than 250 million people, it's in a fierce battle for



customers with local app Go-Jek.

None of the apps are profitable. Didi Chuxing itself raised \$7.3 billion in June last year.

Anthony Tan, the Malaysian co-founder of Grab and its chief executive, said the support from Softbank and Didi would help Grab build an "unassailable market lead" and also expand GrabPay, its mobile payments business.

The ride-hailing apps are popular with resi-

dents of congested Southeast Asian cities, who aside from using them for rides also find them convenient for fetching takeaway food, delivering documents and other tasks.

But they have also faced opposition, with Thailand's government trying to limit their use and taxi drivers in the Indonesian capital Jakarta staging a violent protest last year that snarled traffic for hours. **AP**

Chinese banks halt lending to HNA Group

SEVERAL Chinese banks that helped fund HNA Group Co.'s global acquisition spree are losing their appetite for financing the company, according to people familiar with the matter.

Three of the banks have decided to stop extending new loans to HNA, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private.

One made the decision early this year, the second acted a couple of months

ago and the third moved recently, the people said. A fourth bank trimmed its exposure to the company over the past few months and reduced the size of a credit line, one of the people said, without providing further details.

The four lenders were among the eight largest providers of credit lines to HNA as of 2015, according to the latest publicly-disclosed figures.

HNA, one of China's most acquisitive companies,

took on at least USD73 billion of debt as it transformed from an obscure regional airline into a worldwide conglomerate with multi-billion dollar stakes in Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. and Deutsche Bank AG.

While HNA has cash on hand and there's no indication that the four banks have rebuffed requests for new funding or demanded early repayment, a dearth of fresh credit could further restrain HNA's ambitions as Chinese regulators clamp down on the offshore deals to stem capital outflows and shore up the yuan. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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Beijing warns India of its 'resolve' amid border standoff

Christopher Bodeen

CHINA yesterday warned India not to "push your luck" by underestimating Beijing's determination to safeguard what it considers sovereign Chinese territory, amid an ongoing standoff between the two neighbors over a contested region high in the Himalayas.

Defense ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian reiterated China's demand that Indian troops pull back from the Doklam Plateau, an area also claimed by Indian ally Bhutan where Chinese teams had been building a road toward India's border.

"China's determination and resolve to safeguard national security and sovereignty is unshakable," Wu said at a news conference to mark the upcoming 90th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army.

"Here, I wish to remind India, do not push your luck and cling to any fantasies," Wu said. "The 90-year history of the PLA has proved but one thing: that our military means to secure our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity has strengthened and our determination has never wavered. It is easier to shake a mountain than to shake the PLA."

India has called for both sides to withdraw forces and a negotiated settlement to the standoff that began last month after Chi-



China's defense ministry spokesman Wu Qian

nese troops began working to extend southward the road from Yadong in Tibet.

While the sides have exercised restraint thus far, heated rhetoric in both Beijing and New Delhi has raised concern over a renewal of hostilities that resulted in a brief but bloody frontier war

between the sides in 1962. The nuclear-armed neighbors share a 3,500-kilometer (2,174-mile) border, much of it contested, and China acts as a key ally and arms supplier for India's archrival, Pakistan.

The crisis is expected to be discussed when Indian National

Security Adviser Ajit Doval visits Beijing at the end of this week for a security forum under the BRICS group of large developing nations that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The standoff has been fueled in part by a muscular and increasingly vociferous nationa-

lism among both the Chinese and Indian publics against the background of competition for dominance between the two for influence in Asia.

India has felt threatened by the growing presence of China's navy, diplomats and state-backed companies in the Indian Ocean region, while Beijing resents closer relations between New Delhi and Washington. India's decision not to participate in a massive Chinese-funded push to develop infrastructure and transport routes in Asia, known as the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, has also rankled Beijing.

Here, I wish to remind India, do not push your luck and cling to any fantasies.

WU QIAN
CHINA'S DEFENSE MINISTRY
SPOKESMAN

Keeping up a weeks-long propaganda assault on New Delhi, official Chinese newspapers yesterday again labeled India's actions on the Doklam Plateau as illegal and threatening to China's security.

"Even if the standoff is resolved diplomatically, it has already crippled the bilateral relationship. This will have a long-term impact on Sino-Indian ties," Chinese India scholar Long Xingchun wrote in the Global Times, a nationalistic tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party. AP

US student freed after week held over taxi dispute

Matthew Brown, Billings

AN American university student is free following a weeklong detention in China for allegedly injuring a taxi driver who was roughing up his mother during a fare dispute, in a case that drew objections over the student's treatment from U.S. lawmakers.

Guthrie McLean, a student at the University of Montana, was released from a detention center in Zhengzhou early yesterday, according to his mother, Jennifer McLean, a teacher who lives in the central Chinese city.

"We are very, very very, very happy," Jennifer McLean wrote in an email to The Associated Press. She said the release — at 2 a.m. local time when her son was delivered to

her doorstep — came as a surprise after she'd twice been told to anticipate a release only to be disappointed.

"They have not finished the process completely, but we are hopeful it will go smoothly from here on," she said.

The U.S. State Department confirmed McLean's release, but provided no details citing privacy concerns.

"The safety and security of U.S. citizens overseas is one of the Department's highest priorities," it said in an emailed statement yesterday.

The release followed an agreement with Chinese authorities to drop any charges against Guthrie McLean, according to Montana U.S. Sen. Steve Daines.

Further details on the

agreement were not disclosed. People who answered the phones at Zhengzhou police headquarters said there was no one available to comment on the case.

Daines and U.S. Sen. Jon Tester and Rep. Greg Gianforte had pressed McLean's case with China's Ambassador to the U.S. Cui Tiankai and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. The lawmakers said McLean had been justifiably defending his mother, who is deaf, from the driver, whose knee was reportedly hurt in the encounter.

Jennifer McLean told The AP the taxi driver had been pushing her around and hurting her when her son intervened and pushed the taxi driver to the ground.

Jennifer McLean said

that when police detained Guthrie five weeks later on charges of intentional injury, they demanded the equivalent of USD7,400 in compensation and threatened to imprison her son for up to three years if they refused to pay.

The family did not pay \$7,400, according to Daines, who added that more details would be released at a later time.

"After two 20-hour days in back and forth negotiations with Chinese officials, we were able to come to an agreement that worked for everybody, most importantly for Guthrie and for Jennifer, his mother," Daines said in a conference call with reporters.

Daines said he spoke with Guthrie McLean after his release, and he plans to return to Missou-



la, Montana to resume his studies next month.

Tester and Montana Rep. Greg Gianforte issued statements Sunday saying they were pleased with the outcome of the case.

Guthrie McLean has been majoring in East Asian studies at the University of Montana in Missoula for about two

years and works in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, according to school officials.

He's a U.S. citizen, but he largely grew up in China after living in Missoula as a young child while his mother was studying at the university, according to his boss, Olivia White. AP



Journalists work on laptop computers at the China National Convention Center as Xi Jinping delivers a statement at the end of the Belt and Road Forum

ANALYSIS | CENSORSHIP

China can't keep Winnie the Pooh caged forever

Brad Stone

THERE'S an old adage from early in the web's history, usually attributed to civil libertarian John Gilmore, which proclaims, "The internet treats censorship as damage and routes around it."

It's an optimistic sentiment and one that has been severely tested over the past 20 years, particularly in China. The country's Great Firewall, which blocks access to western websites such as Google, Facebook and Twitter, treats certain politically sensitive topics like radioactive malware, and it has

turned the world's largest internet market into an isolated digital continent. But there have always been drawbridges back to the rest of the world—software tools such as virtual private networks that give businesses and sophisticated internet users in China access to the full web.

Now the Chinese government is preparing to pull up those bridges. The country has told internet service providers to block access to VPNs by early next year. It has shuttered a dozen livestreaming apps that let people broadcast themselves in real-time and potentially distribute political content or por-

nography, evading government regulators. And in the strangest move, last week it blocked some online images of the beloved A. A. Milne character Winnie the Pooh, because online commenters were comparing the physique of the red-shirted bear to that of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Moves to shore up the Great Firewall reliably happen every few years and coincide with the twice-a-decade Party Congress, which will be held again in the fall. This year, the Guardian newspaper has reported, Xi may be looking to stymie opponents who are using the internet to circulate politically

Moves to shore up the Great Firewall reliably happen every few years and coincide with the twice-a-decade Party Congress

damaging allegations against the government.

Chinese officials talk about internet censorship as a pursuit of "internet sovereignty," which basically translates into: We get to set our own online rules, so mind your own damn business. It will be interesting to watch whether, as Gilmore might predict, new workarounds spring up in the absence of conventional VPNs, providing continued access to messaging networks such as Whatsapp, which until now the Chinese government has mostly left alone.

But the great crackdown isn't just a civil rights issue but a significant business one as well. Startups are dependent on VPNs to access services abroad. Western companies rely on VPNs as a tether to their overseas counterparts and to safeguard the security of their data.

The emboldened censorship also comes at a terrible time for the China tech industry's global ambitions. Chinese startups like Didi Chuxing, the ride-hailing juggernaut, or Ofo, the bicycle-rental upstart, are now raising billions from foreign sources like Japan's SoftBank Group Corp., America's Silver Lake Partners or Russia's

DST Global. We also wrote a few weeks ago in Businessweek about the global aspirations of Tencent Holdings Ltd., the messaging and video game giant. Tencent wants to bring its most successful smartphone game, the wickedly entertaining Honour of Kings, to the U.S. and Europe. Now the Chinese government, via an editorial in the state-controlled People's Daily, is accusing the role-playing game of harming Chinese youth and warping traditional values, suggesting it, too, could get caught in a crackdown.

To be sure, China isn't the only country taking steps toward what looks increasingly like digital isolationism. Russia is another country carving out its own corner of the internet through restrictions on where citizens' data can be stored and for how long, as well as the use of censorship—sometimes with amusing consequences.

The U.S., increasingly moving toward nationalism, is introducing new obstacles to economic links between countries. As Reuters reported last week, a secretive U.S. government agency called the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States is now rejecting or at least delaying many proposed acquisitions of U.S. companies by foreign buyers on the basis of national security. This could have a big impact on tech deals in particular. Many of those prospective acquirers are Chinese companies and investors, ramping up their global ambitions at what now seems like an inopportune time.

The internet is going to have a hard time routing around all this. In the immortal words of Winnie the Pooh, that "makes it a bothersome sort of day." **Bloomberg**

Rising politician under investigation for corruption

Christopher Bodeen

ONE-TIME rising Chinese political star Sun Zhengcai is being investigated for violations of party discipline, the ruling Communist Party announced yesterday, making him the highest-ranking serving official to be ensnared by President Xi Jinping's sweeping anti-corruption campaign, now in its fifth year.

The party's anti-corruption watchdog agency said Sun, the leader of the mega-city of Chongqing until last week, is suspected of "serious violation of discipline," its usual shorthand for corruption and abuse of power.

No details were given in yesterday's one-sentence announcement, which comes ahead of a party congress at which Xi is expected to receive a second fi-

ve-year term as party chief and unveil a new slate of top leaders loyal to him alone.

"It's a big show of force," said Willy Lam, a long-time observer of China's elite politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "It shows how over the last five years, Xi has really built up his own faction while the others have been marginalized."

Sun, 53, sat on the party's 25-member Politburo and had been seen as a candidate for promotion to the body's Standing Committee, the select group of leaders who constitute the apex of political power in China.

He was removed suddenly from his Chongqing post last week and replaced by protege Chen Min'er, who is tipped to be promoted to the Politburo, but not its Standing

Committee.

The elimination of Sun, who was identified most closely with the China Youth League faction around Xi's predecessor, Hu Jintao, will help ensure that Xi's supporters will hold strong majorities on both the Politburo and the smaller Standing Committee, Lam said.

"This demonstrates Xi's solid grip on personnel arrangements for the party congress," he said.

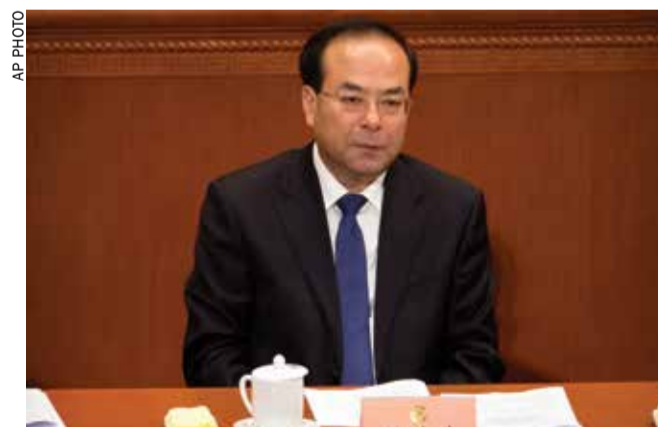
Aside from creating an opening to elevate Chen, a Xi loyalist, Sun's removal is seen as a demonstration of Xi's political muscle and power over the party's factions. Fighting corruption has been a vehicle for Xi to show his influence, and he has pledged to take down both high-ranking officials, known as "tigers," and rank-and-file members, known as "flies."

In China's political parlance, Xi is showing that he remains serious about tackling corruption at the highest levels in the run-up to the party congress that will take place in the autumn, said Qiao Mu, a Beijing political commentator.

"Sun was seen as a rising star, and unlike other high-level officials Xi has gone after, he was not yet retired," Qiao said.

Even after retirement, Politburo members had been seen as practically untouchable in recent decades until Xi took power as party leader in 2012.

Xi shook up China's political establishment by quickly taking down four members of the previous Politburo who left office upon his appointment to the top party post. They consisted of a former security czar, two top gene-



This March 13, 2017 photo, shows the then-party secretary of Chongqing, Sun Zhengcai

rals and the former leader of Chongqing, Bo Xilai, all of whom were accused of corruption.

But until Sun's downfall this month, Xi's campaign had not netted a high-profile "tiger" in years, leading political observers to question whether the campaign was running out of steam.

Chen's appointment also ensures that Xi supporters

control all four of China's major cities that are directly administered under the central government, giving them status equivalent to entire provinces.

It's also a signal to party delegates that "Xi is in charge and if they want to advance, they need to profess loyalty to him," Lam said. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

A look at major issues confronting Duterte in his second year

Jim Gomez
and Teresa Cerojano, Manila

A year ago Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte promised to cleanse his Southeast Asian nation of illegal drugs in three to six months. He said he would tame corruption and began a profanity-spiked tongue lashing of America — which he called “lousy” last week. Those “shock and awe” declarations of a year ago have collided with reality. Drugs and corruption have persisted and he grudgingly thanked the United States recently for helping to quell a disastrous siege in the south by pro-Islamic State group militants.

Thousands of protesters marched with Duterte’s effigy yesterday to demand that he deliver on promises he made in his first state of the nation speech last year, from pressing peace talks with Marxist guerrillas, which is currently on hold, to upholding human rights and the rule of law.

A look at the major issues confronting Duterte as he enters his second year in power.

ISLAMIC STATE-LINKED SIEGE

Two months after more than 600 pro-Islamic State group militants blasted their way into southern city of Marawi, the military is still fighting the last gunmen — fewer than 100, about 10 of them foreign — in the last three occupied villages. Congress overwhelmingly voted on Saturday to grant Duterte’s request to extend martial law in the south to the year’s end to allow Duterte to deal with the Marawi crisis, the worst in his yearlong presi-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte



Duterte (center) sings the national anthem in front of a Philippine flag

dency, and stamp out other extremist groups across the south, something five presidents before him have failed to do.

About half a million people have been displaced by the fighting, some of whom have threatened to march back to the still-besieged city to escape the squalor in overcrowded evacuation camps in nearby towns. Rebuilding Marawi will require massive funds and national focus and will be fraught with pitfalls. Amid the despair and gargantuan rebuilding, it’s important “to ensure that extremist teachings do not find fertile ground,” said Sidney Jones, director of the Jakarta-based

Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict.

DRUG WAR

During the campaign, he promised to rid the country of illegal drugs in three to six months and repeatedly threatened traffickers with death. But he missed his deadline and later declared he would fight the menace until his last day in office. When then-President Barack Obama, along with European Union and U.N. rights officials, raised alarm over the mounting deaths from the crackdown, Duterte lashed at them, once telling Obama to “go to hell.” Duterte’s fiercest critic at

home, Sen. Leila del Lima, was detained in February on drug charges she said were baseless.

More than 5,200 suspects have died so far, including more than 3,000 in reported gunbattles with police and more than 2,000 others in drug-related attacks by motorcycle-riding masked gunmen and other assaults, police said. Human rights groups have reported a higher death toll and called for an independent investigation of Duterte’s possible role in the violence.

Duterte “has unleashed a human rights calamity on the Philippines in his first year in office,” U.S.-based Human Rights Wa-

tch said. In April, a lawyer filed a complaint of crimes against humanity against Duterte and other officials in connection with the drug killings before the International Criminal Court. An impeachment complaint against the president was dismissed in the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Duterte’s allies.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

More than a month into Duterte’s presidency, the Philippines won a landmark arbitration case before a tribunal in The Hague that invalidated China’s massive territorial claims in the South China Sea under a 1982 U.N. maritime treaty.

Aiming to turn around his country’s frosty relations with China, Duterte refused to demand immediate Chinese compliance with the ruling. He promised he would take it up with Beijing at some point. Confronting China, which has dismissed the ruling as a sham, risks sparking an armed conflict that the Philippines would surely lose, Duterte contended.

Nationalists and critics blasted Duterte for what they see as a sellout to China. After meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, China allowed Filipino fishermen to return to the Chinese-controlled Scarborough Shoal, where Chinese coast guard ships had driven Filipinos away since 2012.

The Philippines had been the most vocal critic of China’s aggressive behavior in the disputed waters until Duterte took power and reached out to Beijing, partly to secure funding for infrastructure projects.

His move has effectively de-escalated tensions in the busy sea, but critics have warned that Duterte’s friendly overtures to China may erode the country’s chances to demand that China comply with the ruling and relinquish its claims to waters regarded as the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Britain’s Boris Johnson jokes about Kiwi greeting

BRITISH Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson joked on his visit to New Zealand yesterday that a traditional Maori greeting could be misinterpreted as a head butt elsewhere.

Johnson is visiting the South Pacific nation for two days as Britain looks to strengthen its ties with its former colony amid a broader reshaping of Britain’s global relationships as it prepares to leave the European Union. Topics on the agenda include trade, foreign policy and international security.

He visited the South

Island tourist town of Kaikoura, which was struck by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in November that killed two people.

Johnson thanked townsfolk for looking after tourists, including 200 Britons, who were stranded in the town after the quake and for teaching him a Maori greeting called a hongi, in which people press noses together.

“I think it’s a beautiful form of introduction, though it might be misinterpreted in a pub in Glasgow,” Johnson joked, in a reference to a head butt.

Prime Minister Bill English later said he didn’t think New Zealanders would be offended by Johnson’s comment.

“A hongi is a fairly unfamiliar ritual to almost anyone else in the world,” he said.

Later on Monday, Johnson traveled to Wellington where he unveiled a striking British memorial at the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park.

Designed by New Zealand film company Weta Workshop, the memorial stands nearly 5 meters and depicts the trunks

of a royal oak and an indigenous pohutukawa tree intertwining to form a single canopy.

Johnson said it was his first visit to New Zealand.

“This is the most mind-blowingly, mind-numbingly beautiful country that I have ever seen,” he said, adding it was the only landscape he thinks could do justice to the imagination of J.R.R. Tolkien, author of “The Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit,” which were filmed in New Zealand.

Johnson is due to travel to Australia today. **AP**



British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (right)

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN

Abe denies abusing influence in favoritism scandal

GRILLED by opposition lawmakers as approval ratings for his Cabinet sink, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday repeated his denials that he misused his influence to help a friend in a growing favoritism scandal.

The questioning outside parliament's ordinary session, a rare occurrence, underscores the ruling Liberal Democrat party's eagerness to regain public trust.

Abe is expected to reshuffle his Cabinet next week, after seeing public approval sink following various scandals and his party's railroading of unpopular legislation.

Yesterday's questioning was over allegations that Abe intervened to help a friend, Kotaro Kake, gain approval to open a veterinary school in western Japan.

During the session in the lower house of parliament, Abe said he only sought reforms for the sector in a special economic zone and did not directly get involved in the decision on Kake's application.

"I only instructed to speed up efforts for the deregulation reforms. I have never issued instructions on specific cases," Abe said. "The approval is a result of the process that was appropriate and open."

The school scandal erupted after a whistleblower and former top education ministry bureaucrat, Kihei Maekawa, came forward to say that Abe's office had had significant influence over the school's approval and

AP PHOTO



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

distorted the decision. Scores of ministry documents showed the alleged pressure for an early approval of Kake's application came from the "top levels" of the Prime Minister's Office, said Maekawa.

He and other witnesses, including bureaucrats and two former members of the Abe-commissioned panel on the school, said they were not directly instructed by Abe.

Given the lack of significant center-left alternatives or strong rivals within his party, Abe's te-

nure as prime minister is not under immediate threat.

Still, Abe, in his second stint as prime minister, is getting the message that he might have to tread a bit more softly in pushing for some of his top political priorities, such as revising Japan's war-renouncing constitution.

Approval ratings for Abe's Cabinet, which had enjoyed stable popularity of around 50 percent until earlier this year, recently nosedived to just above 30 percent, and have hit new lows.

Results from Mainichi newspa-

per polls taken over the weekend show that support ratings for Abe's Cabinet stood at 26 percent, down 10 points from last month, with 56 percent disapproving of his government. Sixty-two percent of the respondents said Abe should step down when his term ends next year, while only 23 percent supported his extended leadership.

Abe is also under fire for not replacing his protege, Defense Minister Tomomi Inada, despite repeated scandals. The latest one involves an alleged cover-up

of internal documents, including the daily activities and safety conditions of Japan's Self-Defense Force during its U.N. peacekeeping operations in South Sudan.

The Liberal Democrats suffered a symbolically damaging loss in Tokyo city assembly elections in early July. On Sunday, their candidate lost a closely watched mayoral election in Sendai, in northern Japan.

The losses in the polls are a major setback for Abe because much of his party support was for his record of election victories. Abe, who took office in late 2012, was seeking a third term when his term ends in 2018.

During the questioning yesterday, Abe acknowledged that Kake, director of a major education organization, was a friend even before he became a lawmaker in 1993. But he said Kake has not tried to tap Abe's position or influence to obtain preferential treatment and did not discuss with him his plans to open a new veterinary school in Imabari, in western Japan.

Kake's desire to open such a school was not secret: The application had been repeatedly denied by past administrations for years. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Japan's new National Stadium is seen under construction in Tokyo

Tokyo marks three-year countdown to 2020 Games

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN began its three-year countdown to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics yesterday with concerts, races and other events meant to drum up public enthusiasm for the games.

The 2020 Games will be Japan's first summer Olympics since the 1964 edition in Tokyo. After a rocky start, organizers are gearing up to get the public more involved.

A 15-day, 1,000-kilometer citizens relay began yesterday in northeastern Japan's

Aomori prefecture. Runners and cyclists will travel through areas ravaged by the 2011 tsunami, reaching the capital on Aug. 7.

Other events included group calisthenics, traditional dancing and surfing at the Olympics surfing venue. In Tokyo, a concert and other festivities were planned after dark.

The Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics are due to be held July 24-Sept. 6, 2020.

Since public transport is crowded even without Olympics-related visitors, the government launched an annual

"telework" day yesterday to encourage more people to do their jobs remotely, especially during the 2020 Games. Dozens of companies have pledged to participate.

Troubles over the design for Tokyo's National Stadium, the Olympics logo and soaring costs for the events are still casting a shadow as organizers rush to meet tight deadlines.

In April, a 23-year-old employee of one of the Olympic contractors committed suicide in a case believed to be related to overwork.

Asked about the young man's death after having clocked more than 200 hours of overtime the month before, Hikariko Ono, spokesperson for Tokyo 2020, it was "very unfortunate."

"We extend our condolences to the man who passed away and his family," Ono said. The Tokyo Olympics organizing committee is asking the Japan Sports Council to provide details of the case.

"We would like to remind all the parties to be mindful so that similar cases will not be repeated," she said. **AP**

JAPANESE authorities said yesterday that they were almost finished with their investigation into last month's collision between a Philippine freighter and a U.S. naval destroyer that left seven Navy sailors dead, but still haven't been given access to data from the U.S. side.

The container ship, the ACX Crystal, and most of its crew were allowed to leave Japan for Thailand on Sunday after repairs were finished. Coast guard officials declined to give details.

A spokesman for the company that owns the freighter, Yoshinori Fukushima, said yesterday that the captain and some crew members had stayed behind voluntarily for additional questioning.

The crash occurred on June 17 south of Tokyo off the

US Navy ship collision probe nearly finished



Izu peninsula in an accident-prone area known for congestion with ships trying to reach Tokyo by daybreak. That is within Japanese territorial waters, but the U.S. military holds the right to investigate its naval vessel and has not cooperated with Japan's investigation, which is allowed under the bilateral status of forces agreement, officials said.

Japanese coast guard officials said that they were still discussing possible cooperation with the U.S. side, but that nothing concrete has been decided and they could not say when a conclusion was expected.

U.S. and Japanese officials haven't said whether crew members from the USS Fitzgerald were thought to be responsible for the crash. **MDT/AP**

HEALTH

Girl's HIV infection seems under control without AIDS drugs

Marilynn Marchione

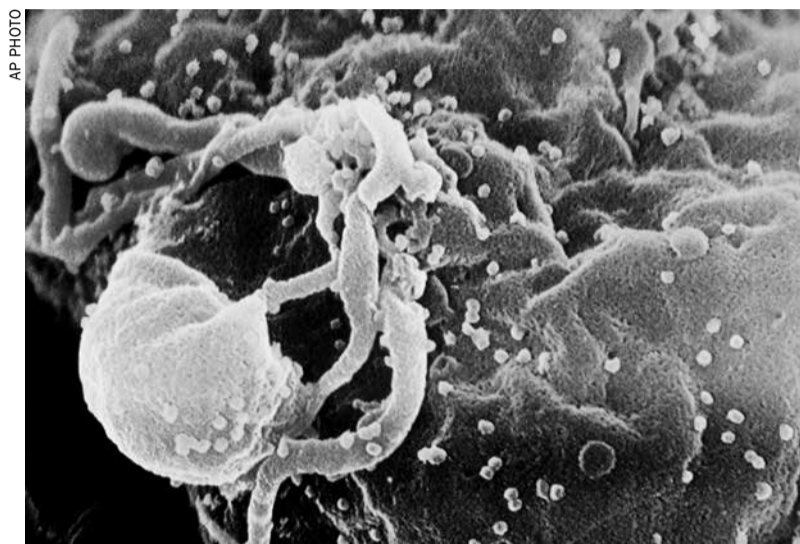
A South African girl born with the AIDS virus has kept her infection suppressed for more than eight years after stopping anti-HIV medicines — more evidence that early treatment can occasionally cause a long remission that, if it lasts, would be a form of cure.

Her case was revealed Monday at an AIDS conference in Paris, where researchers also gave encouraging results from tests of shots every month or two instead of daily pills to treat HIV.

“That’s very promising” to help people stay on treatment, the U.S.’s top AIDS scientist, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said of the prospects for long-acting drugs.

Current treatments keep HIV under control but must be taken lifelong. Only one person is thought to be cured — the so-called Berlin patient, a man who had a bone marrow transplant in 2007 from a donor with natural resistance to HIV.

But transplants are risky and impractical to try to cure the millions already infected. So some researchers have been aiming for the next best thing — long-term remission, when the immune system can control HIV without drugs even if signs of the virus remain.



A scanning electron micrograph of multiple round bumps of the HIV-1 virus on a cell surface

Aggressive treatment soon after infection might enable that in some cases, and the South African girl is the third child who achieved a long remission after that approach.

She was in a study sponsored by the agency Fauci heads, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, that previously found that early versus delayed treatment helped babies survive.

The girl, who researchers did not identify, started on HIV drugs when she was 2 months old and stopped 40 weeks later. Tests when she was 9 1/2 years old found signs of virus in a small num-

ber of immune system cells, but none capable of reproducing. The girl does not have a gene mutation that gives natural resistance to HIV infection, Fauci said, so her remission seems likely due to the early treatment.

The previous cases:

—A French teen who was born with HIV and is now around 20 has had her infection under control despite no HIV medicines since she was roughly 6 years old.

—A Mississippi baby born with HIV in 2010 suppressed her infection for 27 months after stopping treatment before it reappeared in her blood. She was

able to get the virus under control again after treatment resumed.

At least a dozen adults also have had remissions lasting for years after stopping HIV medicines.

A study underway now is testing whether treating HIV-infected newborns within two days of birth can control the virus later after treatment stops. It started in 2014 in South America, Haiti, Africa and the United States, and some of the earliest participants might be able to try stopping treatment later this year.

■ The girl, who researchers did not identify, started on HIV drugs when she was 2 months old and stopped 40 weeks later

Treatment might get easier if two large studies underway now confirm results reported Monday from a study testing a long-acting combo of two HIV drugs — Janssen’s rilpivirine and ViiV Health-

care’s cabotegravir.

Cabotegravir is experimental; rilpivirine is sold now as Edurant and used in combination with other drugs for treating certain types of HIV patients.

After initial treatment to get their virus under control, about 300 study participants were given either daily combination therapy pills or a shot every four or eight weeks of the long-acting drug duo to maintain control.

After nearly two years, 94 percent on eight-week shots, 87 percent on four-week shots and 84 percent on daily pills had their infections suppressed, with similar rates of side effects.

“The results were good regardless of whether people came monthly or every two months for their treatment. This has important policy implications,” said Dr. Linda-Gail Bekker, deputy director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, and a co-leader of the conference.

The study was sponsored by the drugmakers. Results were published in the British medical journal *Lancet*.

Two large studies aimed at winning approval to sell the treatment are testing the monthly shots. Janssen said in a statement that good results from eight-week shots warrant reconsidering the longer approach.

If it works, “this will have a huge impact on how we manage that very important group of people who are not able to access and take drugs on a day-to-day basis,” such as those with mental health or drug abuse problems, said Dr. Steven Deeks, an AIDS specialist at the University of California, San Francisco. **AP**

Sam Mednick

IT’S been five months since the shy, frail 13-year-old was snatched from his bed, drugged and raped in the middle of the night. The boy hasn’t been able to say much since.

“I don’t remember a lot,” Batista says, darting his eyes toward the dirt floor as he sits in a makeshift clinic in one of South Sudan’s displaced people’s camps in the town of Wau. The Associated Press is using only the boy’s first name to protect his identity.

Four years into South Sudan’s devastating civil war, the world’s youngest nation is reeling from sexual violence on a “massive scale,” a new Amnesty International report says. Thousands of women, children and some men are suffering in silence, grappling with mental distress. Some now have HIV. Others were rendered impotent.

The report is based on interviews with 168 victims of sexual violence in South

South Sudan sexual violence on ‘massive scale,’ report says

Sudan and in refugee camps in neighboring Uganda, home to the world’s fastest-growing refugee crisis.

Some of the sexual assaults occur not during the fighting but among the millions of people sheltering from the conflict.

Batista says he was raped in December by a 45-year-old man he’d seen around the United Nations-run camp. Yet the boy didn’t seek psychosocial support until May. Community members say he has kept to himself and is in dire need of help.

The U.N. last year reported a 60 percent increase in gender-based violence in South Sudan, with 70 percent of women in U.N. camps in the capital, Juba, having been raped since the start of the civil war in December 2013.

“This is premeditated sexual violence. Women have

been gang-raped, sexually assaulted with sticks and mutilated with knives,” says Muthoni Wanyeki, Amnesty’s regional director for East Africa. Victims are left with “debilitating and life-changing consequences,” and many have been shunned by their families.

The new report interviewed 16 male victims, some who said they had been castrated or had their testicles pierced with needles.

“Some of the attacks appear designed to terrorize, degrade and shame the victims, and in some cases to stop men from rival political groups from procreating,” Wanyeki says.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and others say both government and opposition forces use rape as a weapon of war — a strategy made



A sign promoting knowledge of gender issues hangs on the wall at a women’s center for South Sudanese refugees focusing on sexual and gender-based violence

worse because of the country’s culture of stigma.

“If a survivor is left unsupported or untreated, he or she may develop more serious mental health problems,” says Aladin Borja, coordinator for the national mental health and psychosocial support group for the International Organization for Migration.

Survivors are discouraged from speaking openly about rape, Borja says, meaning attacks could continue with impunity.

Amnesty International says many victims are targeted because of their ethnicity.

“They hide in the bush and jump out at you and rape you on the road,” says Bakhit Mario, who also shelters in

the U.N. camp in Wau. The 22-year-old is part of the Fertit people, a name for several minority ethnic groups from the north.

She says friends and family have been raped by men who are Dinka, one of South Sudan’s largest ethnic groups and the one of President Salva Kiir.

“I see aborted babies in the camp’s bathrooms,” Mario says. She believes many are a result of unwanted pregnancies due to rape.

South Sudan’s government has condemned sexual assaults, promising that “the government is moving swiftly to protect civilians from such behavior by educating all armed forces and holding perpetrators accountable,” acting government spokesman Choul Laam told the AP.

But victims who have reported their attackers to authorities say they’ve seen little justice. After Batista was raped he told local police, who arrested the perpetrator — only to set the man free a few days later. **AP**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Death toll rises to 9 in sweltering truck

NINE people are dead and the death toll could rise after emergency crews pulled dozens of people from a sweltering tractor-trailer found parked outside a Walmart in the midsummer Texas heat, victims of what officials said was an immigrant-smuggling attempt gone wrong.

The driver was arrested, and nearly 20 others taken from the rig were hospitalized in dire condition, many with extreme dehydration and heatstroke, officials said Sunday.

"We're looking at a human-trafficking crime," said San Antonio Police Chief William McManus, calling it "a horrific tragedy."

One U.S. official said Sunday evening that 17 of those rescued were being treated for injuries that were considered life-threatening. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the information has not been publicly released.

Authorities were called to the San Antonio parking lot late Saturday or early Sunday and found eight people dead inside the truck. A ninth victim died at the hospital, said Liz Johnson, spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The victims "were very hot to the touch. So these people were in this trailer without any signs of any type of water," San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood said.

Authorities would not say whether the trailer was locked when they arrived, but they said it had no working air conditioning.

It was just the latest smuggling-by-truck operation to end in tragedy. In one of the worst cases on record in the U.S., 19 immigrants locked inside a stifling rig died in Victoria, Texas, in 2003.

Based on initial interviews with survivors of the San Antonio tragedy, more than 100 people may have been packed into the back of the 18-wheeler at one point in its journey, ICE acting Director Thomas Homan said. Officials said 39 people were inside when rescuers arrived,



San Antonio police officers investigate the scene where eight of the people were found dead

and the rest were believed to have escaped or hitched rides to their next destination.

Four of the survivors appeared to be between 10 and 17 years old, Homan said. Investigators gave no details on where the rig began its journey or where it was headed.

But Homan said it was unlikely the truck was used to carry the immigrants across the border into the United States. He said people from Latin America who rely on smuggling networks typically cross the border on foot and are then picked up by a driver.

More than 100 people may have been packed into the back of the 18-wheeler at one point in its journey

"Even though they have the driver in custody, I can guarantee you there's going to be many more people we're looking for to prosecute," Homan said.

Mexican Consul General in San Antonio Reyna Torres said Mexican nationals were among the survivors and those who died on the rig.

The Mexican government also released a sta-

tement Sunday night expressing its condolences to the relatives of those who died and called for an "exhaustive investigation"

A Guatemalan official said two natives of Central American country were among those hospitalized. Consul Cristy Andrino in McAllen said the two told her they had crossed into the U.S. on foot and were later picked up by the rig.

Guatemala was seeking to obtain witness status for the two survivors so they wouldn't be deported, Andrino said.

Federal prosecutors said James Mathew Bradley Jr., 60, of Clearwater, Florida, was taken into custody and would be charged on Monday in federal court. The local U.S. Attorney's Office wouldn't say whether Bradley was the alleged driver of the truck who was arrested. It was not immediately known whether Bradley had an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

The U.S. Homeland Security Department stepped in to take the lead in the investigation. Department Secretary John Kelly said the deaths demonstrate the brutality of smuggling organizations that "have no regard for human life and seek only profits."

The truck had an Iowa license plate and was registered to Pyle Transportation Inc. of Schaller, Iowa. A company official did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment.

San Antonio is about

a 240-kilometer drive from the Mexican border. The temperature in San Antonio reached 38 Celsius on Saturday and didn't dip below 32 C until after 10 p.m.

The tragedy came to li-

ght after a person from the truck approached a Walmart employee and asked for water late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, said McManus, the local police chief.

The employee gave the

person water and then called police, who found the dead and the desperate inside the rig. Some of those in the truck ran into the woods, McManus said.

Investigators checked store surveillance video, which showed vehicles arriving and picking up people from the truck, authorities said. Walmart released a brief statement Sunday saying it was doing what it could to help investigators.

On Sunday evening, about 100 people gathered at a San Antonio church for a vigil to mourn those killed.

Immigrants' rights activists and church officials held up handmade signs reading "Who here is not an immigrant" and "No human is illegal."

Those gathered held a moment of silence, then gave speeches blaming federal and Texas authorities' embrace of harsher immigration policies for contributing to the deaths. AP



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what's ON



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

MACAU 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

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

DEBRIS - WORKS BY ALEXANDRE FARTO AKA VHILS

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 5, 2017

VENUE: Navy Yard No. 1

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

CHINA OPENS MOVIE THEATER ON DISPUTED ISLAND

China has opened a state-of-the-art movie theater on disputed Woody Island in the South China Sea's Paracel group in an effort to improve quality of life for the roughly 200 civilians and military personnel on the tiny landmass.

The Yinlong Cinema that opened Saturday is China's southern-most permanent standing movie house, according to Chinese media reports. It's the latest in a series of measures aimed at establishing a more concrete presence in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety.

The chairman of the Hainan Media Group, Gu Shaoqing, was quoted in media reports as saying the Yinlong, or "Silver Dragon," would show at least one feature daily.

"In this way, island residents can enjoy the same cinema service enjoyed by people in other parts of China," Gu was quoted as saying.

The theater can show movies in 3-D and its equipment is portable, allowing it to be transported to other nearby islands as needed.

Taiwan and Vietnam also claim the 2.6-square kilometer island, known as Yongxingdao in Chinese, the largest in the Paracel group, which lies to the north of the even more hotly contested Spratly chain.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Stethem sailed within 12 nautical miles (32 kilometers) of Triton Island in the Paracel Group in an operation affirming the right to passage and challenging what the U.S. considers China's excessive territorial claims in the area. China accused the U.S. of trespassing in its territorial waters and sent ships to intercept the destroyer.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:30	Revenge Sr.4
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

20- 26 Jul

PRIPARA THE MOVIE

ROOM 1

2:00, 5:00pm

Director: Okubo Is Male

Starring:

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 58min

DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 1

10:00pm

Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin

Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 90min

MEOW

ROOM 1

6:00pm

ROOM 3

10:00pm

Director: Benny Chan

Starring: Louis Koo, Mary Ma, Jessica Liu, Andy Huang

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 109min

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

ROOM 1

9:45pm

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min

WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

ROOM 2

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

Director: Matt Reeves

Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min

CARS 3

ROOM 3

2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00pm

Director: Brian Fee

Starring: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 102min

MACAU TOWER

6 - 26 Jul



SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

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

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min

this day in history



2000 CONCORDE CRASH KILLS 113

Concorde has crashed just minutes after take-off, killing all 109 people on board and four people on the ground.

The Air France jet, bound for New York, crashed into a Relais Bleu hotel in the town of Gonesse, 10 miles north of Paris just before 1700 local time (1500 GMT).

It is understood the aircraft, which had taken off from Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport just two minutes earlier, plummeted to the ground after one of the left-hand engines caught fire on take-off.

There were 100 passengers on board, most were German tourists but also included two Danes, an Austrian and an American, all travelling to JFK airport in New York where they were due to join a cruise ship bound for Equador.

The aircraft had been chartered by German tour operator Deillman. Eye-witnesses reported seeing a "huge fireball" followed by a dense cloud of black smoke after the plane hit the ground.

Within minutes of the crash emergency services were on the scene searching through the rubble for survivors. French prime minister, Lionel Jospin, has flown directly to the scene and the German transport minister is on his way.

Flight AF4590 is the first Concorde in the aircraft's 31-year history to crash. This particular aircraft, one of a fleet of six owned by Air France, which has been in service since 1980 was inspected four days ago and threw up no problems.

The accident comes just a day after BA revealed that airline cracks had been found in the wings of all seven of its Concorde.

All Air France Concorde have been suspended and an investigation into the accident has been launched. Investigators are on the scene trying to locate the aircraft's black box.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the accident all Concorde planes were taken out of service.

A total of £17m was spent on safety improvements and the aircraft went back into commercial service in November 2001.

In January 2002 France's Accident Investigation Bureau (BEA) published its report into the accident.

The 400-page report confirmed that a 16in (40cm) piece of metal lost by a plane that had taken off five minutes earlier punctured one of the Concorde's tyres.

This caused debris to be flung into the fuel tank which subsequently started a catastrophic fire.

As part of the safety improvements the supersonic plane's fuel tanks were fitted with bullet-proof Kevlar rubber linings, tougher tyres were introduced and a strengthening of the wiring in the undercarriage bay was undertaken.

However, the aircraft has been dogged by a series of problems since the accident and on 10 April 2003, BA and Air France announced the aircraft would be taken out of service for good by the end of October 2003. Concorde's last commercial flight was on 23 October 2003.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Still chatting away? Dashing around and having fun? Bet you are. The good news is that it's officially time to play. Now you can do it with a clear conscience.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Your work week looks to be ending on a terrific note, and it's all because of you. You've been hitting it hard for a while now, doing your job and someone else's, too - at least one someone else, if not more.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Oh, this is going to be fun. The world is finally in the same mood you're always in - to let go, let loose, chat and laugh - and you've got plenty of interesting invitations to extend and accept.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You've had your suspicions for some time, and now you've got more. What you're wondering about isn't a bad thing, however - you have the feeling that someone is planning something delightful for you.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
That ordinarily charming way you have with words will be even more lethal now, so you should definitely be careful about flinging those casual comments around. You might think you're kidding around.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Did you wake up in the mood to spend some money on either your home or your family? Well, whether you're redecorating, adding a room or a wing or just planning a surprise for a dear one, you'll want to do it up right.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You know how you just want to stuff a sock in their mouth when they keep bringing the conversation back to their wonderful sweetheart over and over again? Right. That could be you if you're not careful.

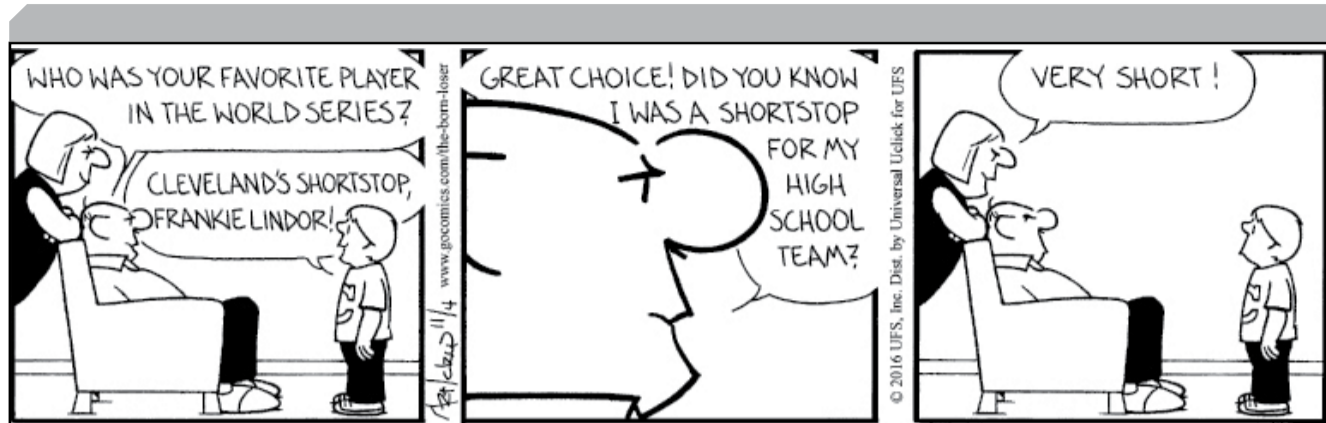
Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You've been far too good for far too long. Ever since the holidays, you've probably been watching every penny. So isn't it time to stop being quite so neurotic about your budget and have some fun? Sure it is.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You've never been one to refuse playtime, have you? And you've been good for ages - extra good, in fact. You're probably thinking about treating yourself to something extra special to celebrate, like maybe a little trip.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
For days you've been dreaming about your spare time and spending it all alone at your place. Well, that's a nice dream, but it's not going to happen. When you least expect it - shortly before quitting time.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Someone who's recently been introduced to you by a friend may turn out to play a major part in your life, starting as soon as today. You might end up traveling with them.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Making someone's day has always been one of your favorite things to do, and you'll have your chance to do it again now. A certain person who really needs a break and a smile will come your way.



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

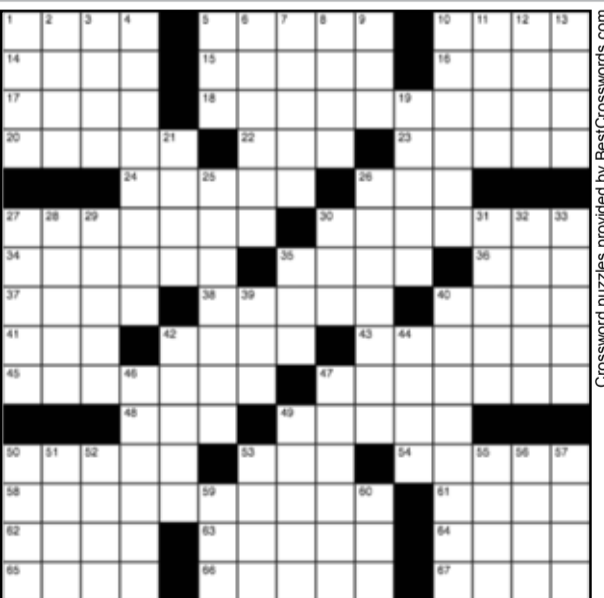
2		1						
	5							4
3					8			
	7	6	8					
1							2	
		5						
2	4							
3								1
							5	

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	29	shower
Harbin	14	28	clear
Tianjin	25	31	overcast/cloudy
Urumqi	22	32	cloudy
Xi'an	29	40	clear/cloudy
Lhasa	11	21	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	24	32	drizzle
Chongqing	29	38	clear
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	29	39	clear/cloudy
Shanghai	30	40	clear
Wuhan	29	39	clear
Hangzhou	28	40	clear
Taipei	28	36	drizzle/overcast
Guangzhou	27	34	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	28	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	16	23	clear/drizzle
Frankfurt	13	22	moderate rain
Paris	15	24	drizzle
London	13	18	drizzle/clear
New York	21	31	moderate rain

ACROSS: 1- ___-shanter (Scottish cap); 5- Brightly colored lizard; 10- Collections of anecdotes; 14- Norwegian saint; 15- Cup-shaped flower; 16- Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya; 17- Fury; 18- Printed heading on stationery; 20- Use a baton, say; 22- Boozehound; 23- Hawk's home; 24- Eats to a plan; 26- Hockey's Bobby; 27- Registers; 30- Raise a grade?; 34- Unification Church member, slangily; 35- Caesar's wings; 36- Rock's Speedwagon; 37- Dies ___; 38- Actress Streep; 40- Shrivelled, without moisture; 41- "... the cows come home"; 42- Lucie's father; 43- Entered; 45- Makes sorrowful; 47- Matured; 48- Toronto's prov.; 49- Lasso; 50- Mosque officials; 53- Maude portrayer; 54- One on slopes; 58- Credibly; 61- Wishing won't make ___; 62- Legal claim; 63- Narrow mountain ridge; 64- American space agency; 65- Thus; 66- Drawing room; 67- Secluded spot;

DOWN: 1- Legal wrong; 2- What there oughta be; 3- Biblical trio; 4- Fulsome; 5- City in GA; 6- Hotel patrons; 7- Choir members; 8- Baseball glove; 9- King Kong, e.g.; 10- Stick; 11- Not e'en once; 12- Jai ___; 13- "The Sweetest Taboo" singer; 19- Street show; 21- Leslie Caron role; 25- Rudimentary component; 26- Earache; 27- Gives off; 28- Water wheel; 29- Author Dahl; 30- Artful; 31- Primp; 32- Creepy; 33- Very much; 35- Former Bush spokesman Fleischer; 39- Pothook shape; 40- Contemptible; 42- Thick; 44- Chooses; 46- Gaming tile; 47- Theater district; 49- Insurgent; 50- Adjective-forming suffix; 51- Gola of Israel; 52- Shake ___ (hurry); 53- Silents star Theda; 55- Romance lang.; 56- "... quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 57- Horse color; 59- ___ deferens; 60- Craving;



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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<p>Macau, One Central Residences, Macau 3 Bedroom Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 25,000 / 1,819 sq ft Ref: 16050589</p>	<p>Riveira H Unit, Tower 1 Macau 2 Bedroom Apartment Stunning Views HKD 16,500 / 1,238 sq ft Ref: 17060650</p>	<p>Nova Taipa, Block 27 Taipa 4 Bedroom Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 23,000 / 2,105 sq ft Ref: 17070652</p>	<p>Cheoc Van Coloane Multi-Storey Property Dazzling Sea Views HKD 79,800 / 6,222 sq ft Ref: 17060651</p>



FOOTBALL

Danilo joins City to provide versatility at back

DANILO will be fulfilling his ambition to play under Pep Guardiola after signing for Manchester City from Real Madrid on Sunday.

The versatile Brazilian defender, who can play on either flank as well as at center back, signed a five-year contract to increase City's threadbare options at full back.

"There has been strong interest from other clubs, but it has always been my ambition to play for Pep Guardiola," Danilo said. "As soon as I heard of his interest, I knew immediately I wanted to be a City player."

City has a shortage of wide defenders after releasing Gael Clichy, Pablo Zabaleta and Bacary Sagna last month and then allowing Aleksandar Kolarov to move to Italian side Roma on Saturday. Kyle Walker, who joined from Tottenham, was the only other full back available to City manager Pep Guardiola before the signing of Danilo.

"Football is very dynamic and it requires quality players in every position, so I think a player who



can play in different positions at a good level has an advantage, and becomes very important for the

team as well," said Danilo, who is awaiting his British work permit. "I prefer just to play. I don't have a favorite position. I am used to playing as right-back but any time I'm on the pitch in the starting 11, I'm always happy."

"He [Guardiola] told me I'm ready and that I can play in several positions, right back, left back, midfield. I just hope to help him out as he expects."

Danilo is leaving Madrid two years after joining from Porto, having won back-to-back Champions League titles and the Spanish title once. Financial details of the transfer to City were not disclosed. **AP**

CITY SIGNS MENDY

MANCHESTER CITY has announced the signing of left-back Benjamin Mendy from Monaco. The 23-year-old Frenchman was part of the Monaco team which won last season's French title and knocked

out City on its way to the Champions League semifinals. City's director of football Txiki Begiristain says in a statement that Mendy is "one of the world's best full-backs" and "a fantastic addition to the squad."

Spain's sports court opens disciplinary procedure vs. Villar

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

SPAIN'S administrative court for sport has initiated disciplinary procedures against Spanish football federation president and FIFA vice president Angel Maria Villar after he was arrested and jailed in a corruption probe.

The opening of the disciplinary procedure on Monday clears the way for Spain's sports authority, the Higher Council of Sport, to rule whether it will temporarily suspend Villar. The Council is expected to meet on Tuesday.

The court's decision had been expected since Thursday, when the Higher Council of Sport asked the court to act against Villar following his arrest.

Villar, his son Gorka, federation vice president Juan Padron, and Ramon Hernandez, the secretary of the regional football federation of Tenerife, were arrested last Tuesday when police raided the national federation's headquarters and



Angel Maria Villar (right)

other properties.

The four were arrested on charges of improper management, misappropriation of funds, corruption and falsifying documents.

National Court judge Santiago Pedraz ordered last week that the Villars and Padron remain in jail without bail after questioning them. Hernandez's bail was set at 100,000 euros (USD116,000).

Judge Pedraz said the 67-year-old Villar is suspected of misappropriating private and public funds received by the federation "at least since 2009." **MDT/AP**

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GOLF

Spieth takes road less traveled to British Open

Doug Ferguson, Southport

THE start was not what anyone expected out of Jordan Spieth. All that mattered to him was how he finished the British Open. And that might have been the biggest surprise of all.

The record will show that Spieth took a three-shot lead into the final round at Royal Birkdale, closed with a 1-under 69 and won by three shots over Matt Kuchar, giving him the third leg of the career Grand Slam.

"Seventeen pars and a birdie would have been fine, too," Spieth said, the silver claret jug at his side. "But there's a lot of roads to get there."

The road less traveled? This was more like blazing a new trail.

Seve Ballesteros won the 1979 British Open at Royal Lytham & St. Annes by making birdie from the parking lot. Spieth was spared at Royal Birkdale by making a bogey from the driving range when he was expecting no better than a double bogey.

Henrik Stenson finished with four birdies over the last five holes at Royal Troon last year to pull away from Phil Mickelson in one of golf's greatest duels. Trailing for the first time all weekend, Spieth went birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie to overcome his own doubts and win his third major just four days before he turns 24.

"He's a fighter. He's shown that the whole way through his short career," Rory McIlroy said. "He can dig himself out of these holes. He's an absolute star."

Spieth headed back home to Texas with golf's oldest trophy, and the first drink to be poured must surely be some magic elixir.

How else to explain how he pulled this one off?

"It was certainly a show that he put on," Kuchar said.

It sure didn't look like that at the start, when Spieth made three bogeys on his opening four holes to lose his lead, regained a two-shot advantage with a birdie and an exquisite pitch for par on the tough sixth hole, and then gave it right back with a three-putt bogey on the ninth as Kuchar made birdie.

Spieth couldn't help but think to the last time he had the lead in a major. It was 15 months ago when he lost a five-shot lead on the back nine at Augusta National, and the memories still lingered.

"As you can imagine, thoughts come in from my last scenario when I was leading a major on Sunday," he said. "I was so confident and all of a sudden, the wheels have kind of come off everything. And how do we get back on track to salvage this round and just give yourself a chance at the end? It took a bogey to do so."

Lost in the birdies and eagle during that mesmerizing stretch of golf was an intelligent question in the midst of a major meltdown.

Spieth's tee shot on the 13th hole went some 75 yards right of the fairway, and he was told it bounced off a spectator's head into even more trouble. The ball eventually was found nestled in thick grass on the slope of a dune so steep that Spieth could barely take a stance, much less swing a club.

He had nowhere to go. He only had the presence to ask a rules official, "Is the range out-of-bounds?" No, it wasn't.

That allowed Spieth to take a one-shot penalty for an unplayable lie and go back as far as he wanted on a line from the ball to the flag. That led him to the range, right in the middle of the equipment trucks. He was able to move some more to get the trucks out of his line, and then it was a matter of the shot.

He couldn't see where he was going because of the dunes. He didn't know how far — Spieth thought it was about 270 yards, caddie Michael Greller thought it was 230 yards, and the caddie persuaded him to hit a 3-iron.

It came up short of a pot bunker near the green, and Spieth pitched over it to about 7 feet. "The putt on 13 was massive," he said.

Kuchar, who had to wait 20 minutes for the ruling, missed his 15-foot birdie putt and only led by one. Just not for long.

What followed was a sequence that takes its place in major championship lore.

Spieth hit a 6-iron that narrowly went in the cup, leaving a short birdie putt. He holed a 50-foot eagle putt on the next hole to regain the lead. And he followed that with a 30-foot birdie putt for the 16th. And when Kuchar holed a 20-footer for birdie on the 17th to stay in the game, Spieth poured in a 7-footer on top of him.

Kuchar shot 69 and didn't make a mistake until it no longer mattered. Imagine having a one-shot lead, going par-birdie-par-birdie, and being two shots behind.

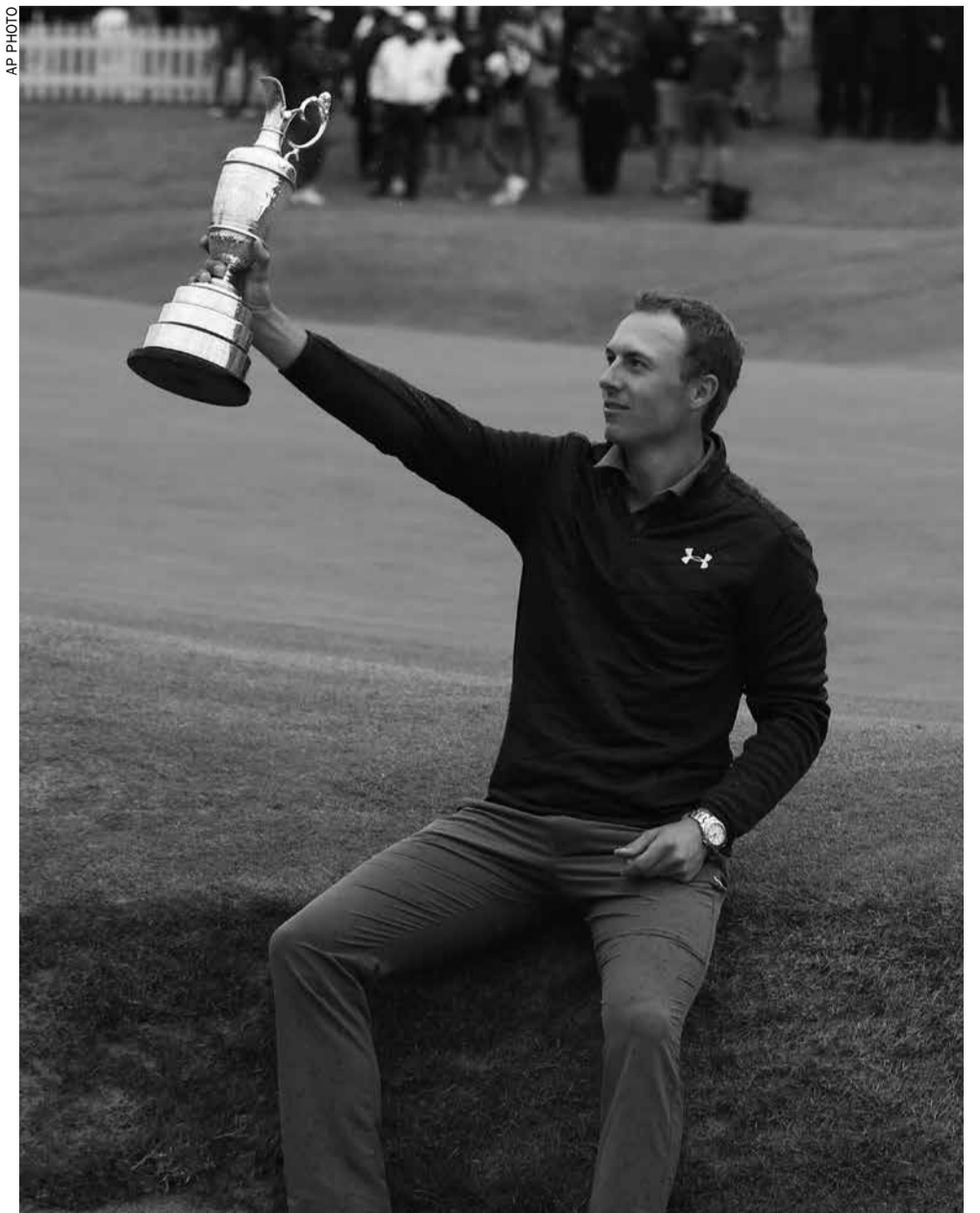
"I can only control what I do, how I play," Kuchar said. "Jordan is a great champion and certainly played that way in the finishing stretch."

Next up is to see if Spieth can finish off the slam.

He joined Jack Nicklaus as the only players to get the third leg of the career Grand Slam at age 23. Spieth now goes to the PGA Championship next week in North Carolina with a chance to be the youngest to win them all.

"This is a dream come true for me," Spieth said. "Absolutely a dream come true."

That's about what it looked like over the final, wild hour. A dream. **AP**



Jordan Spieth of the United States holds the trophy after winning the British Open Golf Championships

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opinion

Views on China

Shuli Ren, Bloomberg

HONG KONG STOCKS ARE RIDING A RUNAWAY LIQUIDITY TRAIN

When investors place large orders on China Mobile Ltd. on a sleepy Friday afternoon in high summer, it's a good sign that Hong Kong's bull train is hard to stop.

The catalyst was AAC Technologies Holdings Inc., an Apple iPhone supplier. AAC's management toned down its second-quarter outlook for revenue growth, prompting analysts from Jefferies Group LLC to Morgan Stanley to lower their price targets. Its shares dropped as much as 15.3 percent, while other growth stocks, such as Sunny Optical Technology Group Co. and Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd., were collateral damage.

Investors didn't leave the market, though. Instead, there were USD300 million of trades in China Mobile, twice as much as the daily average and the most in more than a month, sending the shares 1.9 percent higher. The logic was that while China Mobile might be boring, it's a value substitute for technology stocks that have soared 55 percent in China this year, and a safe place to park cash.

Let's credit liquidity, too, especially from foreign investors. In the five-day period ended July 19, the latest for which data are available, global funds bought a net \$874 million of Hong Kong and offshore Chinese stocks, the largest weekly inflow since mid-May. Cash coming from mainland investors, meanwhile, remains limited.

To help gauge the impact of cheap money in Hong Kong, just look at interest rates. In theory, they should track those in the U.S., since the local currency is pegged to the dollar. But the Libor-Hibor spread is now at the widest since the financial crisis.

That spread was even wider in 2006 and 2007, according to Nomura Securities Co., because of the heavy IPO schedules of Chinese state-owned companies. The offering of Bank of China Ltd. in Hong Kong alone, in June 2006, was oversubscribed 76 times and tied up \$37 billion of funds in the subscription process.

This time, China seems to have persuaded global investors its economy is doing well. GDP expanded 6.9 percent in the first half (if you believe the numbers) and retail sales growth accelerated from 9.5 percent in May to 10 percent in June, the fastest pace since 2015.

After a stellar rally this year, offshore Chinese stocks are now just under 10 percent shy of the record high reached in April 2015. Excluding notoriously cheap banks, companies in the MSCI China Index are trading at an average 17.5 times forward earnings, a good standard deviation above the 10-year average. Value investing is becoming more difficult.

Still, there are plenty of stocks in Hong Kong that can be considered cheap. Those big Chinese banks continue to trade below book value, and there are dividend plays, too: Take the reaction to CK Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. and Power Assets Holdings Ltd. after special dividends last week.

If standing in front of a liquidity train seems like a bad idea, an alternative might be riding it.

THE BUZZ SIX BELGIANS JAILED AFTER DIVE INTO VENICE'S GRAND CANAL

Venice's mayor says six young Belgian men were going to spend the night in jail after they dived from a bridge into the lagoon city's Grand Canal.

Mayor Luigi Brugnaro also tweeted "caught!!!" after police detained the tourists, ages 21 to 23, following the 10-meter leap after dawn Sunday from Constitution Bridge near the parking terminal for cars, which are banned

from the historic center.

The mayor said he hoped the "most exemplary punishment possible" would be meted out for the prank. Stiff fines or being banned from Venice are among possible sanctions, although just how high fines might be wasn't immediately known.

Officials said that police monitoring surveillance camera footage spotted the tourists as they dived.

EAST TIMOR

Main parties able to form gov't but lose ground

Raimundos Oki, Dili

EAST Timor's two main political parties won enough votes in a weekend parliamentary election to form another national unity government but lost ground to opposition forces in a sign of frustration with slow economic progress.

With all votes counted yesterday, the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction party of independence hero Xanana Gusmao, or CNRT, had won 29.5 percent, down from 36.7 percent in 2012, when it was the top-polling party. Fretilin, or Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, captured 29.7 percent of the vote.

Fretilin declared itself the victor on Sunday and to loud applause and cheers of "Viva Fretilin" its secretary-general Mari Alkatiri said it is open to forming a coalition with CNRT.

The vote Saturday was East Timor's first parliamentary election without U.N. supervision since peacekeepers left in 2012.

The former Portuguese colony voted overwhelmingly for independence in 1999 after 24 years of brutal Indonesian occupation. Indonesia's military and pro-Indonesian militias responded to the independence referendum with scorched



Former East Timorese President Xanana Gusmao speaks to supporters during a CNRT Party campaign rally in Dili

earth attacks that devastated the East Timorese half of the island of Timor.

In recent years, leaders have focused on big-ticket infrastructure projects to develop the economy, funding them from a dwindling fund of former oil riches, but progress is slow. Today, the country of 1.3 million people still faces poverty, with many lacking clean water and sanitation. Unemployment is high and young people are increasingly going overseas for work.

The Popular Liberation Party, a new political force led by former President Taur Matan Ruak, and the Democratic Party each scooped up about 10 per-

cent of the votes. A new youth party, Khunto, got about 6 percent of the vote, which would give it 5 seats in the 65-member parliament.

Nearly two dozen parties contested the election, in which they must win more than 4 percent of the vote to get seats in parliament. Results will be official once certified by the country's Court of Appeal, likely later this week.

In the first few years after the independence, Fretilin, whose paramilitary arm had waged guerrilla warfare against Indonesia's occupation, was popular enough to form a government alone. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Anupam Nath



Indian Pnar or Jaintia tribesmen carry 'Rongs' or chariots and dance in muddy waters during Behdienkhlam festival celebrations in Tuber village, in the northeastern state of Meghalaya, India. Behdienkhlam is a traditional festival of the Pnars celebrated after sowing is done seeking a good harvest and to drive away plague and diseases.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good	
Ambient	15-35 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

ISRAEL-JORDAN

A deadly shooting at Israel's Embassy in Jordan further complicated Israeli government efforts yesterday to find a way out of an escalating crisis over a major Jerusalem shrine, including mass Muslim prayer protests and Israeli-Palestinian violence.



TURKEY Journalists and staff from a Turkish newspaper staunchly opposed to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have gone on trial in Istanbul, accused of aiding terror organizations — a case that has added to concerns over rights and freedoms in Turkey.

EU-RUSSIA European Union officials are "activating all diplomatic channels" to press home their concerns that looming U.S. energy sanctions against Russia could affect Europe's energy supplies, a spokesman said yesterday.



POLAND Peaceful protesters who spent over a week marching by candlelight celebrated a significant victory yesterday when President Andrzej Duda unexpectedly announced that he will veto two of three contentious bills they had opposed which would have sharply curtailed the independence of the judiciary.

BRAZIL-PARAGUAY

Police in Paraguay say a shooting at a nightclub near Brazil has left four Brazilian citizens dead and 10 people wounded. The incident took place in the northeastern city of Pedro Juan Caballero, separated by just a street from Ponta Pora in Brazil.