



UNUSUAL REJECTION AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
After a long debate, lawmakers have rejected two numbers of an article regarding unpaid property management fees

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EIGHT YEARS OF PAKEONG SEQUEIRA

▲ P7 ART



LANDSLIDE KILLS 23 IN SICHUAN
A rain-triggered landslide hit a village in southwest China yesterday, killing 23 people and leaving two others missing

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

WORLD BRIEFS

MALAYSIA's government yesterday launched an inquiry into massive foreign exchange losses by the central bank more than two decades ago, in a probe that could lead to criminal prosecution for former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. *More on p13*

THAILAND A prominent journalist was charged yesterday with sedition and violation of the country's computer law for online postings concerning politics.



JAPAN The threat to Japan from North Korea has reached a “new stage” now that the country is capable of launching an intercontinental ballistic missile and its nuclear weapons program has advanced, a defense ministry report said yesterday. The security review came just a week after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe revamped his Cabinet after a slew of politically costly scandals.



PAKISTAN's banned militant group Jamaat-ud-Dawa is seeking to enter the political sphere by launching a new party. Saifullah Khalid, a religious scholar and longtime official of the group, said his party will work to make Pakistan “a real Islamic and welfare state” and that it's ready to cooperate with like-minded parties. *More on p13*

More on backpage

AP PHOTO



HONG KONG

Beaches close after oil spill

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JIM MURREN, MGM

‘I’m extremely excited about the future of Macau’

▲ P4-5 MDT INTERVIEW

Residential price index on the rise

The Statistics and Census Service stated that the overall residential price index in the second quarter of 2017 increased by 3.7 percent from the previous quarter to 253. This marks the fifth consecutive quarter of increase. The index for the Macau Peninsula is 253.7 and 249.9 for Taipa and Coloane respectively. Both have risen from the first quarter of 2017 by 3.6 percent and 4.3 percent respectively. Meanwhile, the index for pre-sale residential units is 247.2, increasing by 6 percent quarter-to-quarter. The index for residential units with a usable floor area between 50 to 74.9 square meters is 281.7, increasing by 5.7 percent quarter-to-quarter, while the index for those with a floor area of 100 square meters or more is 232.1, rising by 4.3 percent.

Gaming operators cancel two-day weekend

Multiple gaming operators have reportedly cancelled the two-day weekend off. As a result, some of the employees of these operators have complained that it is now more difficult for them to ask for days off. Previously, during the region's economy adjustment period, gaming operators had flexible holiday arrangements in place. The Gaming Employees Home noted that as the city's gaming revenues grow, some gaming operators are reportedly canceling their flexible holiday-taking measures. The president of the association informed that about 30 percent of the association's members had reported the aforementioned situation, hoping the employers would make some changes.

FAOM reportedly defamed

The Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) reported a claim of recent defamation to the Electoral Committee. The association claims that at the end of June, boards with discrediting information written on them were noticed at the Border Gate Square. The discrediting text included accusations claiming that FAOM received large amounts of financial support, and that FAOM "has three non-local workers for every four among its employees." The association denied the accusations, saying that the association received reasonable financial support and only hires non-local employees according to its needs.

AL PLENARY

Unpaid management fees norms rejected

Julie Zhu

LEGAL norms suggesting that house buyers should be accountable for paying property management fees owed by the house sellers (in particular, those who already purchased the houses and are selling them to another party) sparked a fierce debate among the lawmakers during yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting. In an unusual move, after a long debate, lawmakers have rejected numbers three and five of article nine included in the new law regarding property management for common areas of condominiums.

Despite the rejection of the controversial norms, the bill was given the final green light yesterday.

Ng Kuok Cheong said that the controversial norms indicate that "the government is not confident in solving the problems, resorting to faster methods, choosing [this] way instead." Melinda Chan said that the new norms should not be included in the new bill. "Writing it here is unfair for new buyers as it sets up a trap for them in which they have to pay fees for two years," she concluded.

"I extremely oppose it [the norms]," said Mak Soi Kun, adding "the fees were generated because you [previous buyers] lived there. Why should new buyers have to cover them?"



Angela Leong also said that the article is an unfair policy. "Many opinions in society are not in favor of this policy, [...] it is letting buyers become victims, in some way, innocently. Owing property management fees is a problem of personal morality," said Leong, who also doubted "whether the policy is suspected to encourage owners to become indebted of property management fees."

Ho Ion Sang deemed the norms to be "going against the rule of fairness. I disagree with this article. It will leave many buyers owing property management fees, which will cause a bigger chaos," he added.

Au Kam San noted that "from the law, [we] can see that you [the government] have thought of many methods, but they all are uncertain."

Lam Heong Sang said "the article has been changed many times, it is a compromising one." He further suggested the govern-

ment should learn from Hong Kong which bans those residents owing property management fees from leaving the territory.

Song Pek Kei also voiced her opposition to the article by saying "it is indeed unfair for new buyers. [...] [Buyers] have not even enjoyed the service, but need to pay for it."

Cheung Lup Kwan added his opinion, noting "I don't understand why if you [the government] have such consideration, then [buyers] should cover this inexplicably."

Chui Sai Peng said that the government was undoubtedly intending to implement a kind initiative by establishing such article, although he thinks it needs to be improved.

Fong Chi Keong voiced his opposition towards the article, saying "do you [the government] think it is reasonable?" He said "other people need to pay for what you [house sellers] used. [...] Is the government

being reasonable? It should be more reasonable than the public, [but] the government is becoming irrational. [...] It is such a big joke, the legislation is really immature, [...] The government is not rigorous while working on this law, and made huge mistakes. I do not understand the government's attitude. How can you, as legal professionals, draft such article and then face people? The barrister [Leonel Alves] has not spoken yet, he will certainly conclude for you."

Lawmakers Zheng Anting and Tong Io Cheng also expressed their disagreement with the article.

However, lawmakers Chan Chak Mo and Ng Kuok Cheong voiced their support.

The director of the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ), Liu Dexue, said that there are several legal mechanisms established to protect new buyers.

Leonel Alves noted that property management companies should appeal to the court when someone fails to pay their contributions to the property management. "Why property management companies do not appeal to the court? [...] How come it happens that the entity itself was not diligent in collecting payments due," asked Alves. He then turned to Fong Chi Keong and said "it [the law] is not only asking for debts for one year, but interests are also included."

Several lawmakers continued to voice their opposition towards the article.

Fong Chi Keong said "the bill encourages people to break the law, as it definitely encourages them not to pay property management fees. If irresponsible people draft such an article, how can it be reasonable?"

Trump's company: Macau trademarks come with no intentions

THE Trump Organization has clarified in a statement to CNNMoney that the company, owned by U.S. president Donald Trump, has no intention to develop businesses in Macau. The statement comes in response to speculation that Trump was deliberating whether to bid for a Macau casino license once the

current concessionaire licenses begin to expire in 2020.

According to media reports this week, DTTM Operations LLC, a company representing Trump, had filed four applications under the Trump brand, one of which is for gambling services.

However, in the statement, the Trump Orga-

nization said that it "has been zealously enforcing and protecting its intellectual property rights around the world for more than 20 years, particularly in jurisdictions where trademark infringement is rampant."

It added that the recent trademark applications in the MSAR are a continuation of these defensive measures.

The applications for the four new trademarks were submitted around two months ago.

In 2012, the Macau government approved the three brands with the Trump name: "Donald Trump", "Trump Tower" and "Trump International Hotel and Tower". Then last year, the U.S. president won a legal battle against a

small company in the city over the trademark, securing the use of the name in the hospitality and restaurant business.

So far this year, the Trump empire has been awarded several new trademarks on the mainland, with Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter, being one of the main beneficiaries.

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NG LAP SENG

Bail rules no closed door massages

A judge tightened security Monday at the luxury Manhattan apartment where a Chinese billionaire convicted of bribing United Nations diplomats will likely reside under 24-hour guard until sentencing. The move is a precaution fought for by prosecutors who suspect Ng Lap Seng may try to flee the country before he is sentenced.

Defense attorney Andrew Genser, who argued on Ng's behalf, said his client has faith in the U.S. judicial system and had no plans to flee. "He hasn't been sitting around trying to plot some escape plan," Genser said. "He's been plotting his appeal."

U.S. District Judge Vernon S. Broderick rejected a request by prosecutors to immediately imprison 69-year-old Ng Lap Seng after his conviction over a week ago



on bribery and money laundering charges. The charges carry a potential prison term lasting decades, though his actual sentence would be far less.

"It is literally difficult to imagine a defendant with a greater incentive to flee," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Richenthal.

A jury convicted Ng of

paying over USD1.7 million in bribes to two ambassadors from 2010 to 2015 to arrange support to construct a huge U.N. conference center in Macau, where he resides. No sentencing date has been set.

At Monday's hearing, Broderick seemed surprised to learn that Ng was receiving massages every other day in

his bedroom with the door closed and that the massage therapist remained at the apartment for four to 10 hours, cooking meals that were sometimes also served to Ng's armed guards.

The judge put one of the guards from a private security company on the witness stand and learned that the guards used Ng's visitors, mostly family, as interpreters and that the guards generally did not use a security wand to search familiar members of Ng's family for metal objects when they entered the apartment.

Broderick ordered the guards to stop eating food cooked in Ng's apartment, to use the wand to search all visitors for metal objects and to ensure the bedroom door remains open during massages while making periodic walk-through checks of the apartment.

He also ordered the guards to enable prosecutors or federal law enforcement to see video feeds of rooms within the apartment. And he limited visitors to family members with a requirement that a third guard be required if more than five adults were in the apartment. **MDT/AP**

Over 5,000 tickets sold for Int'l Music Festival

Tickets for the 31st Macau International Music Festival (MIMF) went on sale on Sunday and over 5,000 tickets have been sold as of yesterday. More than half of the available tickets were sold. According to a statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), a large number of people waited at different ticket offices to purchase tickets, and IC had sent staff to maintain public order at the ticket offices. Tickets for the shows "El fog by Masayoshi Fujita," "Guimarães String Quartet," "Novus String Quartet" and performances by the Vienna Philharmonic are sold out. Limited numbers of tickets are still available for the grand opening and other performances. The 31st MIMF will be held from September 29 to October 30.

UM scholar receives international award

Mario Cams, an assistant professor from the University of Macau's Department of History, recently received the 2017 DHST Prize for Young Scholars from the Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST), International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, for his outstanding academic performance and research in the field of the history of science. Cams received the award for his new book "Companions in Geography: East-West Collaboration in the Mapping of Qing China". The award presentation ceremony took place at the 25th International Congress of History of Science and Technology held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The prize is awarded every four years to young historians of science and technology.

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Paulo Barbosa

Theater to play central role in MGM

THE theater will be one of the central elements of the HKD26 billion integrated resort which MGM is set to open in the fourth quarter of 2017. MGM Resorts chairman and CEO Jim Murren made no attempt to hide his enthusiasm over the theater's innovative concept.

"I'm incredibly excited about this theater. I was just there two days ago with my friends and partners at Scéno Plus and the MGM Cotai team and I've never seen anything like it. And I have to say that I have been to just about every major theater in the world, including all of them here and I can say with great confidence that there is no theater like this," Murren said on Sunday in an interview with Macau Daily Times and Macao Daily.

"The magic of this theater is its organic, dynamic dimension, a combination of incredibly cutting edge technology with some of the most creative live performers in the world," he added.

MGM Resorts has extensive experience in developing entertainment facilities. In December, the company opened a USD1.4 billion resort casino at National Harbor in Maryland. That property has a 3,000-seat



Custom arrangements can be created at the MGM Theater for special events, from traditional concerts to eSports gaming

theater. When asked to compare it with the upcoming MGM Cotai Theater, Murren recognized the similarities, such as the cooperation with Scéno Plus, a performance arts and entertainment design firm. But there are also major differences.

"MGM is the largest entertainment company in the United States and we sold over eight million tickets last year alone to our theatrical events. We have 13 theaters and our newest theater has been built outside of Washington D.C. We used Scéno Plus to help us with that theater and we are using

them again here in Macau. The key differences between the two theaters are that we felt it was very important here to deliver something that no one has seen before. The theater at National Harbor is beautiful, it's technologically very advanced, but it's fairly traditional," Murren pointed out. The CEO describes the theater in Cotai as "the most dynamic theater in the world and the most flexible, designed not only to entertain but also to launch, whether it is a great brand, a cultural event or a standing show." Another difference is that the local theater

will host three resident shows, whereas at National Harbor there are none.

In a press release issued yesterday, MGM China disclosed details on the features of its Cotai Theater. One of the most

impressive is the 900-square-metre 4K (or ultra HD) LED screen, which is the size of three tennis courts combined. The ultra-high-resolution live video system will be able to capture the audience's reaction and virtually reflect it as life size onto the LED wall, giving the public an impression of looking into a mirror. According to the information disclosed by MGM, "upon completion, the MGM Theater will be home to the world's largest indoor LED screen."

Over two years in the making, the theater can seat up to 2,000 people in more than 10 different configurations, which, according to Murren, allows it "to create almost instantly 10 different theaters within one ▶

TRAINING PROGRAM IN HOLLYWOOD

A GROUP of 10 MGM team members recently went to Hollywood for a two-week training program where they learned to familiarize themselves with the entertainment technology they will be operating at the theater. The group has visited VER,

the creative experience company that supplied the LED panels on the Cotai theater giant wall. "They have now returned and they are training and teaching a whole new generation of theatrical experts that will be local," commented Jim Murren.

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Cotai resort

environment.”

Attention has been given to detail. The reconfigurable seating was developed by GALA Systems, a manufacturer of understage equipment, and the seats are designed and manufactured by Poltrona Frau, an Italian furniture maker which is also the seat maker for Ferrari cars.

Questioned about the investment made in the theater, Murren noted that the largest investment ever made by MGM Resorts in a theater was previously USD250 million. In Cotai, they will have spent even more, making it “the largest investment of time and money we have ever made in a theater.”

The MGM Resorts CEO recalled how his vision for the theater started to unfold: “When our friends at Scéno Plus came to me and my team, we gave them a very audacious mis-

The theater will be home to three resident shows

sion. We wanted to see what is possible in the world. They gave us dozens of ideas that would create the most innovative stage, the most innovative video experience, the most diverse in terms of seating configuration and we said we want it all. They were floored, they couldn't believe we would say that. They were hoping that we could pick two or three of these great advances and we said that is not good enough for Macau.”

The theater will be home to three resident shows with two being launched first, “The Experience” and “Destiny.” Tailored to Macau, “The Expe-



The theater can be transformed into a nightclub

rience” will be a celebration of the city's history. “It will begin with Macau's ancient routes, symbolizing the lotus flower and take the guests of the theater through a journey of Macau right to present day. It is also a celebration of the technology itself of the theater,” said Murren. “Destiny” is an immersive theatrical production that is more interactive than a traditional theatrical performance.

“We would liken it to a game show or an adventure video experience where the audience plays a very important role,” he added.

Murren's plan is “to weave the resident shows into a one-of-a-kind special entertainment” which will be “very different, much more rich from an intellectual and creative content perspective.”

“We have learned around the

world that guests are earning for experiences and experimental opportunities. They are no longer simply interested in taking a picture next to a monument but experiencing something unique,” he said.

The entire Cotai resort will create those experiences for visitors and locals alike and the theater will be an excellent way to demonstrate that,” Murren concluded.

Q&A JIM MURREN MGM RESORTS CHAIRMAN AND CEO

‘I’m extremely excited about the future of Macau’

Paulo Barbosa

JIM Murren expressed supreme confidence that the MGM Cotai resort, which will open later this year, will be awe-inspiring. The MGM Resorts International Chairman and CEO believes that MGM's property in Cotai will contribute to expanding Macau's visitor base. In an interview with Macau Daily Times and Macao Daily this week, Murren, 55, says that the current elevation of the Las Vegas market shows that the investment in non-gaming elements paid off. The same is expected to happen in Macau, Murren says.

- A recent Washington Post article mentioned that you are known for designing properties as destinations that offer much more than casinos. Which are the MGM Cotai design features that you would like to highlight?

Jim Murren (JM) - I'm very proud of the fact that, of all companies, I think MGM is a great listener. Macau has been very clear, as has China. The future of Macau is based on its ability, and the company's willingness and success, in diversifying the economy beyond simply gaming into a very broad



Jim Murren pictured on Sunday at MGM's Grande Praça in Macau

hospitality field. That is extremely positive for MGM because that is exactly what we do. We believe that anyone can simply operate a casino. We are in the entertainment business, we create public spaces, thoughtful art collections, public gathering places, unique entertainment experiences and it is our differentiator. We are the largest MICE owner and operator in Las Vegas and the largest provider of entertainment in the United States. We are very focused on cultural connectivity to our resorts. In Cotai we are very focused in creating something very unique and simply not just a larger MGM [Macau]. The personalities of the two pro-

erties will be very different, because we believe it is our duty to create new experiences, to draw an even broader visitor to Macau.

“In Cotai we are very focused in creating something very unique and simply not just a larger MGM.**”**

- Regarding the customer base, will MGM Macau be targeting more VIP customers and MGM Cotai more for the mass market?

JM - The intent of [MGM] Cotai is to have a much broader customer base, with a great emphasis on the mass market. We believe the mass business is going to continue to grow in Macau and we want to be the resort of choice for this new generation of Chinese tourists that are coming to Macau - as they are around the world - to experience something new and unique. Given the larger scale of [MGM] Cotai and the greater diversity of food and entertainment, we believe it will be far more diverse in its customer base than MGM Macau and it will be consistent with the government's goals of driving mass visitation and more diversified hospitality to Macau. A good example would be our art collection in Cotai. MGM was the first and it's the most committed to the arts in Macau and we are taking this leadership even further in Cotai. We have developed a very large and diverse collection of art, combining over 300 pieces of art that focuses not only on contemporary art from Asian artists, but also we are returning home 28 imperial

carpets from the Qing dynasty that used to be housed in the Forbidden City. This has been a focus of my friend and partner, Ms Pansy Ho and is a responsibility that we take very seriously to promote the arts in Macau.

- What is your outlook for Macau's overall economy, given that many resorts have already been built in Cotai?

JM - I'm extremely excited about the future of Macau. I believe that the leadership here has been very clear on the responsibilities of companies such as mine. We are excited to bring more non-gaming offerings to Macau to solidify Macau's position as a world center of tourism and leisure. I believe that the evolution of this market ensures long term sustainable growth because of the efforts to continue to grow Macau from a hospitality perspective. One example is the application by Macau to become a UNESCO city of gastronomy. We have taken that challenge on board and we are delivering many restaurant concepts that no one has seen before in the world. For over 20 years, Las Vegas grew solely because new properties kept being built to expand tourism. That was Las Vegas' past. Today, Las Vegas

continues to grow, not because there are new resorts, but because companies like MGM are investing in non-gaming facilities and in software, investing in content and creating experiences. That is the reason Las Vegas is growing today. That is exactly, in my opinion, what is going to happen in Macau.

- What is the current situation of the market in Las Vegas?

JM - The Las Vegas market is leading in the United States. The visitor trends are in an all time record high. The occupancy rates of the resorts are also at an all time record high. MGM Resorts is a dominant operator in Las Vegas. We own more resorts than our competitors combined and we are gaining market share because of our focus on non-gaming. We just built one of the world's greatest arenas last year, we built parks, plazas, retail, restaurants, music festival lots... continuing to find ways to make Las Vegas more globally attractive, to a broader demographic. That is exactly our mission here in Macau: to continue to be a positive force to evolve the hospitality market in Macau into a holistic entertainment destination.

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ART

New exhibition celebrates eight years of Pakeong

Daniel Beitler

LOCAL artist and musician Fortes Pakeong Sequeira is showcasing eight years of his artwork at the UNESCO Center of Macau.

Drawing on his background as a graphic designer, Sequeira's artworks are not only paintings on a wall. Several works are three-dimensional installations and sculptures, most of which have been featured at previous exhibitions.

For Sequeira, the exhibition is a reminder of the last decade, when he made the transition from graphic designer to full-time artist.

"This exhibition shows different phases [of my career]. From 2005 until now, I have been changing and reforming my work," he said in a press interview.

His works on display span



an eight-year period, with the earliest piece dating back to 2009. One feature binds the pieces together: dark, twisted shapes and undertones best described as a union of graphic art and surreal fractal art.

"The concept and some of the elements [in my artwork] have not changed that much [throughout the eight years],"

said Sequeira. "And will never change."

"I want to use this form to present [my ideas]. This is what I want to tell people: that art is very friendly and you don't need to be afraid of it... you can touch it."

More than 60 artworks from the eight-year period were initially collected for the exhibition. Though the curator

wisely decided to reduce the number of works on display, the exhibition still occupies two large rooms and a connecting hallway at the UNESCO Center of Macau.

"I am the one who wants to show everything, but this is her [the curator's] arrangement," Sequeira explained.

When asked about the message behind his work, Sequeira

states that art requires no explanation.

"Many people ask me what my work is saying. I don't have a good answer for them and they [often] don't feel satisfied," he said. He adds that his job is to expose the feelings in his heart and convey them to other people. "I think people can feel [through my art] and get a different [perspective] looking inside my heart."

He says that his heart is the driver of his artistic expression, but in his mind, there is little distinction between his visual art and the music of the metal band he fronts, Blademark.

"My music and my art are the same. Both of them show my heart... the voice of my heart," he told media yesterday.

There is one difference. Sequeira says that when he writes lyrics for Blademark, he has a specific concept in mind and he wants his listeners "to know exactly what I want to [say]."

"On the other hand, in my artwork, I want people to think [for themselves]. When I see some art piece, I don't want to hear about what it is [saying]; I want to explore it myself and enjoy it."

The exhibition will run until August 13. Admission is free.

AD



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FOOD & BEVERAGE

China Millennials switch to coffee as Starbucks pushes East

At a Starbucks in downtown Beijing, Du Beibei is getting her lunch-break caffeine fix. Like many young Chinese, she's chosen to sip a cup of coffee instead of the more traditional tea.

"I drink coffee three or four times a week and usually go to coffee shops to meet friends," she said. "They are more comfortable than tea houses."

Du, who is in her 30s and still drinks tea at home, is among a growing number of Chinese consumers flocking to coffee shops and developing a taste for what's viewed as a trendy Western beverage.

The resulting consumption growth is grabbing the attention of big-brand chains including Starbucks Corp., which last month extended its reach in China with a USD1.2 billion deal for control of more than 1,000 coffee shops. While volumes remain low by global standards, a shift toward coffee in

the most-populous and biggest tea-drinking nation could have a massive impact over time.

The Chinese coffee market grew several times faster than the global average in the decade to 2013-14, according to International Coffee Organization data, as the country prospers from urbanization, a growing middle class and rising incomes.

Retail sales of tea still outweigh coffee by about 10 to one, but consumption growth mirrors an earlier expansion in Japan, which became the world's fourth-largest coffee consumer in the 2000s.

"If you take the growth curve of Japan between 1963 and 1973, you will see it's practically the same as China's in the decade to 2014," said Joseph Reiner, the head of coffee at Cofco International, a unit of China's top food company. "They used to drink only tea and now you have that Starbucks effect."

If you take the growth curve of Japan between 1963 and 1973, you will see it's practically the same as China's in the decade to 2014.

JOSEPH REINER
HEAD OF COFFEE AT COFCO
INTERNATIONAL

The \$1.1 billion Chinese coffee market is dominated by Nestle SA, with a 66 percent share, according to Euromonitor International Ltd. The world's

largest food company says it's optimistic about consumption prospects and expects China to become one of the leading coffee countries.

While Chinese demand is still a fraction of U.S. consumption and less than half of Japan's, the potential for growth means retail chains are already jostling for position. Starbucks has been in the country for almost 20 years and has expanded to about 2,800 outlets. Last month, the Seattle-based retailer said it would buy out its partners in a joint venture in east China, taking control of roughly 1,300 franchised locations.

"We think bringing east China into a company-operated model sets the opportunity for the next two decades," Kevin Johnson, chief executive officer of Starbucks, said in an interview. "We're playing a long game."

Dunkin' Donuts Inc., which

failed in two previous attempts to crack the Chinese market, is targeting 1,400 locations within 20 years from 34 stores now. Consumers still drink a relatively small amount of coffee, but the category is growing fast and could eventually surpass tea, according to Dunkin' Chief Executive Officer Nigel Travis.

The ICO estimates Chinese coffee demand increased by 16 percent on average a year in the 10 years to 2013-14. That compares with global growth of about 2 percent, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated.

For now, Chinese consumers still favor instant drinks, particularly the so-called 3-in-1, which contains coffee, sugar and creamer, as well as any flavorings. More than 90 percent of coffee retail sales are the instant type, said Limin Yu, senior research associate at London-based Euromonitor.

Most instant kinds of coffee are made from robusta, a cheaper variety of coffee that's predominately grown in Vietnam. The growing popularity of cafes means there's potential for consumers to trend up with higher-end beverages, which will increase demand for milder and more expensive arabica beans.

"The first step is to switch tea into more mild coffee drinks such as 3-in-1s and the frappuccinos you get at Starbucks," Cofco's Reiner said. "Then coffee starts being consumed in the office and at home. That's how it develops. We are talking a massive potential here, with between 450 to 600 million Chinese joining the middle class by 2021-22."

Back in Beijing, Kathy Chen, 28, says that she likes all kinds of coffee, from Italian brews to Vietnamese drip.

"Coffee bars are the places where you can talk to friends and relax," she said, adding that strong Mandheling, a type of Indonesian coffee, is her favorite. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

PAKHO CHAU TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN



Hong Kong singer and actor, Pakho Chau, will be bringing his concert, "One Step Closer Pakho Live

2017 in Macau", to The Venetian on October 21.

Chau entered the music industry in 2007 and has

since released several albums with huge hits such as "Same Sky," "Six Days," and the duet, "Nothing Done", with Hong Kong singer Stephanie Cheng.

According to a press release issued by The Venetian, Chau is an artist with an aspirational message as he regards himself to be on a journey to self-fulfillment.

The concert in Macau will be more than simply a retrospective of Chau's 10-year musical journey and a way to show how he has grown both musically and as a person, but also a show of gratitude to his fans, teammates, and family.

Tickets for the concert go on sale this Friday and are priced at MOP1080, MOP880, MOP680, MOP480 and MOP280.

ALIBABA, MARRIOTT TEAM UP



Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. is supercharging its fledgling travel service by partnering with Marriott International Inc., the world's largest hotel operator with some 6,000 properties globally.

The companies will set up a joint venture to feature Marriott's entire line-up, from the eponymous brand to the She-

raton and Ritz-Carlton, on Alibaba's Fliggy site. The two will link their loyalty programs and provide promotions for Chinese travelers, they said in a joint statement.

China is now the world's largest source of outbound travelers, a still rapidly growing populace that spent more than \$100 billion in 2016 and

is spurring changes across the global tourism industry. Their rising numbers have fueled a deals spree and spawned alliances between foreign hotel chains and domestic partners. Marriott and its rivals are also hunting for ways to capture more guests and shore up loyalty, as they compete with alternative providers such as Airbnb Inc. and try to reduce fees paid to the likes of Priceline Group Inc. and Expedia Inc.

"The most important piece though is the marriage of our respective areas of expertise," said Arne Sorenson, Marriott's chief executive officer, declining to discuss revenue-sharing with Alibaba. "It's really about how do we service this already large but quickly growing group of global travelers, particularly Chinese travelers."

David Eggert

Snyder: 'Strong possibility' for Foxconn to come to Michigan

GOV. Rick Snyder is optimistic that Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Foxconn Technology Group will open a facility in Michigan, but said what exactly it is has not been determined and it could be a few months before any potential deal takes shape.

In a phone interview from Shanghai, where he was concluding a nine-day trade trip in China, Snyder said Monday night there is a "strong possibility" for Foxconn to still locate in the state after the company in recent weeks picked neighboring Wisconsin for a \$10 billion display panel plant with 3,000 employees that could grow to 13,000. Snyder told The Associated Press that Foxconn Chairman Terry Gou invited him for dinner, meetings and a tour of the company's sprawling factory in Shenzhen near Hong Kong that employs some 200,000 workers.

They discussed the autonomous vehicle industry and advanced manufacturing, Snyder said. The company, he said, is highly advanced in tooling, machinery and robotics similarly to Michigan but does not yet have much of a U.S. presence in those sectors.

"We had very healthy, very good discussions about Michigan's strengths and how it could be very good for Foxconn to be present in Michigan in some



Staff members work on the production line at the Foxconn complex in Shenzhen

fashion. What it is has yet to be determined," he said.

Chinese media outlets, quoting Gou, reported over the weekend that Foxconn plans to open a research and development center related to self-driving vehicles in Michigan, where General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler are based. The company has not confirmed the plans, instead repeating that Michigan is one of the states under consideration for some sort of investment.

Snyder also declined to confirm that Foxconn is eyeing an autonomous vehicle facility but said "that would be one of the natural things that they could well be looking at." Foxconn said last month that its Wisconsin announcement was just the first of several unspecified investments the company will be making in the U.S.

"It's going really well," Snyder said of the courtship. "But we're still getting to know each other,

we're still working through that. They can make their own business decisions. But we're going to continue to present them good opportunities of what we can do in Michigan."

Little known to consumers, the maker of iPhones and other gadgets is a giant in the electronics industry thanks to its dominant position in the global manufacturing supply chain. Working conditions at Foxconn's factories in China have come under scrutiny

in the past due to labor practices and suicides.

Snyder and state lawmakers last month enacted job-creation tax incentives, including one tailored to companies such as Foxconn that add at least 3,000 jobs that pay the average regional wage. But Wisconsin offered what Snyder called a "gigantic" \$3 billion incentive package to land the factory that will construct liquid crystal display (LCD) monitors used in televisions and computers.

Snyder said Foxconn has other projects on its radar that "would be better suited for Michigan." He said it is too early to say how many jobs could come with a Foxconn facility in Michigan. He is hopeful that talks continue in the next few months and "things start solidifying."

The trip was the Snyder administration's seventh mission to China. Snyder said one theme throughout the trip was China's increased interest in autonomous mobility, and he wants Michigan to capitalize on potential business opportunities in the emerging sector. **AP**

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Jim Gomez, Manila

ANALYSIS

US, allies slow Beijing's South China Sea momentum

WITH the rise of a friendly leader in the Philippines, China has been spared a vocal adversary in the disputed South China Sea. In the process, it has gained momentum despite last year's ruling by an arbitration tribunal that invalidated its expansive claims in the disputed waters.

The rapprochement between President Rodrigo Duterte and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, defused a tense standoff between the Asian neighbors last year at the disputed Scarborough Shoal, where China allowed Filipinos back to fish in October as years of thorny relations began to brighten.

As President Donald Trump succeeded Barack Obama, who had challenged China's assertive advances in the disputed sea, U.S. allies wondered if Trump would press America's role as a regional counterbalance to the Asian powerhouse.

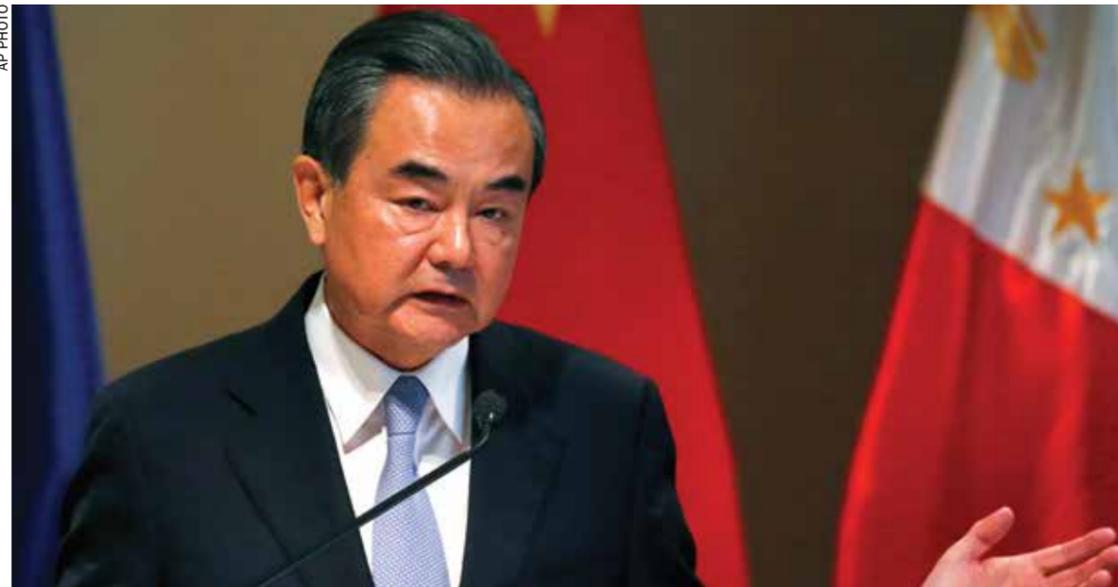
An annual summit of Asia-Pacific nations hosted by the Philippines over the weekend, however, delivered a reality check to Beijing.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met his Australian and Japanese counterparts on the sidelines of the meetings in Manila of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN. After their meeting, they issued a joint statement that blasted aggressive actions in the contested offshore territories — without, of course, naming Beijing directly, in line with diplomatic practice.

Nevertheless, China quickly voiced its irritation.

Its top diplomat said that while his country and the 10-nation ASEAN bloc “all fully recognized that the situation in the South China Sea is showing signs of changes and things are moving toward a positive direction,” some countries outside the region “are not seeing the positive changes” and are holding onto a mindset that “still stays in the past.”

After the Philippines, ASEAN's



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

leader this year, hosted the first of three major summits of the bloc in April, Duterte issued a traditional chairman's statement that dropped mention of contentious issues, including Beijing's island constructions in disputed reefs that China has lobbied to be struck out of such high-profile communiqués. For China, it was seen as a diplomatic coup.

Closeted in their annual gathering in Manila over the weekend, however, ASEAN foreign ministers wrangled over the tone and wordings to depict the territorial rifts involving China and five other governments in their joint statement, which unlike the chairman's statement is a negotiated document.

A draft of the ASEAN ministerial statement seen by The Associated Press before it was finalized and made public provided a glimpse of the closed-door intramurals, with Vietnam insisting on stronger language against China's increasingly assertive ac-

tions in the busy waters.

Vietnamese diplomats, for example, insisted on mentioning concern over “extended construction” in the contested waters. Cambodia, a Chinese ally, deferred a vote on the inclusion of worries over militarization.

Most ASEAN states, including the Philippines, back a binding code; China wants otherwise

The protracted quibblings delayed the statement's release, two Southeast Asian diplomats told the AP. When it was issued a day later, the joint ministe-

rial statement — surprisingly — mentioned land reclamation and militarization and, to Beijing's certain dismay, carried a vague reference to the arbitration ruling: “full respect for diplomatic and legal process.”

Wang played down mention of the issues, including land reclamation, that critics have used to refer to China's massive island constructions in the South China Sea.

The next battle is over a proposed “code of conduct,” which aims to stymie aggressive behavior in the disputed sea, including new construction and military fortifications. China concluded talks with ASEAN for a negotiating framework for the nonaggression code, a baby step both sides hailed as a milestone.

Most ASEAN states, including the Philippines, back a legally binding code. China wants otherwise and opposes mention of the contentious issues, including arbitration and a conflict-

resolution arrangement, given its preference to solve the conflicts through one-on-one negotiation with its smaller rival claimants. With ASEAN unable to do anything unless it acquiesces to China's wishes, it relented to reach a consensus. Proponents of the rule of law were dismayed.

The agreed framework “is a lowest-common-denominator effort. It lacks teeth because China has opposed making it legally binding and refused to include a dispute settlement mechanism,” said Bonnie Glaser, a senior adviser for Asia at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“With ASEAN itself divided and China's sway over individual ASEAN members growing,” Glaser said, “this is an unsurprising even if disappointing development.”

Wang announced at the Manila meetings that China would be ready to start negotiations for the maritime code when its leader travels to the Philippines and joins ASEAN heads of state in November.

But first, he said, in a shot at the United States, the situation has to be stable and free of “major disruption from outside parties.”

The United States, Australia and Japan immediately weighed in, urging China and ASEAN “to ensure that the code of conduct be finalized in a timely manner, and that it be legally binding, meaningful, effective, and consistent with international law.”

“Outside parties like the U.S. will do what they think is needed to promote peace and stability in the region,” Glaser said. “If China opposes those actions, so be it.” AP

ECONOMY

Export, import growth weaken in July, dimming outlook

THE pace of growth of China's exports and imports weakened in July in a discouraging sign for the world's second-largest economy and global demand.

Exports rose 7.2 percent from a year earlier to USD193.6 billion, down from June's 11.3 percent growth, according to customs data released yesterday. Imports rose 11 percent to \$146.9 billion, down from the previous month's 17.2 percent.

Forecasters have warned Chinese economic

growth will cool this year, dampening demand for foreign goods, as controls imposed on bank lending to slow a rise in debt take hold.

“Trade growth now appears to be on a downward trend,” said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

The International Monetary Fund expects this year's economic growth to slip to 6.6 percent from last year's 6.7 percent and to below 6.2 percent in 2018.

Export growth was unexpectedly strong in the first half of the year, a positive sign for Chinese leaders who want to avoid job losses in trade-related industries.

China has been credited with helping to support global demand and the downturn in import growth could have repercussions for suppliers for which this country is a major market.

China's global trade surplus declined by 10.7 percent from a year earlier to \$46.7 billion.

The surplus with the United States rose 2 percent to \$25.2 billion. U.S. President Donald Trump said in April he would temporarily set aside trade and currency disputes with Beijing while the two governments cooperated on North Korea, but American officials more recently have resumed criticizing Chinese trade policy.

The Chinese trade surplus with the 28-nation European Union, the country's biggest trading partner, rose 3.4 percent to \$12.2 billion. AP



A woman sits on a tricycle painted gold and used as a marketing gimmick in Beijing

AP PHOTO



Volunteers collect the congealed palm oil, which has been blanketing the shores of Hong Kong's Lamma Island, yesterday

HONG KONG

Palm oil blobs cover beaches after sea crash

CLEANUP efforts are underway in Hong Kong after white blobs of congealed palm oil washed up on the city's shores following a collision between two ships.

Authorities have closed more than a dozen beaches, including two yesterday, since the spill was reported over the weekend, though the government says the

substance isn't dangerous.

Marine officials say the ships collided in the Pearl River Delta estuary southwest of Hong Kong on Thursday, but Hong Kong authorities were not notified by their counterparts in mainland China until two days later.

The congealed palm oil resembles clumps of snow or pieces of Styrofoam and has a consistency similar to Play-Doh. It has been

spotted blanketing Hong Kong beaches and floating in the water.

Cleanup crews had collected more than 50 metric tons of the stuff by Monday, and filled 110 garbage bags with it on just one beach on Lamma Island, the government said. It has deployed helicopters and nine ships to help find and collect the waste while workers at public beaches

are using absorbent blankets and strips to contain the mess.

Palm oil is commonly used in food packaging and cosmetics. Environment Undersecretary Tse Chin-wan told reporters that it is nontoxic and that there has been no sign of widespread impact on marine life. Tse said that no more than 1,000 metric tons leaked from the stricken ship.

Environmentalists worry about the harm the substance could pose to Hong Kong's already polluted waters, and to fish and other animals that eat large amounts of it.

Hong Kong is made up of a peninsula attached to mainland China's southern coast as well as about 260 islands, many of them small and uninhabited. **AP**

Landslide kills 23 in village in Sichuan province

A rain-triggered landslide hit a village in southwest China yesterday, killing 23 people and leaving two others missing, authorities said.

Rescuers were able to pull one person out

from the rubble in Gengdi village in Sichuan province, and four others had minor injuries, the provincial government's news office said in an online statement.

It added that 71 hou-

ses were destroyed and a 5-kilometer stretch of road was damaged in the early morning landslide, which has caused an estimated 160 million yuan (USD23.9 million) in direct economic losses.

AP PHOTO



Villagers stand near debris as they wait for rescuers to work following a landslide in Gengdi village in southwestern Sichuan province



The launch of a Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile in North Korea's northwest

ANALYSIS

Even new UN sanctions might not budge North Korea

Matthew Pennington, Washington

THE strongest sanctions yet against North Korea could still prove no match for the communist country's relentless nuclear weapons ambitions.

While the United States hails a new package of U.N. penalties that could cut a third of North Korea's exports, the sanctions themselves aren't the American objective. They're only a tactic for getting Kim Jong Un's totalitarian government to end its missile advances and atomic weapons tests. And there is little evidence to suggest this newest round of economic pressure will be more successful than previous efforts.

Whatever the economic pain on Pyongyang, Kim's government has expressed no interest in negotiating away its fast-growing arsenal of perhaps 20 nuclear bombs and the ballistic missiles needed to deliver them. For the young North Korean leader, the weapons are fundamental to the survival of his authoritarian regime, even if they deepen diplomatic isolation and bring even more extreme poverty for his long-suffering people.

And the sanctions may not prove effective. The North has learned through decades of U.S. efforts at isolation how to circumvent commercial and financial restrictions, and reluctant powers like China and Russia have often proven half-hearted partners when it comes to policing their ally.

"On paper, this is a pretty strict containment of North Korea economically," said Scott Snyder, an expert on the Koreans at the Council on Foreign Relations. "But North Korea has been able to evade sanctions in the past and it's not clear to me things are going to be much different this time."

Speaking in the Philippines after meeting Asian foreign ministers, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Monday said there is "no daylight" in the view among Washington and its partners that North Korea must move toward abandoning its nuclear weapons. But he was quick to stress the importance of everyone enforcing the new, tougher sanctions.

"We will be monitoring that carefully," he said.

The U.N. penalties aim to cut off roughly USD1 billion of Nor-

th Korea's estimated \$3 billion in annual exports, by banning countries from importing its coal, iron, lead and seafood products, and stopping them from letting in more North Korean laborers, who help Kim's government by sending cash home. President Donald Trump's U.N. ambassador, Nikki Haley, called it "the single largest economic sanctions package ever leveled against" North Korea.

■ Trump is only the latest U.S. president to choose sanctions instead of confrontation

Even if, in the best-case scenario, the sanctions hurt North Korea's economy and weaken its government, questions remain over what to do next. Can North Korea be persuaded to give up its weapons of mass destruction,

removing the threat to the United States and its allies, South Korea and Japan? If not, what new options does the United States have? Trump is only the latest U.S. president to choose sanctions instead of confronting the North militarily or offering diplomatic talks without nuclear concessions.

Much rests on the willingness of China, the North's traditionally ally and main trading partner. China opposes Pyongyang's nuclear weapons, and was uncharacteristically forthright in saying so this week. But it remains cautious of triggering a North Korean collapse, fearful of fomenting chaos along its border or advancing any scenario that would lead to a reunified and U.S.-allied Korea on its doorstep.

In private diplomatic conversations, the U.S. has been telling Beijing that the North's weapons development will eventually spread instability in the region, an argument that plays to China's strong preference for policies that preserve long-term stability and the status quo. The U.S. has been arguing that an unfettered North Korea could lead to an arms race

in which Japan, South Korea and even Vietnam could pursue their own nuclear weapons, said a U.S. official who briefed reporters traveling with Tillerson on condition of anonymity.

Anthony Ruggiero, a former Treasury Department official and sanctions expert, said China and Russia have failed to implement a half-dozen previous U.N. resolutions on North Korea since 2006, when the country became the first and only one this century to conduct a nuclear test explosion. Four further atomic tests since then have honed its capability to miniaturize a nuclear device. Last month's pair of groundbreaking tests of long-range ballistic missiles has put the continental United States in range for the first time.

While uncertainty remains over the North's ability to wed a warhead with such a missile and strike a U.S. target, it is a prospect that looms larger over Trump's presidency.

As a matter of urgency, Ruggiero argued, the U.S. should punish Chinese banks and companies helping North Korea evade sanctions. Any such action may now face delays, as Washington will first have to gauge Beijing's implementation of the new penalties.

Amid all the pressure, the Trump administration has left open the possibility of resuming talks with Pyongyang.

In Manila, Tillerson said he hoped the North would "choose a different pathway and when the conditions are right, that we can sit and have a dialogue." He urged North Korea to first halt tests for an "extended period," however often such confidence-building measures have failed.

North Korea shows scant interest in playing by America's rules. Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told Asian foreign ministers at the same meeting Tillerson attended that "under no circumstances" will his country put its nuclear weapons or ballistic missiles on the negotiating table.

Without such a commitment, talks appear unlikely.

Washington has dismissed a Chinese proposal designed to pique Pyongyang's interest: a suspension of American military exercises with South Korea if the North freezes its weapons development.

The stances reflect a fundamental impasse that no amount of sanctions may be able to change. While the U.S. position is that North Korea must ultimately give up its nukes, the North insists it must keep them.

Richard Nephew, a former State Department official who helped craft the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, wrote that for sanctions to succeed, they have to be paired with a credible negotiating effort.

It's time to "cut a deal," Nephew wrote on the 38 North website, "to reduce the threat of North Korea's existing arsenal and to stabilize the peninsula before the situation gets out of hand." **AP**

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur launches inquiry over forex losses under Mahathir

MALAYSIA'S government yesterday launched an inquiry into massive foreign exchange losses by the central bank more than two decades ago, in a probe that could lead to criminal prosecution for former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Opposition leaders slammed the inquiry as a political ploy to discredit Mahathir just months after he set up a new political party. He now leads an opposition coalition aimed at ousting Prime Minister Najib Razak in general elections due in mid-2018.

Mahathir, 92, led the country for 22 years before stepping down in 2003. He has been spearheading calls for Najib to resign over a multibillion-dollar financial scandal in indebted state fund 1MDB. The fund is being investigated in several countries for money laundering. Najib has denied any wrongdoing.

A five-member Royal Commission of Inquiry, meeting for the first time yesterday, said it will investigate how much the central bank lost in currency trading in the 1990s and determine if there was a cover-up.

The inquiry was set up after the government said a preliminary investigation found that the extent of losses was larger than what was reported to the Cabinet

and Parliament.

The inquiry panel said a hearing will begin Aug. 21 and that it will aim to submit a report to the king by Oct. 13. The panel can make recommendations on action to be taken against those found guilty, but it is up to the attorney-general to prosecute.

It is a desperate effort by Najib to silence his detractors.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

Mahathir has said the inquiry is a "desperate effort by Najib to silence his detractors." He and other opposition leaders have urged the government to also set up a formal inquiry into losses at 1MDB.

Malaysia's government has said it found no criminal wrongdoing at 1MDB. But the fund has been at the center of inves-

tigations in the U.S. and several countries amid allegations of a global embezzlement and money-laundering scheme. Najib started the fund shortly after taking office in 2009 to promote economic development projects, but it accumulated billions of dollars in debts.

The U.S. Justice Department says at least USD4.5 billion has been stolen from 1MDB by people close to Najib and has initiated action to seize \$1.3 billion it says was taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S. The government complaints also say that more than \$700 million has landed in the accounts of "Malaysian Official 1." They did not name the official, but appear to be referring to Najib.

Najib has resisted calls to resign, has clamped down on critics and continues to enjoy the unwavering support of most ruling-party members, but his real test will come in next year's elections. Najib's ruling coalition won the last elections in 2013 despite losing the popular vote to an opposition coalition. AP



Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad

CAMBODIA

Court upholds prison term for land rights activist

A Cambodian court yesterday upheld a 2½-year prison term against a prominent land rights activist accused of inciting violence at a protest she helped lead outside of Prime Minister Hun Sen's residence, as dozens of her supporters outside conducted a "cursing ceremony" against national leaders and judges.

Tep Vanny was convicted in late February of aggravated intentional violence from the March 2013 protest, in which several government security personnel were hurt. The Appeal Court yesterday concluded that the trial followed legal procedures.

Wearing an orange prison uniform, Tep Vanny condemned the decision as an "injustice."

"I became victimized



A child of Boeung Kak lake community's land activists points a poster of detained Tep Vanny in front of appeals court in Phnom Penh

because my land was grabbed, and now I have been put in prison," she shouted outside court before security guards pushed her into a van.

Tep Vanny is known for demonstrating against evictions from the capital's Boeung Kak lakeshore community, where the government granted a land conces-

sion to a Cambodian tycoon and a Chinese company to develop a luxury residential and commercial community.

The protest at Hun Sen's residence in Phnom Penh, the capital, was among several demanding compensation for the evictions. A melee broke out when guards refused

to let the protesters deliver a petition.

At her February trial, Tep Vanny said she was the victim in the case, and accused the court and the police of unfair treatment. She said the protesters, who were all women, were not violent, and that it was the security forces who attacked them.

"The case against Tep Vanny is a blatant misuse of prosecutorial power to punish her for her peaceful activism," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "This prosecution is intended to silence Tep Vanny and intimidate other Cambodian activists."

Tep Vanny has another pending case against her from August 2016, when she was charged with "insult of public officials"

in connection with another protest.

Hun Sen in the past year has cracked down on critics and political opponents in what is seen as an effort to strengthen his position ahead of a general election in July 2018. The prime minister and his ruling Cambodian People's Party usually turn to the courts — seen as politically malleable — to put pressure on their opponents.

Outside the court complex, about 30 of Tep Vanny's supporters organized a Brahman ceremony to curse the judges and national leaders. Brahmanism is related to Hinduism and Buddhism.

Tearfully holding incense sticks and candles, the women urged the Lord Hindu to punish national leaders, judges and their families.

"I totally lost faith in the Cambodian judiciary system. You have robbed our land and then put us in prison," said Bo Chhorvy, 40. AP

PAKISTAN

Militant group Jamaat-ud-Dawa launches new party

PAKISTAN'S banned militant group Jamaat-ud-Dawa is seeking to enter the political sphere by launching a new party.

Saifullah Khalid, a religious scholar and longtime official of the group, is president of the newly-formed Milli Muslim League party. He told reporters in Islamabad that his party will work to make Pakistan "a real Islamic and welfare state" and that it's ready to cooperate with like-minded parties.

The U.S. has offered a USD10 million reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of JuD's founder Hafiz Saeed. Pakistan placed him under house arrest earlier this year.

The JuD widely is believed to be a front for Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant group behind the 2008 deadly attacks in Mumbai, India.

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FROM the Indian Ocean coast to Rift Valley towns to Nairobi's slums, Kenyans turned out in large numbers to vote yesterday in an election pitting President Uhuru Kenyatta against challenger Raila Odinga in this East African economic hub known for its relative, long-term stability and ethnic allegiances that shadow its democracy.

Voters formed long lines at many polling stations before dawn, waiting to cast ballots in the tightly contested race for the presidency as well as for more than 1,800 elected positions, including governors, legislative representatives and county officials. A key concern is whether Kenya will echo its 2013 election, a mostly peaceful affair despite opposition allegations of vote-tampering, or the 2007 election, which led to violence fueled by ethnic divisions that killed more than 1,000 people.

"If the elections are not fair, if there was rigging, people will definitely go to the streets," said Sophia Ajwang, a 29-year-old student in Kisumu city.

However, Moses Otieno, a 33-year-old businessman, said that Kenyans desperately want to avoid another bout of election unrest.

"We've learned a lot in the past, so we don't want such repetition in this election," Otieno said. "That's why we will accept whatever outcome it is."

Kenyatta, the 55-year-old son of Kenya's first president after independence from British colonial rule, campaigned on a record of major infrastructure projects, many backed by China, and claimed strong economic growth. Odinga, 72, also the son of a leader of the independence struggle, has cast himself as a champion of the poor and a harsh critic of endemic corruption.

However, many voters are expected to vote along ethnic lines. Kenyatta is widely seen as the candidate of the Kikuyu people, the country's largest ethnic group. Odinga is associated with the Luo voting bloc, which has never produced a head of state. There are six other presidential candidates, though they lack the wide support of the top two.

"I feel positive because we ran a positive campaign," Kenyatta, who seeks a second term, said after voting in his birthplace of Gatundu, north of Nairobi. He urged Kenyans to vote peacefully and go home to await the results.

Odinga voted in the poor area of Kibera, an opposition stronghold in the capital, Nairobi. He urged supporters to gather today in a downtown park for what he predicted would be a celebration.

"Uhuru must go," chanted

Kenyans choose next president in fiercely contested vote



Kenyans line up to vote in Bissil, south of Nairobi



Kenyan Opposition leader Raila Odinga (second left)

some in the crowd, referring to the president by his first name.

More than 300 people, including ethnic Maasai draped in traditional red blankets, waited for hours in the dark before a polling station opened in the Rift Valley town of Il Bissil. Kenyan television also showed long lines of voters in the port city of Mombasa. In some locations, inmates in striped prison garb cast ballots under the watch of guards.

Many voters are expected to vote along ethnic lines

"There are a lot of people in line, and it is going to take some time, and we are going to need to be very patient," said former U.S. Secretary of

State John Kerry, who is in Kenya as chief election observer for The Carter Center. "But obviously, the transition from voting to counting is going to be critical and there is a process in place for that too."

Reaction to the result could partly depend on the performance of Kenya's electoral commission, which will collect vote counts from more than 40,000 polling stations. Fears of violence were increased by the murder of an electoral official in charge of technology days ahead of the election.

The election commission has said about 25 percent of polling stations won't have network coverage, meaning officials will have to move to find a better signal and transmit results by satellite telephones. By law, election officials have up to a week to announce results, though many analysts believe the outcome

of the presidential race will be declared far sooner, possibly within one or two days.

The winner of the presidential race must get more than 50 percent of the votes as well as one-quarter or more votes in at least 24 of Kenya's 47 counties, according to officials. If the front-runner falls short of those benchmarks, the two top contenders will contest a run-off vote.

President Kenyatta and challenger Odinga also faced off in the 2013 election. Kenyatta won by a thin margin, with just over 50 percent of the vote; Odinga alleged voting irregularities and took his case to Kenya's highest court, which ruled in Kenyatta's favor by validating the results.

Kenya has nearly 20 million registered voters out of a population of more than 40 million. **AP**

VENEZUELA

Court orders protest-zone mayor jailed

Venezuela's pro-government supreme court has ordered the removal and imprisonment of a Caracas area mayor at the center of protests against President Nicolas Maduro. The court has sentenced Ramon Muchacho to 15 months in prison for not following an order to remove barricades set up by anti-government protesters in the Chacao district of eastern Caracas. Muchacho's whereabouts were not immediately known, but he denounced the ruling on Twitter, saying that "all of the weight of the revolutionary injustice has fallen on my shoulders" for doing his job to guarantee the constitutional right to protest. Relatively wealthy Chacao was the center of the most intense clashes between protesters and national security forces that have left at least 120 dead and hundreds injured over the past four months.

IRAN

President ousts Rev. Guard from defense ministry

After decisively winning re-election almost three months ago, Iran's president yesterday proposed a new Cabinet for his second term that cuts out the hard-line Revolutionary Guard from controlling the Defense Ministry for the first time in nearly 25 years. However, Hassan Rouhani's Cabinet for now also fails to include women and his pick for the Justice Ministry is on a European Union sanctions list over human rights abuse allegations. The Cabinet selection shows Rouhani, a cleric whose stances are moderate compared to others in the Islamic Republic, remains pragmatic about how far he can push his administration that is under the ultimate control of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

US-CANADA

Alaska tribes seek talks on mining

A group of 16 southeast Alaska tribes have banded together in an attempt to secure a stronger voice in inter-governmental talks about a series of large Canadian mining projects. The Juneau Empire reported that the tribes are eyeing a seat at the table with Canada, having hired a full-time coordinator. Tis Peterman is the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group first full-time employee. He will work out of Wrangell and is working on a Memorandum of Understanding, which would give the tribes a position alongside the state of Alaska and British Columbia in meetings about the controversial mining projects. The at-question mining projects fall on shared waters, including operations upriver from salmon habitat on the Stikine, Unuk and Taku River watersheds.

what's ON



BOUNDLESS 4 - WORKS BY NELSON MADEIRA, SOU CHON KIT, FAN KENG IN AND LEE MAN HOU.

TIME: 12pm-7pm

UNTIL: August 13, 2017

VENUE: Ox Warehouse

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

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

Offbeat

SINEAD O'CONNOR PLEADS FOR HELP, SAYS SHE'S LIVING IN MOTEL



File photo of Irish singer Sinead O'Connor (2014)

Sinead O'Connor has emotionally pleaded for help and opened up about her struggles with mental illness in a rambling Facebook video.

The 50-year-old Irish singer says in the video posted yesterday that she was staying alive for the sake of others and if it were up to her, she'd "be gone."

O'Connor said she was living in a New Jersey motel and later posted the address of a Travelodge in South Hackensack. South Hackensack Police Capt. Robert Kaiser says officers conducted a welfare check, but O'Connor wasn't in her room at the time. He says she is no longer staying there and police don't know where she is currently living.

A follow-up Facebook post said to be made on O'Connor's behalf yesterday [Macau time] said the singer was OK.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
18:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Portuguese in New England
21:25	Ui Di Sabroso Sr. 2
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

3 Aug - 9 Aug

DORAEMON THE MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1

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

Director: Atsushi Takahashi

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 101vmin

WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

ROOM 1

9:15pm

Director: Matt Reeves

Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min



THE EMOJI MOVIE

ROOM 2

2:15, 5:45, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Tony Leondis

Starring: T.J. Miller, James Corden, Anna Faris

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 86min

DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 2

4:00pm

Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin

Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 90min

47 METERS DOWN

ROOM 3

2:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Johannes Roberts

Starring: Mandy Moore, Claire Holt, Mathew Modine

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 89min



CARS 3

ROOM 3

4:00, 7:45pm

Director: Brian Fee

Starring: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 102min

this day in history



Charles Kennedy

1999 KENNEDY WINS LIB DEM LEADERSHIP

Charles Kennedy has won the race to succeed Paddy Ashdown as leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Kennedy, who was the party's rural affairs spokesman, won nearly 57% of the vote by party members.

In what was widely seen as a good-natured contest, Mr Kennedy fought off competition from four other candidates.

The election involved a complicated count under a proportional representation system.

The second, third and fourth choice votes also had to be counted before Mr Kennedy emerged as the clear winner.

Mr Kennedy's closest rival, Simon Hughes, took 43% of the vote.

After his victory, the new leader paid tribute to Mr Hughes for waging "a magnificent, positive, inspirational campaign."

Mr Hughes said it had been a "good, democratic, clean campaign" and indicated he would be prepared to work as the new leader's deputy.

Outgoing leader Paddy Ashdown, who began a policy of cooperation with the ruling Labour party, congratulated his successor.

Before the result was announced a spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair said he hoped the new leader would seek to develop the process of cooperation.

Mr Kennedy had been a high-profile supporter of Mr Ashdown's attempts to build bridges with Labour, particularly on the issues of Europe and electoral reform.

But during his leadership campaign he stressed he would seek the party's permission for any moves towards greater ties with Labour.

"I don't rule out further cooperation if it's in the interests of Britain, if it's based on our policies and our values and if it has the consent of our party," Mr Kennedy said in his acceptance speech.

His main task would be to give a voice to the disadvantaged and dispossessed, he added.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Charles Kennedy resigned as party leader on 7 January 2006 after colleagues forced him to step down following a public admission that he had a drink problem.

Under his leadership the Liberal Democrats moved away from Labour.

Mr Kennedy publicly ruled out the idea of a Lib-Lab pact before the 2001 general election in which his party gained six seats bringing its tally of MPs to 52.

In January 2002 he announced a formal end to the Liberal Democrats' cooperation agreement with Labour.

The break came after the government failed to holding a referendum on electoral reform.

A key Liberal Democrat policy is the introduction of proportional representation in parliamentary elections.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Someone's mumbling, and from the rumble of their voice, it sounds like fightin' words. You'd recognize them anywhere, and you're not at all intimidated.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Although you've lightened things up a bit, you're still not in the mood for exaggeration. So when a certain person starts to feed you all kinds of stories, you won't be patient. Not even a tiny bit.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Being excessive is at the very top of your list of favorite qualities - or, more accurately, your guilty pleasures. Alongside it, you'll find a tendency toward the lavish, an urge to overdo just about everything...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 When you cross paths with someone you could swear you've known for years, don't be surprised you already know a lot about each other. In fact, if you're single, this could be a particularly fortunate meeting.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Being asked a favor is nothing new to you. You're always available when a friend or family member calls, whether they're looking for a loan, a ride to work or a shoulder to cry on.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 An older, more experienced friend will be eager to help you out of a tight spot. And regardless of how you feel about accepting that help, you really should allow them to do it for you, just this once.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 For days, just about everyone you know and love has been telling you that things will get better if you just hang tough and keep your chin up. Just this once, they are actually right.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're feeling great and bursting with fabulous energy - let the world know how you feel. It's waiting for you. Besides, you'll be thrilled with what's on the menu today.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 February is turning out to be quite interesting so far, thanks to a mixed bag of heavenly influences. On the one hand, you're feeling especially close to an elder or authority figure.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Stop glaring at that higher-up from across the office! The person you suspect who is trying to give you the boot is most likely innocent. Just for a second, sit and think about this...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 What a great day! You'll have all the energy you need to get your chores out of the way bright and early. Then, just as you're winding down from work and preparing to play, a team of heavenly ambassadors will arrive.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Isn't it about time to wreak havoc on your long-distance phone bill once again? And isn't someone out there you really need to catch up with? Sure there is. If it's a friend, and it's your turn to call anyway, do it now.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' level with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Rocker John; 6- Cuban dance; 11- Consumed, usually food; 14- Eagle's home; 15- For want of ...; 16- Short mo.; 17- Kingdom; 18- Dialect; 19- Daughter of Cadmus; 20- Exxon, formerly; 22- Homerun king Hank; 24- Loss of memory; 28- Armed guard; 30- Introduction; 31- Cleric; 32- Group of students; 33- One who arrives tardy; 37- Non-Rx; 38- Postpone; 39- Holiday start; 40- Vegetable; 43- Deep sleeps; 45- Big; 46- Vacuum tube having three elements; 47- Attractive; 49- Earphone; 50- Brag; 51- Perceived; 52- Leary's drug; 53- Tree with red flowers; 56- Following; 61- General on Chinese menus; 62- Bugs bugs him; 63- Legend maker; 64- D.C. VIP; 65- Perch; 66- Corporate symbols;

DOWN: 1- Musical ability; 2- Jeans brand; 3- Song syllable; 4- Black gold; 5- Agent of retribution; 6- Mrs. Gorbachev; 7- Word processing command; 8- ___ tai; 9- Life story; 10- Annual reference book; 11- Flaming; 12- Andrea Bocelli, for one; 13- Black, in poetry; 21- Fall from grace; 23- Farming prefix; 24- Foil maker; 25- Thaws; 26- Civil rights org.; 27- Mag. staffers; 28- Rudner and Moreno; 29- ___-deucey; 31- Worth; 33- Having long gams; 34- Office notes; 35- Elude; 36- Adjust to zero; 38- Pub missile; 41- Pub offerings; 42- Dangerous snake, familiarly; 43- Pertaining to the skull; 44- Suffix for human; 46- Golf prop; 47- Deputized group; 48- Hazardous gas; 49- Soul mate?; 50- Diner orders; 51- Takes to court; 54- "Hold On Tight" group; 55- Med. care option; 57- Sgt., e.g.; 58- Pull; 59- Acapulco gold; 60- Has been;



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Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
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Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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NEW Zealand rugby officials only decided to alert police about a listening device found last year in the team's Sydney hotel five days after the discovery — on the same day of a match against Australia and once they knew the story was going to be reported by the media.

The witness testimony came yesterday during the trial of Adrian Gard, a 51-year-old Australian who worked as a security consultant for the All Blacks. Gard has pleaded not guilty to a charge he made a false claim to police by reporting the electronics bug had been found.

It was alleged the bug was found in a chair in the team's meeting room at the hotel in the exclusive Sydney suburb of Double Bay before last year's opening Bledisloe Cup match. New Zealand won 42-8.

The former general manager of the hotel, Paul Walters, told the Downing Centre local court yesterday he was called to a hotel room with All Blacks team manager Darren Shand and Gard on the Monday before the match.

"They told me that had found a listening device and showed me [the] device," Walters, giving evidence via a video link, told the

Court told NZ Rugby waited to report alleged hotel bugging

court. "I said, 'Would you like me to contact police?' Mr. Shand requested I do not contact police."

■ It was not until the day of the match that the team decided to make it a criminal matter

Walters said he asked Shand three times in the days after the listening device was found if the All Blacks management wanted to make it a police matter.

"I suggested again to Mr. Shand, he said, 'no'," Walters said.

It was not until the day of the match that the team decided to make it a criminal matter.

"I woke [on Saturday] to a missed call from Mr. Shand," Walters said. "I called him back, shortly after 9 a.m. Mr. Shand advised the news of the bugging would hit the press in 15 minutes and they were happy to get the police involved."

In March when the case first went to court, Gard denied making a false statement to police.

At the same time, All Blacks coach Steve Hansen described the charge as "bizarre and unbelievable," adding that Gard "is someone who is trusted and well-respected by us."

The Australian Rugby Union has said it had no involvement in the placement of the listening device.

"The aspect that still leaves a bitter taste out of this whole affair is that the discovery of the device was reported publicly on game day when it is understood



that the alleged discovery of the device occurred much earlier in the week leading up to the test match," ARU chairman Bill Pulver said after police charged Gard.

"Clearly the media attention which resulted from it was a distraction that neither team needed on the morning of a very important test match."

The trial is continuing. AP

FOOTBALL

Chapecoense crash survivor returns to pitch at Barcelona

Joseph Wilson

EIGHT months after surviving the plane crash that killed most of his Chapecoense teammates, Alan Ruschel played his first minutes of football on Monday when his Brazilian club met Barcelona in a friendly.

Ruschel and two teammates were the only Chapecoense players to not perish when the team's flight went down in Colombia last year, killing all but six of the 77 players, officials and journalists on board.

All three were on the pitch on Monday in an emotional night at Camp Nou that was more about overcoming the tragedy that had decimated their club than about facing Lionel Messi's Barcelona.

Barcelona eased to a 5-0 win, but the result mattered little to the players, coaches, or fans.

Ruschel wore the captain's armband for Chapecoense during the 36 minutes he played before being substituted. He received a standing ovation



Chapecoense's Follmann (left), Neto (center) and Alan Ruschel

from the crowd, which he returned by applauding with his hands held high as he slowly walked to the dugout.

Before the match Ruschel wrote on Instagram: "Today is the new beginning of my professional career."

He said he would play the match "for all those who supported me, for those who I lost, for my friends, my family."

The crowd had already saluted the Chapecoense players as their names were called before the match. Barcelona mid-

fielder Andres Iniesta welcomed the visitors, telling the stadium that "today is a very special night."

Jackson Follmann and Helio Zampier Neto, the only other Chapecoense players to survive the crash, shared in a moving honorary kickoff.

Follmann, who had part of his right leg amputated from injuries in the crash, was wearing a prosthetic leg when he took the kickoff along with Neto. Neto, who played in the friendly, accompanied Follmann

to the bench as they both received another wave of applause.

The game, for the Joan Gamper trophy, is Barcelona's traditional curtain-raiser for the new season.

It was also Barcelona's first match since the departure of Neymar for Paris Saint-Germain for a world-record fee of 222 million euros (USD262 million) last week.

Gerard Deulofeu, a product of Barcelona's youth academy whom the club bought back this summer from Everton, took Neymar's vacant spot in the attack alongside Messi and Luis Suarez.

Deulofeu got off to a good start by opening the scoring in the sixth minute. After Sergio Busquets struck from long range, Deulofeu set up Messi for the third goal near the half-hour mark. Luis Suarez and Denis Suarez scored in the second half.

Barcelona starts the season on Sunday in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup against Real Madrid. AP

Mourinho: We'd chase Bale if Real Madrid loses interest



MANCHESTER United coach Jose Mourinho issued a challenge to his former club, saying he'd be happy to pursue Real Madrid striker Gareth Bale if it no longer considered him a key player.

Mourinho made the remarks on the eve of their match for the Super Cup in the Macedonian capital Skopje. The annual event is between the winners of the Champions League and Europa League.

Former United player Cristiano Ronaldo was in Madrid's squad, following a break to prepare for a court inquiry into his taxes.

United midfielder Juan Mata conceded there was a quality gap between the teams.

"We are talking about the actual Champions League winners ... they are the ones that everyone wants to beat. They've got a great

team. They won the league in Spain as well," Mata said.

"The (quality gap) is not very big. But we are talking about the best teams in the world: Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich. But I also consider Manchester United to be there."

As fans of both clubs arrived in the Balkan country, local authorities said more than 2,000 police officers would be on duty for the match with instructions to carry out extensive security checks as well as inspections for tickets sold on the black market.

The temperature on match day is set to reach 38 degrees. Authorities have issued public health warnings, urging children and older people to avoid going outdoors at midday, while parts of the country were under a state of emergency due to large forest fires.

MDT/AP

opinion

World Views

Elaine Ou, Bloomberg

GOOGLE CAN'T BRING ITSELF TO TOLERATE DIVERSITY

Over the weekend, a Google engineer named James Damore gained infamy for publishing a 10-page criticism of the company's "authoritarian" approach to achieving gender diversity. By Monday, he was fired. If the goal was to confirm Damore's thesis, Team Google is doing a great job.

Titled "Google's Ideological Echo Chamber," the memo sets out a well-intentioned goal: Find non-discriminatory ways to reduce gender disparities. At last tally, women occupied only 20 percent of tech jobs at the Alphabet Inc. unit, a dismal number even by Silicon Valley standards. Damore, who wrote the memo anonymously and later identified himself publicly and confirmed his dismissal, argues that Google's use of targets (known as "objectives and key results") can incentivize reverse discrimination, and suggests focusing instead on rewarding what he calls inherently "female" traits -- such as cooperation and the desire for a better work-life balance.

It's fine to question Damore's characterization of women. (As a female engineer in Silicon Valley, I endorse his suggestion to "treat people as individuals, not as just another member of their group.") It's okay to disagree with the proposed solutions. But the backlash was egregiously swift and brutal. Google representatives issued multiple statements denouncing the document. Past and present colleagues chimed in over the weekend with calls for the engineer to be ousted. Media outlets like TechCrunch, Gizmodo and Motherboard jumped on board to declare the memo an "Anti-Diversity Manifesto." It appears that the ideological echo chamber extends beyond Google's campus.

Silicon Valley has a very peculiar definition of diversity that requires proportional representation from every gender and race, all of whom must think exactly alike. Given that Google has failed to reach this ideal despite nearly a decade of efforts, Damore might be right to suggest that it try a different tack. Google rejects 99.8 percent of job applicants, making it far more selective than any Ivy League university. It's not unreasonable to posit that in this top 0.2 percent of the population, there may be various ways in which talent manifests differently between the sexes.

Suggesting that men and women are different, though, can be a perilous endeavor. In 2005, Harvard President Larry Summers speculated that the under-representation of women in top science and engineering positions might have something to do with the male tendency to exhibit extreme traits - to, say, have very high or low IQs. The remarks were widely condemned as an allegation that women have an innate disadvantage in science and math. Summers apologized profusely, but it was too late. The faculty convened and issued a no-confidence vote, and the president stepped down shortly thereafter.

Suppressing intellectual debate on college campuses is bad enough. Doing the same in Silicon Valley, which has essentially become a finishing school for elite universities, compounds the problem. Its engineers build products that potentially shape our digital lives. At Google, they oversee a search algorithm that seeks to surface "authoritative" results and demote low-quality content. This algorithm is tuned by an internal team of evaluators. If the company silences dissent within its own ranks, why should we trust it to manage our access to information?

In a statement, Google's chief diversity and inclusion officer, Danielle Brown, refused to link to Damore's memo, saying that "it's not a viewpoint that I or this company endorses, promotes or encourages." Companies don't have viewpoints. Humans do - diverse ones. The swiftness with which Google removed an outspoken engineer demonstrates that Damore is exactly right: Google could use some diversity of ideas.

THE BUZZ LIFE-SAVING DRONES USED TO RESCUE SWIMMERS OFF FRENCH COAST

It could be the "Baywatch" of the future. A cutting-edge lifesaving initiative — the rescue drone — is taking flight again this summer off France's popular Atlantic beaches.

Following a successful launch in 2016, three airborne life-saver drones are being operated in the southwestern Nouvelle-Aquitaine region until September to come to the aid of swimmers struggling in choppy water.

At 80 kilometers an hour, the 3.9 kilogram

drone buzzes to the danger spot four minutes faster than a lifeguard and is programmed to neatly drop a life buoy to the water.

Anthony Gavend, from drone manufacturing company HELPER, said yesterday the time gained "means the difference between life and death."

Gavend said it was the first such initiative in the world and helped some 50 swimmers in difficulty last year.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA Police in three countries arrested 17 people yesterday and seized nearly 2 tons of drugs in connection with what Australian authorities said was an effort by organized crime groups to transport large amounts of drugs into Australia.



IRAN After decisively winning re-election almost three months ago, Iran's president yesterday proposed a new Cabinet for his second term that cuts out the hard-line Revolutionary Guard from controlling the Defense Ministry for the first time in nearly 25 years.

More on p15

RUSSIA A Russian opposition activist has been released from prison after serving his term. Sergei Udaltsov has served four and a half years on charges related to his role in staging a May 2012 protest rally against President Vladimir Putin that ended in clashes with police.



FRANCE After more than three years without a first lady, the French don't appear to be very eager to get a new one. President Emmanuel Macron wants to formalize the role of his wife Brigitte, but critics say it's too costly. The president's office is preparing a formal communication in coming days, Brigitte Macron's office said yesterday.

US Jury selection has begun in the trial of two men charged with killing a Syracuse University student from China during a drug deal robbery last year. Prosecutors say the 23-year-old student from Qingdao, on China's east coast, was killed during a drug deal at an apartment complex in suburban DeWitt last Sept. 30.

TAIWANESE TEEN-STAR

Ou-yang Nana swings from Jackie Chan role to Disney album

Angela Chen, Taipei

OU-YANG Nana may be the new 'it girl,' with a starring role in the next Jackie Chan movie, but she's returning to her roots and first love: cello.

The 17-year-old actress just released her second cello album, "Cello Loves Disney," where she plays all the classic hits from her favorite fairy tales. Ou-yang said that it was a dream come true to record the songs she loves and knows by heart, including "Tale as Old as Time" from "Beauty and the Beast."

"Never did I imagine that when I'm 17, I could play it and release the album. When I was little, I'd sit on sofa and watch the movie. I'd think, 'Oh, Belle is so beautiful when she's dancing with Beast.'

"This was also the first song that I recorded for the album. There was a lot to adjust, to get used to, but I still need to sound sweet and full of love."

Ou-yang was born into a family of entertainers. Her aunt, Ou-yang Fei Fei, was a famous singer in Taiwan in the 1970s. Both her parents acted in television in Taiwan. Ou-yang Nana was trained to become a classic cellist, but dropped out of school to pur-



Ou-yang Nana, 17

sue acting full time.

Her role in the 2014 film "Beijing Love Story" jump-started her acting career. At 15, she was a guest of Chanel at its Paris Fashion show, taking selfies with Karl Lagerfeld backstage. She just released 'Secret Fruit,' a coming-of-age love story, in China.

Next, Ou-yang will be playing Jackie Chan's daughter in his new action sci-fi film "Bleeding Steel," scheduled for release in China in December. She said the action star has shared with her words of wisdom that she has taken to heart.

"You will never see (Jackie Chan) tired. I've never heard him say he's tired, or wants to sleep or take a break. ... When I see him like that, I feel so inadequate. He also tells me that I should work harder

when I'm young, so that I don't have any regrets when I'm old."

The on-screen father/daughter duo had such a wonderful connection they decided to extend it to Ou-yang's cello album. Chan and Ou-yang singing a Mandarin version of 'A Whole New World' as a bonus track on the album.

Ou-yang said she is not ruling out going back to school one day, but doesn't wish to be a normal 17-year-old.

"I choose this life. I want to be an actress, I want to be a cellist," she said. "So I have to learn to accept all the things like paparazzi, and the reporters ... or cyberbullies. These things I have to learn."

"Cello Loves Disney" is in stores now Asia wide, and available for download on iTunes, Spotify and KK Box. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



At gun point. HK actor Andy Lau, left, and French actor Jean Reno point toy guns at each other as they pose for photograph during a news conference of their latest movie "The Adventurers" in Beijing yesterday.