



THE ART OF THE BURGER

A Hong Kong restaurant came to Macau for the first time, introducing its renowned hamburgers

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MGM BETS ON WEALTHIER MASSES TO CATCH UP

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10TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

Art for All Society will mark its 10th anniversary with an exhibition titled "The Beginner's Mind - Works by AFA Founders"

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "



China cuts off host of imports from N. Korea

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



SOUTH ASIA Heavy monsoon rains have unleashed landslides and floods that have killed at least 160 people and displaced millions of others across northern India, southern Nepal and Bangladesh.

AUSTRALIA's deputy prime minister became the latest lawmaker to reveal he might have breached a constitutional prohibition on dual citizens becoming lawmakers, after the New Zealand government declared he was a kiwi.

INDONESIA A man who killed himself during an armed Los Angeles standoff last week was reportedly an important witness in a sweeping corruption investigation in Indonesia.

AP PHOTO



IRAN Chanting "Death to America," Iran's parliament voted unanimously to increase spending on its ballistic missile program and the foreign operations of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, part of a sanctions bill mirroring a new U.S. law targeting the country.

More on backpage



Raimundo do Rosário says 'nobody is doing' mandatory building inspections

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FOOD & BEVERAGE

Quality remains essential despite demand for trending ingredients

Lynzy Valles

THE burger is an American cuisine staple that has evolved over time, with all manner of trendy and creative twists on the classic sandwich. Despite the demand to produce artistic and unique burger toppings, some restaurants still opt to serve classic burgers to its customers.

Last week, Hong Kong restaurant Beef & Liberty came to Macau for the first time, introducing its renowned hamburgers – which only use hormone-free and grass-fed beef – that have made waves in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

The pop-up restaurant opened at the Mandarin Oriental for three days.

German-born group executive chef for The Greater China Restaurant Company, Uwe Opocensky, said that creating classic burgers remains a priority for the restaurant, despite a demand for something creative and unique.

“We don’t just serve a burger, we take it much more seriously – we look at the quality and the sourcing of the ingredients,” he said.

Opocensky left the Mandarin Oriental Hotel as an executive chef after nine years to serve



Uwe Opocensky, executive chef of The Greater China Restaurant Company

Beef & Liberty.

The executive chef says that the patties they served were shipped from Scotland to create the same experience that residents have in Hong Kong.

Although there has been a demand for trendy burgers from social media foodies and bloggers – a demand capitalized upon by many modern restaurants – the executive chef believes that nothing beats classic ingredients.

He argues that attention to detail and the ingredients should re-

main a priority.

“The food itself has to be delicious. You don’t have to put [unusual] ingredients in a burger like a lot of people do [such as the chocolate burgers] - I think that becomes more of a gimmick,” he reminded.

He also said that it is important for food chains to serve what the mass market eats, and to be mindful of the sustainability and quality of menus as many residents are now more conscious of healthy ingredients.

He believes that the number of

restaurants serving high-quality burgers is not increasing, particularly in the trendy city of Hong Kong, which is prone to temporary fads.

Good products and service, Opocensky believes, will prevail in the long term.

Burgers, while considered a staple of American cuisine, have also enjoyed popular demand in the Chinese market, particularly Macau. Opocensky admitted that he was surprised to see the turnout at Beef & Liberty, saying that the

place was fully booked despite the limited menu.

The menu included Beef & Liberty’s signature hamburger, made with hormone-free and grass-fed beef and grilled to a pink and juicy medium.

It was served in a golden bun and topped with Tiptree ketchup, lettuce, onion and house pickles.

Also featured on the menu was “the Cheese Burger”, crowned with melted raclette cheese and caramelized onion.

Guests who opted for something different were offered the “The Notorious P.I.G Hamburger”, with “Wicks Manor English” slow-braised BBQ pork, crackling, green apple slaw and spring onions.

When questioned on plans for a permanent restaurant, Opocensky remarked, “I think [Macau has] nothing that caters to high-quality everyday consumption so certainly there’s a demand for that.”

Opocensky also revealed that they will open another two restaurants in Shanghai due to popular demand in the city, noting that the Chinese market is significant for its business.

“We want to do more, it’s just that we are very cautious on how we are approaching it, and make sure we get details right,” he explained.

“At the end of the day, quality always prevails. Other trends come and go.”

Beef & Liberty will be back this Thursday to Saturday with similar offerings to those it presented last week.

Four buses no longer stop at Praça de Ferreira Amaral

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) is considering diverting four bus routes, resulting in them no longer stopping at the Praça de Ferreira do Amaral. It would possibly be implemented before September, before the beginning of a new school year.

After taking into account that there are many bus lines with repeated stations or even overlapping routes, DSAT is thinking about firstly adjusting the routes of buses 7, 10B, 28BX, and 28C.

Bus line 7, after



stopping at Avenida D. João IV, will stop at the Hotel Lisboa, and will not stop at Praça de Ferreira do Amaral nor at the President Hotel, instead going directly to the Avenida 24 de Junho

/ Rua do Porto.

Bus lines 10B and 28BX will not stop at Praça de Ferreira do Amaral, and will be going straight to the Hotel Lisboa station.

Line 28C will not stop at Praça de Fer-

reira do Amaral nor at the Hotel Lisboa. It will ride straight to the Praceta 1 de Outubro.

In addition, bus lines 11 and MT2 will stop later at the E channel instead of at the current D channel at the bus stop Praça de Ferreira Amaral.

After the aforementioned changes, DSAT expects that 450 fewer buses will stop at Praça de Ferreira Amaral, which will prevent traffic jams and will improve bus operations in the vicinity.

New SME credit expands

THE Monetary Authority of Macau released the credit statistics of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) last Friday. According to the data, the amount of new SME credit approved increased in the first half of 2017 compared to a year ago. The outstanding balance of SME loans recorded annual growth, while the share of SME loans granted to major industries remained stable.

Of the new lending that was approved in the first half of 2017, new SME credit limit approved by Macau banks totaled MOP12.6 billion, down by 7.3 percent from the second half of 2016, but up 26.8 percent from the same period last year. The collateralized ratio, which indicates the proportion of credit limit with tangible assets pledged, stood at 86.3 percent, up by 2.4 percent compared to the last sur-

voyed 4.7 percent when compared with the same period of 2016.

At the end of June, the outstanding value of total SME loans increased by 4.3 percent from end-December last year, or by 7.4 percent from a year earlier to MOP72.7 billion.

On an annual basis, SME loans granted to “restaurants, hotels and similar activities” and “construction and public works” increased at rates of 28.4 percent and 14.6 percent, respectively. Loans granted for “transport, warehouse and communications” and “manufacturing industries” dropped by 14.4 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

As for delinquent SME loans, the outstanding balance declined 11.1 percent to MOP514 million by the end of June compared to six months ago, an increase from the balance of MOP306.4 million a year ago.

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Daniela Wei

GAMING

MGM Resorts bets on wealthier masses to catch up in Macau

MGM Resorts International is counting on a growing number of affluent Chinese customers to drive revenue at its new Macau property, as it strives to catch up with an industry rebound in the enclave.

The Las Vegas-based company's USD3.3 billion resort on the Cotai strip, its second property in Macau that is scheduled to open in the fourth quarter, aims to cater more to the recreational gambler than the exclusive high-rollers crowd, according to Chief Executive Officer James Murren.

"Our business model is not predicated on the VIP business," Murren said in an interview on Bloomberg TV with Rishaad Salammat yesterday. "Our strategic plan is built on catering to this tremendously emerging more-affluent Chinese customer, a customer that's looking for more experimental experiences, not just a selfie moment or a gaming table."

MGM is playing catch-up in Macau, the world's largest gambling market, after the former Portuguese colony began a rebound a year ago following China's corruption crackdown in 2014. MGM's rivals Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts Ltd. have benefited more from the return of tourists and high-stakes gamblers, attracting customers with newer facili-

ties in the last two years.

MGM hasn't done as well from Macau's VIP rebound as it didn't have an early entry in Cotai, Murren said in the interview. The new project was originally scheduled to open in 2016, but technology issues caused delays that required more time and money, he said.

The new project will finally put MGM China on the map to compete with its peers on the Cotai strip.

MARGARET HUANG
ANALYST

MGM last month posted weaker-than-expected profit for the second quarter, with revenue

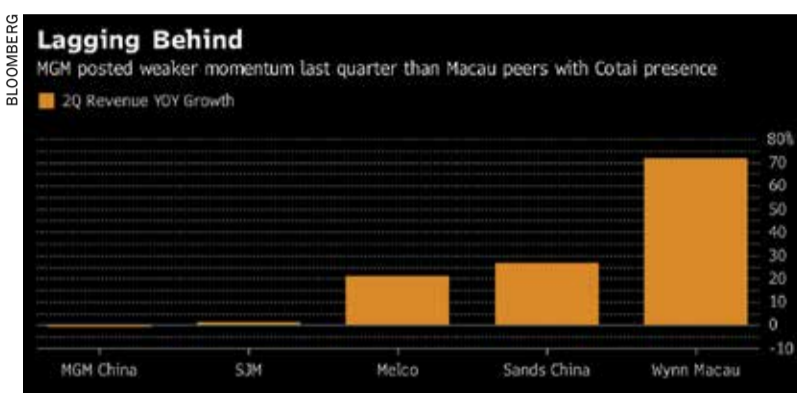
in China sliding to \$449 million. It lost market share in both the high-roller business and the mass market, according to a note from Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.

"The new project will finally put MGM China on the map to compete with its peers on the Cotai strip," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang yesterday. "Its focus on the mass market should help to boost margins, but there are still challenges in doing so because it is a late joiner."

Huang noted the casino operator is less experienced in capturing this volume-driven business, as it has been predominantly focused on high-end at the Peninsula, its other Macau property.

Shares of Macau unit MGM China Holdings Ltd. rose 1.2 percent yesterday in Hong Kong trading, outperforming the 0.5 percent gain in the benchmark Bloomberg Intelligence Macau casino index.

The Cotai resort plans to offer approximately 1,400 hotel rooms and suites, and will have a theater



with a 900-square-meter LED screen, the largest in the world. "We're very adamant particularly because we're not an early entrant to Cotai," Murren said. "We have to wow people, and that takes time."

Murren said the market potential in Japan, where the country is hashing out casino regulations, is "tremendous," but the opportunity is unclear at the moment as the government hasn't nailed down specifics. Japan recently released a proposal outlining possible restrictions on the industry, including limits on the amount of ga-

ming floor space and the number of times an individual may enter a casino.

Lawmakers in the country are working on legislation to implement casinos after legalizing them in December. Murren said last year that he had high hopes for a \$10 billion casino resort project there.

Ultimately, it will "boil down to the one guidance they have not given, which is the tax rate," Murren said yesterday. If they adopt a Singapore-like model, "you're going to see a very competitive bidding for Japan." **Bloomberg**

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AL PLENARY

Raimundo do Rosário says 'nobody is doing' mandatory building inspections

Julie Zhu

DURING yesterday's Legislative Assembly's (AL) plenary meeting, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, discussed with lawmakers about the mandatory building inspections concerning buildings that are 30 years old or older, as well as a penalty system related to mandatory building inspections.

The meeting was convened to discuss a motion presented by Mak Soi Kun, who proposed that the government should conduct mandatory inspections over old buildings.

Specifically, Mak's proposal indicated that the government should speed up the legislation work on the rules of penalties and obligations regarding buildings with more than 30 years of history.

Lei Cheng I firstly voiced that Macau indeed has a mandatory building inspection scheme. However, the region does not give out fines as a way of enforcing people to conduct building inspections.

Rosário said that the government is "already conducting mandatory building inspection[s] every five years. We can fine, [...] fining is easy. The problem is how to collect the fines. If there are owners committees, it is relatively easier. But if there are none, how do we collect the fines?"

Rosário said that the problem is which party should inspect the buildings, and how to collect the fines.

Ma Chi Seng said that "the government should conduct a wide propaganda in order to improve the civil sense of importance of building's maintenance."



Rosário agreed with Ma and said "last year, the government granted MOP20 million, and this year it has granted MOP15 million for building maintenance. [...] If the buildings [owners] do not reach an agreement, there is nothing I can do. The initiative is in the hands of the buildings [owners]."

Ho Ion Sang pointed out that some of the government's housing maintenance funds recorded only one digit's worth of applications. "Why were there so few applicants?" asked Ho.

"I don't know why is it not popular, [...] I only know that we have money, [...] we have to wait for owners to come looking for us," declared Rosário.

When replying to other lawmakers' inquiries, Rosário said that "the government has responsibilities, and owners also have many responsibilities as well, therefore the government cannot replace owners in many of their tasks."

Melinda Chan commented that "it is a good concept, that of the 20 years mandatory building inspection."

Afterwards, she asked "how can the law be implemented, and who will pay for the inspections? Is the government going to pay for 100 percent for the owners?"

There is a mandatory building inspection, but nobody is doing it. Nobody is caring about it.

ANGELA LEONG

"Under the current regulations, the government is [partially] paying for the inspections, which I think is correct. The government is now paying for 30 percent [of the cost]," explained Rosário, adding that the

government is not the main responsible party for a building's maintenance. That is a liability that belongs to the owners' committee.

Si Ka Lon suggested the government should enhance public awareness regarding building inspections. "Many residents are not aware [that they should inspect their buildings]," noted Si.

Rosário told Si that more awareness among the residents regarding building maintenance has been agreed on by all sectors.

Lam Heong Sang wanted Rosário's answer on how the government is implementing its current mandatory building inspection policy.

Rosário told Lam that if "a new building is maintained every five years, it does not need to be inspected. [...] if you do not cease maintenance, you do not need to inspect the buildings. The problem is that, in Macau, nobody minds [maintains] buildings for many years."

Angela Leong said that the "the public is disappointed at the government because it does not conduct mandatory building inspection. [...] owners do not know how [and] when to conduct the inspections."

Replying to Leong, Rosário said "there is a mandatory building inspection, but nobody is doing it. Nobody is caring about it."

The secretary remarked that "the problem lies in how to collect the fines? I think the biggest problem is to assign responsibilities to small owners."

Zheng Anting, while arguing with Rosário, said "if the government thinks it [collecting of fines] is a big problem, how can residents solve it? It is more

complicated [for small owners]."

Au Kam San suggested an idea which was later agreed to by Rosário. He wondered whether the government can add some tax on top of the city's current property tax, instead of fining the owners.

"Theoretically, it is possible, but needs to be written down in the law," said Rosário, who then noted that the government's consideration is in fact the same as Au's suggestion.

The secretary then raised one question to all of the lawmakers: "Why do we have to fine? Can't we just discuss and talk to residents?"

The motion's proposer, Mak Soi Kun, then voiced that the government is conducting mandatory inspections of cars every eight years. Mak considered that similar policies can be applied to buildings.

He also criticized Rosário's statement that it is difficult for the government to collect fines. "If you are aware that things can fall from a building at any time, and you don't do something, then there is a problem," said Mak.

Rosário noted that "if a car has a few problems, I could say the car cannot go out [be used]. But if a building has problems, can I tell the person to not live in said building?"

Fong Chi Keong voiced his opinion at the very end of yesterday's AL plenary meeting.

"The people do not care about their own properties, [...] what are the reasons that the government should pay for it? People in Macau are used to not paying," said Fong, who also remarked the "Macau government is the best government in the world."

South China Book Festival held in Guangzhou

THE 2017 South China Book Festival and the Canton Book Fair ended yesterday in Guangzhou. The five-day event took place at the Canton Fair Complex, covering an area of 40,000 square meters.

This year, there was a more diverse range of exhibition halls including a Hong Kong-Macau-Taiwan Hall, Canton Book Fair Hall, Digital Publishing Hall and a Picture Book Hall.

This was the second year

that Macau was included in an exhibition hall.

Special areas were set up for 14 reading promotion agencies to stage activities.

Over 300 cultural activities were organized at the festival and more than 350 celebrities and literati were present to speak with visitors including writers Wang Meng, Su Tong, Geling Yan and columnist Chua Lam.

The theme of the festival this year was "reading as an attitude towards life."

In addition, reading nights were held over the weekend, where visitors experienced cultural activities across different themes. On Friday, a reading talent show with the theme "the journey of a book" was held featuring special guests reading books and articles.

On Saturday, an activity titled "24 hour reading plan" was staged, during which visitors had the chance to speak with VIP guests face to face. On Sunday, there were stage

performances including modern drama, street dance and cosplay.

The organizer also established 17 "bookcrossing" sites in Guangdong during the event to encourage people to read and share books. People could borrow and exchange books at any of the 17 locations and return them at any of the other points.

Satellite venues brought the festival to 13 other cities around Guangdong, including Zhuhai, Foshan and Zhongshan.





A mosquito eradication action conducted by a IACM staff member

HEALTH

Fourth case of dengue fever in Macau

THE Health Bureau (SSM) confirmed Macau's fourth case of locally infected dengue fever. The patient is a 27-year-old man who lives at Rua da Praia do Manduco, the same street where the previous three cases of dengue fever were confirmed.

On August 6, the patient developed fever, fatigue, muscle and joint pain and subsequently went to Kiang Wu Hospital to receive medical attention. His fever persisted for three days after visiting the hospital, and he was diagnosed with dengue fever on August 10. The patient is currently in a stable condition.

The SSM and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) held a press conference earlier this month to alert citizens on the spread of dengue and educate the public on preventive measures.

SSM and IACM have jointly carried out measures to chemi-

cally eliminate mosquitoes in Macau's parks and public areas.

In Hong Kong, the Center for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health confirmed one local case and two imported cases in the month of August, as well as an additional case under investigation. The CHP reported that the patients in the two imported cases had been to Vietnam and the Philippines.

Both the Macau and Hong Kong governments have urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel abroad.

Preventative measures include properly disposing of waste such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes to prevent accumulation of water, as well as changing the water of flowers and plants at least weekly so that the water will not become stagnant.

Art for All Society's 10th anniversary exhibition

LOCAL art association, Art for All Society (AFA), is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an exhibition titled "The Beginner's Mind - Works by AFA Founders."

The exhibition's opening ceremony will be held on August 25 at Tak Chun Macau Art Garden. The participating artists are the founders of AFA - Bianca Lei, James Chu, Konstantin Bessmertny, Noah Ng Fong Chao and Tong Chong.

The artworks that will be showcased include paintings, videos and mixed media.

According to a press release from AFA, the exhibition is curated based on the theme "Beginner's Mind." The term comes from a Buddhist classic text of Avatamsaka Sutra which is "The very beginning mind itself is the most accomplished mind of true enlightenment." It is noted as the "best mind" but the most difficult one to attain. While the founders have



A painting by Konstantin Bessmertny featured in the exhibition

witnessed the growth of AFA throughout the past 10 years, the exhibition seeks to revisit the original intention of AFA's establishment.

AFA was founded in 2007 with the aim to enhance the development of Macau contemporary art, to facilitate local art creations and to assist the Macau government with the development of local cultural undertakings.

The non-profitable art organization holds solo exhi-

bitions of Macau artists monthly, exhibiting over 1,000 artworks including painting, photography, sculpture, print-making and video installations from more than 40 of Macau's dynamic contemporary artists. AFA also brings local artworks to exhibitions and art fairs in other countries including Portugal, Japan and the United States.

The exhibition will be open to the public from August 26 to September 17.

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MOTORSPORTS

Macanese racer to join WTCC in China and Japan

MACAUBORN racer Filipe de Souza will return to the FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) in China and Japan this October with team RC Motorsport. Souza will race the WTCC at the Macau Grand Prix with the same team.

De Souza last raced in the WTCC in Macau in 2014, where he won the title of Champion in the Macau Touring Car Series two years in a row. He also performed well in the Touring Car Series (TCR) in Asia, TCR Asia and TCR China.

The racing driver made his WTCC debut in 2011 and was a regular at the end-of-season Asia races. He has yet to test a top-class TC1 World Touring Car, which was introduced in 2014 – but will finally have that opportunity when he joins RC Motorsport for the WTCC Race of China and WTCC Jvckenwood Race of Japan, held from October 13 to 15 and 27 to 29, respectively.



Filipe de Souza

Souza's first TC1 experience will be at the brand-new Ningbo International Speedpark in China on October 14, during the Free Practice 1. The racer, however, seemed unfazed by

that prospect. "It's going to be a bit tough for me since I have never driven at either track and the car will also be new, but I will try my best," he said.

"Like all drivers, I want to fight for the highest position possible."

Souza's return to WTCC later this year increases the highly competitive entry in the process.

"In my racing career, I always like challenges and higher-level competition," said the Macanese racer.

"This is my aim and I've always believed my path belongs to the WTCC and to be part of the WTCC family. I'm racing for my dreams and for my country," he added.

WTCC promoter Francois Ribeiro, who is also Head of Eurosport Events, welcomed the confirmation of de Souza's return to the championship.

"It's great to have Filipe back in the WTCC and for RC Motorsport to have a third car on the grid. The 2017 WTCC season is very competitive so it will be a challenge for Filipe, but he has the right attitude to make the most out of this opportunity," said Ribeiro.

Senior police under investigation

A police chief from the Public Security Police Force (PSP) is currently under investigation for allegedly using public money for private purposes, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The male police officer, who is in his 50s, has been serving in PSP since 1993. According to PSP, the case was reported to the authorities by other parties within the bureau. The suspect is currently working for PSP, but has been removed from his position. PSP is investigating whether third parties are involved in the case.

MOP342 million granted for housing maintenance

Until July 31, the Housing Bureau's (IH) Building Maintenance Fund granted MOP342 million in subsidies for the maintenance of buildings across Macau, according to a statement released last week by IH. The subsidies involve 2,862 applications. Over MOP270 million was granted to 2,405 applicants – the majority – seeking assistance for repairs to facilities in buildings' common areas. Over MOP53 million was granted to 265 applicants for building maintenance subsidies. About MOP4.5 million was granted to the remaining 164 applicants as interest-free loans for building maintenance programs.

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China's property slowdown means peak of growth cycle has passed

CHINA'S economy hit a mid-year speed bump last month as factory output, investment and consumption slowed.

While there were multiple reasons - from a deleveraging push to capacity cuts to the simple fact that the heady pace of first-half expansion was always likely to prove unsustainable - one key cause of the weakness was a pull-back in property.

Dubbed the most important sector in the universe in 2011 by a UBS Group AG economist, China's real estate market employs millions, drives demand for steel, cement and glass, and underpins consumption of everything from appliances to cars. So it's a big deal that the country's push to restrain prices is now starting to slow the pace of sales and development.

"Peak growth of the cycle is behind us," said Yao Wei, chief China economist at Societe Generale SA in Paris, citing a slump in housing sales growth, a lead-



Residential buildings stand under construction in Jining, China

ding indicator.

Here's how the property market is faring: The value of new homes sold rose 4.3 percent in July from a year earlier, the smallest increase since March 2015, according to Bloomberg calculations based on data released Monday by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Swings in sales always alter property developers' confidence and lead changes in investment. Growth of that spending, which edged down to 7.9 percent in July, underpins demand for

construction materials. As commodity prices in China surge on reduced industrial capacity, weakening demand from real estate may erode those big gains.

Construction already looks more sluggish. Floor space of newly started homes declined 4.9 percent from a year earlier in July, a slump from the 14 percent increase the prior month. While building activities can be volatile and affected by weather, a continued drop or deceleration would also erode appetite for materials and threaten jobs in the sector.

Property is losing momentum at the same time as other pillars for domestic demand are decelerating. Fixed-asset investment in infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water projects and public facilities, decelerated slightly. Spending gains in manufacturing also decelerated to 4.8 percent in the first seven months from 5.5 percent in the first six.

It may be more difficult for the government to pick up the slack in the second half by boosting investment in infrastructure, as authorities splurged early this year to shore up the expansion and are discouraged from piling on more debt. Still, policy makers could release additional fiscal power if they see a risk that economic growth could be derailed.

Consumers have become a key stabilizer of the economy, and also could be hurt by a cooling property market. Besides a fading wealth effect for urban home owners if their home pri-

ces stagnate or drop, the housing market's direct links to retail sales may risk stalling. Sales of appliances, furniture, automobiles, and building and decoration materials all slowed last month from June.

Property is losing momentum at the same time as other pillars for domestic demand are decelerating

The property market has cooled, but any further slowdown will be "at a gradual pace," a spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics at a briefing in Beijing Monday. **Bloomberg**

PORTUGAL

Economy grows 0.2 percent, falling short of estimates

Anabela Reis, Joao Lima

PORTUGAL'S economic growth decelerated more than forecast in the three months through June, expanding at the slowest pace in a year.

Gross domestic product rose 0.2 percent from the first quarter, when it expanded 1 percent, the Lisbon-based National Statistics Institute said in

a preliminary report yesterday. That fell short of the 0.6 percent increase predicted by economics in a Bloomberg survey. From a year earlier the economy expanded 2.8 percent, matching the previous quarter.

The government continues to expect "strong" economic growth going forward as the labor market shows signs of

robustness, Finance Minister Mario Centeno said in telephone interview. The slowdown in the second quarter is related to an increase in imports of machinery and equipment and that's a positive sign for investment, he said.

Tourism and exports have been boosting the economy, with the Bank of Portugal forecasting growth will accelerate

to 2.5 percent this year. That growth is helping the country's minority Socialist government manage the budget deficit. Last year, it was the narrowest as a percentage of GDP in four decades, according to Prime Minister Antonio Costa.

Final numbers, including a detailed breakdown on GDP contributors, are due Aug. 31. **Bloomberg**



corporate bits



MGM PRESENTS MOONCAKES BY AWARD WINNING CHEF JANICE WONG

MGM Macau is teaming up with award-winning pastry chef, Janice Wong, to launch two mooncake gift boxes for this year's Mid-Autumn Festival.

According to a press release from MGM, Singaporean chef Wong was selected in San Pellegrino Asia's Top 50 as Asia's Best Pastry Chef in 2013 and 2014, as well as awarded the Pastry Chef of the Year in 2011, 2013 and 2015 at the World Gourmet Summit.

The mooncake gift boxes are a sneak peek at the chef's pastry skills, with MGM planning to open a Janice Wong sweets shop at MGM Cotai in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The first gift box is the "Assorted Mini Snow Skin Mooncake," which offers nine flavors that mixes the traditional lotus paste with

chocolate ganache fillings. The assortment includes a "Gula Melaka Pandan" flavor that has a light touch of coconut scent, a "White Truffle" flavor that contains a nutty 76 percent dark chocolate, "Salted Caramel", "Jasmine Tea", and "Champagne".

Meanwhile, the "Assorted Mini Mooncake" gift box offers three flavors including the classic "White Lotus Egg Yolk," the "Egg Custard," and the "Cured Ham with Mixed Nuts." The mooncakes are packed in a black box with a color palette as the pattern.

The "Assorted Mini Snow Skin Mooncake" and the "Assorted Mini Mooncake" gift boxes are priced at MOP388 and MOP428 respectively. MGM is also offering festive hampers priced from MOP2,288.

GLOBAL TOURISM ECONOMY FORUM TO BE HELD IN MACAU THIS OCTOBER

The Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF), an international tourism platform designed to encourage sustainable development of the global tourism industry with a focus on China, is scheduled to host its 6th annual edition on October 16 and 17 in Macau.

GTEF's most recent roadshow was held on August 11 at The Peninsula Beijing, enabling the forum's partners and media to gather. The luncheon boosted tourism stakeholder participation at GTEF 2017 by signing on delegates and participants in the Forum's business matching platform. The luncheon was attended

by various prominent guests who gave remarks on the key role that regional collaboration plays in developing tourism opportunities alongside the Belt and Road Initiative. The leading MICE operators representing Macau included MGM Macau, Sands China and SJM Holdings.

The GTEF press release quotes Pansy Ho, Vice Chairman of GTEF, stating, "in the past five years, the Forum has capitalized on Macau's distinct advantages in east-west cultural fusion and interconnectivity and has successfully built a global tourism exchange and cooperation platform that is backed by our motherland."

KOREAN CRISIS

Top US military officer warns Pyongyang that US military ready

Foster Klug, Seoul

THE top U.S. military officer said yesterday that the United States wants to peacefully resolve a deepening standoff with North Korea but is also ready to use the "full range" of its military capabilities in case of provocation.

The comments by Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford in a series of meetings with senior South Korean military and political officials and the local media appeared to be an attempt to ease anxiety over tit-for-tat threats between President Donald Trump and North Korea while also showing a willingness to back up Trump's warnings if need be.

Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is visiting South Korea, Japan and China after a week in which Trump declared the U.S. military "locked and loaded" and said he was ready to unleash "fire and fury" if North Korea continued to threaten the United States.

North Korea, meanwhile, has threatened to lob four intermediate-range missiles into the waters near Guam, a tiny U.S. territory about 3,200 kilometers from Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. This would be a deeply provocative act from the U.S. perspective, and there has been widespread debate about whether Washington would try to shoot the missiles down if they're fired.

The U.S.-North Korea impasse, which has simmered since the end of the Korean War in 1953, has grown more tense in recent months over worries that the North's nuclear weapons program is nearing the ability to target the U.S. mainland. Pyongyang tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles last month.



US Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford at a news conference at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, Seoul

"We are seeking a peaceful resolution to the crisis," Dunford, who also met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, said to reporters, according to a local pool report.

He earlier told his South Korean counterparts that America is ready "to use the full range of military capabilities to defend our allies and the U.S. homeland," according to U.S. military spokesman Capt. Darryn James.

Moon separately called yesterday for a peaceful solution to the nuclear standoff, saying that "there must not be another war on the Korean Peninsula," according to his office.

In a meeting with top aides

at the presidential Blue House, Moon said South Korea would work to safeguard peace on the peninsula in cooperation with the United States and other countries. Moon said North Korea must stop issuing menacing statements and provoking.

North Korea, which is angry over new United Nations sanctions condemning its rapidly developing nuclear and missile program, continued its tough stance yesterday.

The North accused the United States of mobilizing a huge number of weapons and troops for annual military drills with South Korea that begin later this month. Pyongyang, which claims the drills are war pre-

paration, says it will be ready to send its Guam missile launch plan to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for approval just before or as the drills begin.

"What matters is that if a second conflict (on the peninsula) erupts, that cannot help but lead to a nuclear war," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said in a commentary. "We are closely monitoring every move by the United States."

The commentary said that about 3.5 million young students and workers have volunteered to join or rejoin the army because of a possible confrontation with the United States.

Dunford earlier told repor-

ters traveling with him to Asia that he aims to "sense what the temperature is in the region." He also will discuss military options in the event the "diplomatic and economic pressurization campaign" fails.

"We're all looking to get out of this situation without a war," Dunford said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping talked on the phone Saturday with Trump and called for cool-headedness. Xi urged Washington and Pyongyang to avoid words or actions that could worsen the situation.

Trump has pushed China, North Korea's biggest economic partner and source of aid, to do more to stop the North's nuclear ambitions. Beijing says its influence on Pyongyang is limited.

“We’re all looking [with China] to get out of this situation without a war.”

JOSEPH DUNFORD
US MARINE CORPS GEN.

Trump's recent threats followed a report that U.S. intelligence indicates North Korea can now put a nuclear warhead on its long-range missiles.

For all his bluster, Trump's words did not appear to be backed by significant military mobilization on either side of the Pacific, and an important, quiet diplomatic channel remained open.

On Sunday, CIA Director Mike Pompeo and Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, Trump's national security adviser, tried to provide assurances that a conflict is avoidable, while also supporting Trump's tough talk. They said the United States and its allies no longer can afford to stand by as North Korea pushes ahead with the development of a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile. **AP**

China appeals to Trump to avoid 'trade war'

CHINA'S government appealed to U.S. President Donald Trump yesterday to avoid a "trade war" ahead of what the White House says is a possible announcement of an investigation into whether China is stealing U.S. technology.

An official told reporters the president would order his trade office to look into whether to launch an investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of

1974 of possible Chinese theft of U.S. technology and intellectual property.

"There is no future and no winner in a trade war and both sides will be the losers. As we have emphasized for many times, the nature of China-U.S. trade relations is mutual benefit and win-win," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Hua Chunying.

"Considering the importance of the China-U.S. relations, China is willing

to make joint efforts with the United States to keep trade and economic relations on sustained, healthy and stable development on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit," Hua said.

Earlier Monday, a state newspaper, the China Daily, said Trump's possible decision to launch an investigation could "intensify tensions," especially over intellectual property.

A decision to use the law to rebalance trade with China "could trigger a trade war," said the commentary under the name of researcher Mei Xinyu of the ministry's International Trade and Economic Cooperation Institute.

"And the inquiry the U.S. administration has ordered into China's trade policies, if carried out, could intensify tensions, especially on inte-

lectual property rights," the commentary said.

It gave no indication of how Beijing might respond but Chinese law gives regulators broad discretion over what foreign companies can do in China.

If an investigation begins, Washington could seek remedies either through the World Trade Organization or outside of it.

Previous U.S. actions

directed at China under the 1974 law had little effect, said the China Daily. It noted that China has grown to become the biggest exporter and has the world's largest foreign exchange reserves.

"The use of Section 301 by the U.S. will not have much impact on China's progress toward stronger economic development and a better future," said the newspaper.

CHINA has announced that it will cut off imports of North Korean coal, iron ore and other goods in three weeks under U.N. sanctions imposed over the North's nuclear and missile programs.

China, the isolated North's main trading partner, has been reluctant to push leader Kim Jong Un's regime too hard for fear it might collapse. But Beijing is increasingly frustrated with Pyongyang and supported a U.N. Security Council ban on Aug. 5 on coal and other key goods.

The Chinese customs agency said yesterday that it will stop processing imports of North Korean coal, iron and lead ores and fish at midnight on Sept. 5.

The announcement follows an escalating exchange of angry words between Kim's government and the Trump administration in Washington. The latest U.N. sanctions are intended to block North Korean exports worth USD1 billion — a significant share of total exports valued at \$3 billion last year.

Even as he seeks Beijing's help on North Korea, President Donald Trump is poised to seek a trade investigation of China for the alleged theft of American technology and intellectual property. **MDT/AP**

Beijing cuts off host of imports from North Korea



The sky is overcast in Pyongyang, North Korea

Trump to seek trade probe of China amid Korean tensions

EVEN as he seeks Beijing's help on North Korea, President Donald Trump is poised to seek a trade investigation of China for the alleged theft of American technology and intellectual property.

Trump is expected to sign an executive order today [Macau time] asking his trade office to consider the probe. In the midst of a 17-day vacation, Trump plans to leave his New Jersey golf club and return to Washington to sign the order.

There is no deadline for deciding if any investigation is necessary. Such an investigation easily could last a year.

In a phone call Friday, Trump praised Chinese President Xi Jinping for backing the recent U.N. vote to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea, and the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a nuclear-free Korean Pen-



Donald Trump, left, and Xi Jinping at a meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Hamburg this year

insula. But Trump also told Xi about the move toward a possible inquiry into China's trade practices, according to two U.S. officials familiar with that conversation. They were not authorized to publicly discuss the private call and spoke on condition of anonymity.

China announced Monday it will cut off imports of North Korean coal, iron

and lead ore and other goods in three weeks under U.N. sanctions imposed against Pyongyang.

Trump wants government officials to look at Chinese practices that force American companies to share their intellectual property in order to gain access to the world's second-largest economy. Many U.S. businesses must create joint ventures

with Chinese companies and turn over valuable technology assets, a practice that Washington says stifles U.S. economic growth.

Trump's action amounts to a request that his trade representative determine whether an investigation is needed under the Trade Act of 1974. If an investigation begins, the U.S. government could seek remedies either through or outside of the World Trade Organization.

While Beijing has promised to open more industries to foreign companies, it also has issued new rules on electric car manufacturing, data security, internet censorship and other fields.

An administration official who confirmed that Trump would sign the order contended it was unrelated to the showdown with North Korea. The official spoke on condition

of anonymity to discuss the order before Trump's formal announcement.

As the crisis involving North Korea has unfolded, Trump has alternated praising China for its help and chiding it for not ratcheting up pressure on its Asian neighbor.

"I think China can do a lot more," Trump told reporters Thursday. "And I think China will do a lot more."

China, the isolated North's main trading partner, has been reluctant to push leader Kim Jong Un's regime too hard for fear it might collapse. But Beijing is increasingly frustrated with Pyongyang and supported a U.N. Security Council ban on Aug. 5 on coal and other key goods.

The Chinese customs agency said Monday that it will stop processing imports of North Korean coal, iron and lead ores and fish at midnight on Sept. 5.

"After that, entry of these goods will be prohibited," said an agency statement.

Trump has escalated his harsh criticism of North

Korea for days, tweeting Friday that the U.S. had military options "locked and loaded." Xi, in his phone conversation with Trump, urged calm, the officials said.

Trump, in the past, has tied trade policy to national security, leading to speculation that raising the possibility of a probe — without committing to one — could be a negotiating tactic to get China to step up its assistance with North Korea.

The forced sharing of intellectual property with Chinese firms has been a long-standing concern of the U.S. business community, with reports suggesting that losses stemming from it could total hundreds of billions of dollars annually that cost the U.S. economy millions of jobs.

Trump has requested similar inquiries on trade, but the reports haven't been delivered on deadline. Trump made addressing the U.S. trade deficit with China a centerpiece of his campaign last year and has suggested raising tariffs on goods from China. **AP**

ANALYSIS

US officials say confrontation with N. Korea not imminent

By Richard Lardner, Washington

SENIOR U.S. national security officials said Sunday that a military confrontation with North Korea's is not imminent, but they cautioned that the possibility of war is greater than it was a decade ago.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo and Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, President Trump's national security adviser, tried to provide assurances that a conflict is avoidable, while also supporting Trump's tough talk. They said the United States and its allies no longer can afford to stand by as North Korea pushes ahead with the development of a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile.

"We're not closer to war than a week ago but we are closer to war than we were a decade ago," McMaster said, adding that the Trump administration is prepared to deal militarily with North Korea if necessary.

But he stressed that the U.S. is pursuing "a very determined diplomatic effort" led by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson that's coupled with new financial sanctions to dissuade North Korean leader Kim Jong Un from further provocations.

"The U.S. military is locked and loaded every day," McMaster said, repeating Trump's threat.

Pompeo said "there's nothing imminent today," in response to a question about how worried should people be over the escalating tensions. He said the U.S. has a "pretty good idea" of North Korea's intentions, but Pompeo declined to provide specifics. The CIA chief described Kim as "rational" and responsive to "adverse circumstances."

"The reaction in North Korea that we are intending to get is an understanding that America is no longer going to have the strategic patience that it's had that has permitted him to continue to develop his weapons program," Pompeo said. "It's that straightforward."

The top U.S. military officer, Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, is traveling in Asia and expected to meet with leaders in South Korea, Japan and China. Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters traveling with him that he aims to "sense what the temperature



U.S. Army chiefs salute at a base in South Korea

is in the region." He also will discuss military options in the event the "diplomatic and economic pressurization campaign" fails.

"We're all looking to get out of this situation without a war," Dunford said.

China's president, Xi Jinping, made a plea for cool-headedness in a phone conversation with Trump on Saturday, urging both sides to avoid words or actions that could worsen the situation.

The call came after Trump

made fresh threats against North Korea on Friday, declaring the U.S. military "locked and loaded" and warning Kim that he "will regret it fast" if he takes any action against U.S. territories or allies.

Trump has pushed China to pressure North Korea to halt a nuclear weapons program that is nearing the capability of targeting the United States. China is the North's biggest economic partner and source of aid, but says it alone can't compel its wayward ally to

end its nuclear and missile programs.

The White House said in a statement that Trump and Xi "agreed North Korea must stop its provocative and escalatory behavior." It also said that the two "reiterated their mutual commitment to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

We're not closer to war than a week ago but we are closer to war than we were a decade ago.

ARMY LT. GEN. H.R. MCMASTER

State-run China Central Television quoted Xi as telling Trump the "relevant parties must maintain restraint and avoid words and deeds that would exacerbate the tension on the Korean Peninsula."

But Trump on Friday appeared to set another red line —

the mere utterance of threats — that would trigger a U.S. attack against North Korea and "big, big trouble" for Kim.

North Korea's Minju Joson newspaper said in an editorial Saturday that the North's army is "capable of fighting any war the U.S. wants."

The tough talk capped a week in which long-standing tensions between the countries risked abruptly boiling over.

New U.N. sanctions condemning North Korea's rapidly developing nuclear program drew fresh ire and threats from the North. Trump, responding to a report that U.S. intelligence indicates Pyongyang can now put a nuclear warhead on its long-range missiles, vowed to rain down "fire and fury" if challenged.

The North then came out with a threat to lob four intermediate-range "Hwasong-12" missiles near Guam, a tiny U.S. territory some 3,200 kilometers from the North's capital, Pyongyang.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., welcomed Trump's pugnacious approach, arguing that many of the president's critics failed to stop North Korea from developing a nuclear weapon that could hit the United States.

"President Trump inherited a mess," Graham said. "All those smart people who are criticizing his rhetoric and his policy, how well did you do?"

Pompeo and Graham were on "Fox News Sunday," and McMaster appeared on ABC's "This Week." AP

North Korean tensions aren't deterring tourists from Guam

TOURISTS haven't been deterred from visiting the tropical island of Guam even though the has been the target of threats from North Korea during a week of angry words exchanged by Pyongyang and Washington.

Chiho Tsuchiya of Japan heard the news, but she decided to come anyway with her husband and two children. "I feel Japan and Korea also can get danger from North Korea, so staying home is the same," said the 40-year-old.

Won Hyung-jin, an official from Modetour, a large South Korean travel agency, said several customers called with concerns, but they weren't worried enough to pay cancellation fees for their trips.

"It seems North Korea racks up tension once or twice every year, and travelers have become insensitive about it," Won said. His company has sent about 5,000 travelers to Guam a month this year, mostly on package tours.

The U.S. territory has a population of 160,000, but it attracted 1.5 million visitors last year. One-third of Guam's jobs are in the tourism industry.

Guam is a key outpost for the U.S. military, which uses it as a base for bombers and submarines.

The island's sandy beaches and aquamarine waters make it a popular getaway for travelers from Japan and South Korea. Guam is only about three hours by plane from major cities in both countries.

The number of South Korean travelers in particular has been growing lately because five

low-cost airlines started flying to Guam from South Korea, said Antonio Muna, the vice president of Guam Visitors Bureau. This helped boost arrival figures to a 20-year high in July, Muna said.

The threats came in a week in which long-standing tensions between the countries risked abruptly boiling over. New United Nations sanctions condemning the North's rapidly developing nuclear program drew fresh ire and threats from Pyongyang. President Donald Trump responded by vowing to rain down "fire and fury" if challenged. The North then threatened to lob missiles near Guam.

Kenji Kikuchi, 39, arrived from Japan last week and planned to leave Tuesday as scheduled. He was aware of the threat from reading the local newspaper and was a little worried. But he said North Korea's missiles would fall in the water not on Guam. His 8-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter weren't concerned.

"They talk about it, but they don't care about it. So they like the sea and the pool," he said.

The Guam Visitors Bureau has heard reports of cancellations, but Muna said it doesn't yet have any concrete figures on how many took place. Officials are still expecting a strong August, Muna said.

"Japan and Korea make over 90 percent of our arrivals. And they're much closer to North Korea than Guam is," Muna said.

The agency has been relaying assurances from the governor and defense officials that Guam is protected and safe, he said.



Visitors sit on a tour bus in Tumon, Guam, yesterday

Trump told Guam's Republican governor the global attention would send more tourists to the island.

"You're going to go up like tenfold with the expenditure of no money," he told Gov. Eddie Calvo in a telephone conversation Calvo posted Sunday on Facebook. Trump said he'd been watching scenes of Guam on the news, and "it just looks like a beautiful place."

At a news conference yesterday, Calvo said that Guam is in a "normal state of readiness and its business as usual."

There is "no change in security threat levels." He told the reporters that "we are defended and will be protected." AP

FOUR decades since his death, Elvis Presley still reigns as The King — for impersonators.

Few artists inspire people all over the world to dress up and perform passionately on stage like Presley. Impersonators from different generations and various countries paid tribute to their idol recently at a gathering in the Philippines. The Elvis Presley Friendship Club, Philippines International, is one of over 400 official fan clubs around the world honoring Presley on the 40th anniversary of his Aug. 16, 1977, death.

What was it about Elvis that inspires tribute artists around the globe to perform in his name after all this time? Those at the gathering in Manila speak about their motivations:

Why does Elvis resonate for you all these years later?

Filipino Jun Espinosa, 44, business consultant:

“Everything for Elvis, that’s the only motivation. And for the fans. Up to now I’m having this in my thought and in my mind that maybe without Elvis in me, I could not have survived certain points of my life. ... Maybe as long as I can shake, as long as I can do this, and as long as people will love Elvis, it will be there.”

Ramon Jacinto, 72, musician, TV host and founder of Philippine rock ‘n’ roll radio station DZRJ:

“He crossed over black music roots to you know, to all nationalities. Even the Beatles were influenced by Elvis. Everybody was influenced. He was the real example of an out-of-the-box showman. And he wiggled, he had a different style of sin-

PHILIPPINES

40 years after Elvis’ death, impersonators talk about legacy



Douglas Masuda, Elvis of Japan performs on stage in Manila

ging from the time of Frank Sinatra. ... He opened the door to carefree rock ‘n’ roll and the attitude.”

How do you tailor your Elvis act for your own culture and audience?

Filipina Anjeanette Japor, 22, singer:

“I still incorporate my style, like, pop and something that’s modern. Definitely my songs, the arrangements are different from the original Elvis songs so that people, no matter what age you are, can still enjoy my music.”

Douglas Masuda of Japan, 73, retired lawyer:

“Well, I don’t really tailor anything. Just sing it the way you feel it. If you feel it, the audience feels it. It’s real simple. You’ve got to feel it. Because I don’t look like Elvis, I don’t really sound like Elvis, but when I sing, you feel it, you feel Elvis coming out.”

Why is Elvis still relevant 40 years after his death?

Filipino Bam Angping, 21, college student:

“It’s really the fans. Michael Jackson was a big, big star. But

they don’t have that kind of community, like, they celebrate every year impersonations. It’s really the fans that caused Elvis to live this long. He was great at his time. But if it were not for the fans, probably he would be, you know, like, ‘Yeah I remember him. But not really.’”

Eddie Lombardo of Italy:

“So we try to keep the name of Elvis alive. we’re not trying to duplicate Elvis because nobody can ‘be’ Elvis. There’s only one Elvis, you know? And what we’re trying to (do is) bring the memory of Elvis back

to people, that’s basically what we’re doing.”

Japor:

“In the music industry, the songs of Elvis remain a classic. Like Bruno Mars, he has a lot of rock ‘n’ roll songs. Most of them originated from the legends, one of which is Elvis. So I think his songs still have a great impact to the music we have nowadays. There are a lot of songs actually that were sung by Elvis that are being covered right now. And that gives a modern twist to the song. So because of that, Elvis continues to live with the music.” **AP**

PAKISTAN

With gun salutes, people marks 70 years of independence

PAKISTAN kicked off a day of celebrations yesterday marking 70 years of statehood and independence, the festivities beginning with gun salutes in the capital, Islamabad, and in each of the four provincial capitals.

In Islamabad, President Mamnoon Hussain hoisted the national flag at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang, and scores of Pakistani military and government officials and other dignitaries. Security was on high

alert across the nation following the suicide attack on Saturday when a bomber on a motorcycle targeted a military truck in the southwestern city of Quetta, killing 15 — eight soldiers and seven civilians.

Pakistan gained independence when the departing British left India and split the subcontinent in 1947, sparking one of the most violent upheavals of the 20th century.

For the Pakistanis, the anniversary comes amid political turmoil that has characterized successive civilian governments of

the country, which has been dominated by military rule through much of its history.

Addressing the ceremony in the capital, Hussain urged the nation to look to the wisdom of its founders when facing the current “hot” environment.

“Solutions to all the problems of this time persist in our ideologies, thoughts of leaders of our freedom movement and our bright history,” he said. “By following them we can improve our situation today and our future as well.”

He appealed on the citi-

zens to “rise above” their party and group interests and “protect the future of the nation.” Later in the evening, Hussain was to hand out medals to noteworthy citizens.

Most recently, Pakistan’s political scene has been shaken when the Supreme Court dismissed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from office in July for concealing his family assets.

Sharif stepped down, allowing for Abbasi to take over, but decried the court’s ruling as an injustice and vowed to clear his name. Then he embarked last week on a series of on-



the-road rallies, spanning four days and covering the stretch from Islamabad to his hometown, the eastern city of Lahore where he addressed tens of thousands of supporters.

Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang said his country considers Pakistan an important partner in the “Belt and Road Initiative” that calls for Beijing building ports, railways and other facilities in a vast

arc spanning 65 countries, including Pakistan.

In Karachi, visitors paid respects at the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder the country.

Pakistan Air Force put on a spectacular airshow, with Pakistani, Turkish and Saudi fighter jets flying over Islamabad as thousands of spectators watched from one of the city’s parks. **AP**



President Trump speaks about the ongoing situation in Charlottesville

USA | RIOTS

Pressure, criticism mount for Trump after Charlottesville

Jonathan Lemire, Bedminster (N.J.)

AS President Donald Trump remained out of sight and silent, pressure mounted from both sides of the aisle for him to explicitly condemn white supremacists and hate groups involved in deadly, race-fueled clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Trump, who has been at his New Jersey golf club on a working vacation, was set to make a one-day return to Washington on Monday to sign an executive action on China's trade practices. But he will likely be unable to escape questions and criticism for his initial response to the Saturday's violence, for which he blamed bigotry on "many sides."

The White House tried to stem the damage yesterday [Macau time]. Senior aides were dispatched to the morning news shows, yet they struggled at times to explain the president's position. A new White House statement explicitly denounced the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi groups, but it was attributed to an unnamed spokesperson and not the president himself.

Vice President Mike Pence,

traveling in South America, condemned "these dangerous fringe groups" and said they "have no place in American public life and in the American debate."

Trump said nothing, save for a few retweets. One was about two Virginia state policemen killed in a helicopter crash while monitoring the Charlottesville protests, another about a Justice Department probe into the violence.

In the hours after a car plowed into a group of anti-racist counter-protesters on Saturday, Trump addressed the violence in broad strokes, saying that he condemns "in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides."

Speaking slowly from his New Jersey golf club while on a 17-day working vacation, Trump added: "It's been going on for a long time in our country. Not Donald Trump. Not Barack Obama. It's been going on for a long, long time."

The White House statement went further. "The president said very strongly in his statement yesterday that he condemns all forms of violence, bigotry and hatred and

of course that includes white Supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazi and all extremist groups." It added: "He called for national unity and bringing all Americans together."

The White House did not attach a name to the statement. Usually, a statement would be signed by the press secretary or another staffer; not putting a name to one eliminates an individual's responsibility for its truthfulness and often undercuts its significance.

Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, said that he considered the attack to be terrorism. On Saturday, Trump had not responded to reporters' shouted questions about terrorism.

There should be no place in society for racism, white supremacy and neo-nazis.

IVANKA TRUMP
ON TWITTER

"I certainly think anytime that you commit an attack against people to incite fear, it is terrorism," McMaster told ABC's "This Week." "It meets the definition of terrorism. But what this is, what you see here, is you see someone who is a criminal, who is committing a criminal act against fellow Americans."

The president's homeland security adviser, Tom Bossert, defended the president's initial statement by suggesting that some of the counter-protesters were violent, too. When pressed during a contentious interview on CNN's "State of the Union," he specifically condemned the racist groups.

The president's daughter and White House aide, Ivanka Trump, tweeted: "There should be no place in society for racism, white supremacy and neo-nazis."

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, said he spoke to Trump in the hours after the clashes and that he twice told the president "we have to stop this hateful speech, this rhetoric." He said he urged Trump "to come out stronger" against the actions of white supremacists.

Republicans joined Demo-

crats in criticizing the president for not specifically calling out white nationalists. Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo. said on NBC [yesterday] that "This isn't a time for innuendo or to allow room to be read between the lines. This is a time to lay blame."

The president did not have any public events on Sunday. White House staff did not share any information on his activities except that he and his staff were monitoring the aftermath of the violence in Virginia.

White nationalists had assembled in Charlottesville to vent their frustration against the city's plans to take down a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Counter-protesters massed in opposition.

Alt-right leader Richard Spencer and former Ku Klux Klan member David Duke attended the demonstrations. Duke told reporters that the white nationalists were working to "fulfill the promises of Donald Trump."

Trump's initial comments drew praise from the neo-Nazi website Daily Stormer, which wrote: "Trump comments were good. He didn't attack us. He just said the nation should come together. Nothing specific against us. ... No condemnation at all." The website had been promoting the Charlottesville demonstration as part of its "Summer of Hate" edition.

Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer, a Democrat, slammed Trump's stance toward hate groups, saying on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he hopes Trump "looks himself in the mirror and thinks very deeply about who he consorted with."

"Old saying: when you dance with the devil, the devil doesn't change, the devil changes you," Signer said.

In Cartagena, Colombia, Pence responded to a reporter's question about the violence in Charlottesville and said, in part: "We have no tolerance for hate and violence, white supremacists or neo-Nazis or the KKK. These dangerous fringe groups have no place in American public life and in the American debate, and we condemn them in the strongest possible terms."

Trump, as a presidential candidate, frequently came under scrutiny for being slow to offer his condemnation of white supremacists. His strongest denunciation of the movement has not come voluntarily, only when asked, and he occasionally trafficked in retweets of racist social media posts during his campaign. His chief strategist, Steve Bannon, once declared that his former news site, Breitbart, was "the platform for the alt-right." AP

SUSPECTED Islamic extremists opened fire at a Turkish restaurant in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, yesterday [Macau time], killing at least 18 people in the second such attack on a restaurant popular with foreigners in the last two years.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the violence, which started at Sunday night [local time] and continued into the early hours yesterday. Gunfire could be heard almost seven hours after the attack began.

Communication Minister Remi Dandjinou told journalists that at least 18 people were dead and eight others wounded, according to a provisional toll. He said two of the attackers were also killed.

The victims came from several different nationalities, he said. At least one of the dead was French.

Security forces arrived at the scene with armored vehicles after reports of shots fired near Aziz Istanbul, an upscale restaurant in Ouagadougou. The attack brought back painful memories of the January 2016 attack at another cafe that left 30 people dead.

Police Capt. Guy Ye said three or four assailants had arrived at the Aziz Istanbul restaurant

BURKINA FASO

At least 18 killed in attack on restaurant in Ouagadougou

on motorcycles, and then began shooting randomly at the crowds dining Sunday evening.

Burkina Faso, a landlocked nation in West Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. It shares a northern border with Mali, which has long battled Islamic extremists.

The three attackers in the 2016 massacre were of foreign origin, according to al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, which claimed responsibility in the aftermath along with the jihadist group known as Al Mourabitoun. But the terror threat in Burkina Faso is increasingly homegrown, experts say.

The northern border region is now the home of a local preacher, Ibrahim Malam Dicko, who radicalized and has claimed recent deadly attacks against troops and civilians. His association, Ansarul Islam, is now considered a terrorist group by Burkina Faso's government. **AP**



BREAKING NEWS
BURKINA FASO ATTACK
17 PEOPLE KILLED IN CAPITAL OUAGADOUGOU

AD

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what's ON



DREAM WITH LOVE - PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 31, 2017
VENUE: Taipa Houses Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Taipa Village Cultural Association
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6116

BALLADE - CONTEMPORARY ART ANIMAMIX
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: October 15, 2017
VENUE: Macao Art Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

STORY OF CANNON MAKING - CHILDREN EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 20, 2017
VENUE: Exhibition Gallery, 3rd floor of Macao Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

16-YEAR-OLD IS RUNNING FOR KANSAS GOVERNOR SEAT

He won't even be able to vote, but a 16-year-old Wichita high school student says he's serious about his bid to run for governor of Kansas.

Jack Bergerson has filed to run as a Democrat in the 2018 race for governor of Kansas, saying he wanted to give people another option, *The Kansas City Star* reported. And it doesn't faze him that he won't even be old enough to vote in the election.

"Under Kansas law, there is no law governing the qualifications for governor, not one," said Bryan Caskey, director of elections at the Kansas secretary of state's office. "So there's seriously nothing on the books that lays out anything, no age, no residency, no experience. Nothing."

When Bergerson, a junior at The Independent School in Wichita, found out about the lack of requirements, he thought, "Oh, I could do that."

"I thought, you know, let's give the people of Kansas a chance," Bergerson said. "Let's try something new that has never really been tried anywhere else before."

The teenager said he wants to "radically change" the health care system and would support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes, while being willing to explore legalization for recreational use. But he is conservative on gun rights and supports laws that allow people to openly carry their weapons.

"I think if you offer the people of Kansas something radical, something new so then that shows that we can move in a new direction, I think that will put the Democratic Party in a good position to win the seat next year," Bergerson said.

A classmate, 17-year-old Alexander Cline, will be his lieutenant governor. Cline will be able to vote in the election, since he will be 18 by then.

Other Democratic candidates running for the seat include former state Secretary of Agriculture Josh Svaty, former Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer and Arden Andersen, an Olathe doctor.

Bergerson's announcement yesterday garnered national attention, including an appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel Live." He told Kimmel one of the main reasons for his unusual campaign is to try and spark an interest in politics among his peers.

Michael Smith, a political scientist at Emporia State University, said that could be a positive part of the teenager's unusual campaign.

"If this guy is at all reasonable, it could be a very good thing," Smith said. "It's always such challenge to get young people to politically engage. ... I'm not saying he'll win the nomination or anything, but if he could talk to other, maybe not 16-year-olds but people just turning 18 and get them to engage, I mean it could be a really good thing."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	NOS League: Chaves - Benfica (Repeated)
18:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:30	Grimm Sr.1
22:10	Now Generation - Final
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live
02:45	Champions League: Sporting - Steaua Bucureste Live
04:45	RTPi Live

Cinema



CINETEATRO

10 Aug - 16 Aug

DORAEMON THE MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30PM

Director: Atsushi Takahashi

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 101min

THE BATTLESHIP ISLAND

ROOM 1

7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Ryoo Seung-Wan

Starring: Hwang Jung-Min, So Ji-Sub, Song Joong-Ki

Language: Korean & Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 132min



THE EMOJI MOVIE

ROOM 2

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

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

WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

ROOM 2

9:15pm

Director: Matt Reeves

Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min



BALLERINA

ROOM 3

2:15, 4:00, 5:45pm

Director: Eric Summer, Erin Warin

Starring: Elle Fanning, Dane DeHaan, Carly Rae Jepsen

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 89min

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

this day in history



1965 LOS ANGELES RIOT TOLL KEEPS RISING

At least 28 people have died and hundreds have been injured after a weekend of rioting in Los Angeles.

Armed National Guards have been deployed on the streets of the Californian city, where many of the shops and businesses now lie in smouldering ruins.

About 500 businesses, most of them white-owned, are reported to have been destroyed or damaged in what is a predominantly black neighbourhood.

The trouble began in the Watts area of the city four nights ago when a black man was stopped on suspicion of drunken driving.

A crowd gathered around the car as the driver and his brother began arguing with the police officers. Their mother then joined the argument. When all three were arrested the trouble began.

The crowd began throwing bricks and bottles. Shop windows were broken and stock looted. Black youths ran through the streets setting fire to churches, offices and other buildings.

The Governor of California, Edmund Brown, who has just flown back from Europe, said: "We are involved in a state of insurrection there."

William Parker, the police chief of Los Angeles, said: "We haven't the slightest idea when this can be brought under control."

Over the weekend, sniping and looting have continued. The cost of repairs is now put at \$100m.

Television pictures show black shopkeepers have posted notices on their businesses reading "Blood brother" or "Negro-owned" in an attempt to prevent attacks on the premises.

One National Guard officer was injured when he was hit by a car reportedly driven by a black man. After that incident, officers were authorised to load their rifles and attach bayonets.

Some 18,000 National Guards have been deployed. About 2,000 were flown in from San Francisco.

President Lyndon Johnson, who spent the weekend at his Texas ranch, has called for an end to the violence.

He said: "Killing, rioting and looting are contrary to the best traditions of this country."

"Every person has the responsibility to uphold law and order. I call upon all Americans to fulfil that responsibility."

Civil rights leader Martin Luther King is on his way to Los Angeles. He claims the poor social conditions are the underlying cause for the discontent.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In 1964 the United States passed the Civil Rights Act, which was intended to herald a new era in race relations. But many states acted quickly to circumvent the law. California blocked the fair housing legislation thus ensuring segregation continued.

It led to a great feeling of injustice and resentment in the inner cities. The riots in Los Angeles lasted six days, left 34 dead and about 1,000 people injured. Nearly 4,000 people were arrested and hundreds of buildings were destroyed.

A commission headed by former CIA Director, John McCone, concluded the riots were the result of many socio-economic problems like unemployment, poor housing and lack of education, but little was done to address the problems.

The California Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights claimed the report's findings were superficial and showed a lack of understanding of the civil rights movement. It also criticised the report's failure to address the issue of police malpractice.

Los Angeles was the scene of another riot in 1992, triggered by the acquittal of four white police officers accused of beating a black motorist, Rodney King.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The heavens have arranged for some major-league changes. Happily, this time, you'll actually be able to appreciate the outcome. The steps along the way might not be great fun.

Taurus April 20-May 20 The heavens have seen fit to arrange a veritable buffet of romantic interludes, and you'll certainly be able to partake of at least one. In fact, you'd better confine yourself to just one.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You've been so good for so long - worthy, even, of outright adoration - that you're not sure who you are anymore. After last night, it's easy to see how your partner might think they couldn't live without you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Just after you wake up, you'll realize that the romantic roll you've been on isn't just good - in fact, it's about to get better. In addition to luring all kinds of attractive options your way, you'll be able to have your pick.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're not usually the type to overspend - at least, not on a regular basis. But when something catches your fancy, the impulsive side of your nature takes over and you let go.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You woke up this morning with the urge to cry for absolutely no reason. No conscious reason, at least. You're not sad; you're just feeling extremely sentimental. Now that can be good or it can be bad.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 There's no easy way to solve this situation, especially since you're not seeing things quite as clearly as usual. Your heart is involved, and that's when things get tricky.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 That certain someone you've been exchanging long, lingering glances with at work? They're preparing to ask for a bit more of your time. Now, if this is a potential relationship, be sure it won't interfere with your career.

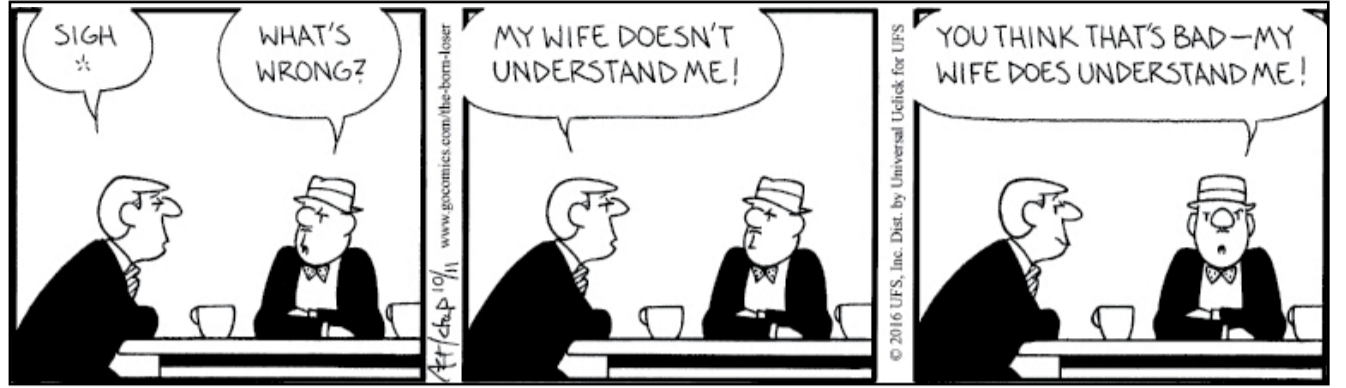
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Is love grand, or is it grand? You're definitely the person to ask today - in fact, you're just about buzzing, you're so darned pleased with yourself. Don't keep these good feelings bottled inside.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're not used to this - to being so emotional, that is. So when your eyes start welling up with tears (again), and everyone who knows you tells you to take a nap, don't argue with them.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 When you're suddenly asked to step up to the plate and take on a bit more responsibility, you'll be only too happy to agree. Oh, and don't worry about being compensated, either.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Congratulations. What you're about to enjoy is better than Ed McMahon showing up at your door with a giant check. The heavens have arranged an absolutely heavenly - if you'll pardon the pun.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World. Columns include location, MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Locations listed include Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, and New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Leave out; 5- Capital of Yemen; 10- French cleric; 14- Forum wear; 15- West Yorkshire city; 16- Fleshy fruit; 17- Santa Fe Trail town; 18- Singer Chris; 19- French summers; 20- Punctually; 22- Astonish; 23- Retain; 24- Tiny amount; 26- Synthetic fiber; 29- Madness; 33- Coming down; 34- Burn with water; 35- Not for a Scot; 36- Technical sch.; 37- Thick-skinned charger; 38- Big brass; 39- Whiz; 40- River that flows through Paris; 41- Mexican moola; 42- Twelve pence; 44- Tip off; 45- Start of a counting rhyme; 46- Contest, ethnicity; 48- Winning the race; 51- Pledge; 55- Hairless; 56- Miss by ___; 58- Iranian coin; 59- Robert ___; 60- Stories; 61- Bailiwick; 62- Fly like an eagle; 63- Center; 64- Intend;

DOWN: 1- Conductor Klemperer; 2- Grumble; 3- ___ Rhythm; 4- Capital of Uzbekistan; 5- Slip; 6- Greek fabulist; 7- Cool!; 8- Toothpaste tube abbr.; 9- Pop the question; 10- Tarzan, e.g.; 11- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 12- Woodstock singer Joan; 13- Scottish Gaelic; 21- Slippery; 22- Somewhat; 24- Silly; 25- 1952 Winter Olympics site; 26- Met highlights; 27- Cattle spot; 28- Japanese-American; 29- Frosting; 30- Busy; 31- Small drum; 32- Brewer's need; 34- Glossy; 37- Jockey's strap; 38- Message with frequent stops; 40- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 41- Deal; 43- Directing head; 46- Actor's parts; 47- Give it ___!; 48- Burrows and Vigoda; 49- Circle overhead?; 50- Zeno of ___; 51- Temperate; 52- Suffix with concession; 53- Greek goddess of the earth; 54- Enthusiasm; 56- PIN requester; 57- ___ tai;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

A large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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Tourism 28 333 000
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Bolt gets the cheers, and Americans get the medals at worlds

Eddie Pells

USAIN Bolt took a last leisurely stroll around the track, placed his hands over his heart and then pointed toward the stands, where barely a soul had left.

The running had been over for nearly 30 minutes. As always, though, Bolt had a way of making everybody stay.

The world championships came to a melancholy close Sunday with an on-track tribute to the man who made the sport fun again. There were 11 gold medals at stake on a frenetic final day in London, and yet it was the sight of the hobbled champion walking slowly around the track — stopping to kneel at the starting lines for the 100- and 200-meter races he dominated for a decade — that made for the evening's best theatre. "I think I almost cried," Bolt said. "I was just saying goodbye. That was it. Saying goodbye to my events. Saying goodbye to everything."

The United States says good-

bye to London in possession of 30 medals, the most it has ever taken from the worlds. Of those, 10 were gold, including the capper in the women's 4x400 relay final, where Allyson Felix won her 16th medal to finish as the most-decorated athlete of all-time at the worlds.

Felix also won gold in the 4x100 relay, but the bronze she took in her only individual event, the 400, makes this a less-than-perfect trip for her.

In that way, she's got something in common with Bolt. Between the bronze medal in the 100 and the hamstring pull and tumble to the track that ended his anchor leg of the 4x100 relay — and still made him wince when he had to negotiate big steps around the stadium — the championships went nothing like he planned.

"Someone tried to blame me, and said I started it," Bolt said of a 10-day run filled with upsets and surprises. "It was just one of those things. It was one of those championships where everything does not go your way."



Usain Bolt makes his trademark gesture during a lap of honor at the end of the World Athletics Championships in London

Observers say that athletics' lack of star power with Bolt out of the mix is hard to gloss over.

"What we're going to miss about Usain Bolt isn't the three back-to-back Olympic Games or the clutch of world records and medals," said Sebastian Coe, the leader of track's governing body, the IAAF. "It's because he has an

opinion. He has a view. He fills a room. We have terrific talent that's identifying itself at these championships. But that's not the same as filling that void, and we have to work at that."

Bolt's standing-room-only news conference was scheduled for 15 minutes but went about 35. He discussed his past, the future

and the sport he leaves behind.

He said over the long term, he could see himself coaching track and occasionally stepping into the TV booth for the sport's biggest events. His immediate plans? "I need to go out and have a drink," he said.

Asked one more time about doping, he said he thinks track is on an upward trajectory after two dispiriting years involving a doping scandal in Russia and problems across Africa and in his own country, Jamaica.

"I've proven to the world that you can do it, that you can be great without doping," he said. "Hopefully young athletes can look at me."

As far as a comeback is concerned, he insists it simply won't happen.

"I've seen too many people retire and come back and make it worse and shame themselves," he said. "I personally feel I won't be one of those people."

But he has no regrets about running in this meet, or concerns that the results will tarnish his legacy. In a way, he said, the jaw-dropping losses were similar to the breathtaking wins: They showed that when he's on the track, anything really is possible.

"For me, it was brilliant," he said of the week that was. "I'm just really sad I have to walk away now." **AP**

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Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

FOOTBALL

Ronaldo sent off after scoring in Madrid's 3-1 win at Barca

CRISTIANO Ronaldo made a big impact in his truncated appearance at Camp Nou on Sunday, scoring a goal before being sent off in Real Madrid's 3-1 win over Barcelona in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup.

Ronaldo went on in the 58th minute and scored with a beautiful strike to make it 2-1 in the 80th, earning a yellow card for taking off his shirt to flex his muscles at Barcelona's faithful.

But that defiant pose turned into a petulant pout two minutes later when Ronaldo was booked again for diving in the area following contact with Barcelona defender Samuel Umtiti.

Ronaldo gave the referee a push in the back after seeing the red card that meant he will miss Wednesday's return leg at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said that the club would consider appealing Ronaldo's second booking to the Spanish football federation.

"We played a great match. What bothers me is the sending off of Cristiano," Zidane said. "Maybe it wasn't a penalty, but the card is a bit too much."

After Madrid went ahead in the 50th from an own-goal by Barcelona defender Gerard Pique, Lionel Messi equalized for Barcelona in the 77th from the penalty spot. Messi was given the chance to take his "clasico" goal record to 24 against Madrid when Luis Suarez



Ronaldo (right) reacts after Referee Ricardo de Burgos shows a yellow card during the Spanish Supercup

was fouled by goalkeeper Keylor Navas.

While Ronaldo's goal was a blow, substitute Marco Asensio's 90th-minute strike — with Madrid down to 10 men — left Barcelona in a deep hole for the second leg.

"I am not going to play this down, we are happy with the result. But of course it is not over," Zidane said. "We are going to

enjoy this today, because it is something to enjoy, and tomorrow we will think about the game on Wednesday."

While Zidane's Madrid took a big step to a second title to start the season after beating Manchester United in the European Super Cup, it was a dismal debut for Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde.

Barcelona had hoped to show

that, with Messi, Luis Suarez and Andres Iniesta, it could still compete with Madrid despite having Brazil star Neymar plucked away by Paris Saint-Germain on a world-record transfer last week.

Valverde opted to start Gerard Deulofeu in Neymar's spot on the left side, and the contrast with Neymar was clear. The forward lacked the natural talent and expert timing that Neymar had developed over four seasons with Messi and Suarez up front, and Barcelona attacked better after midfielder Denis Suarez replaced Deulofeu early in the second half.

While Barcelona slumped to a loss to its fiercest rival, Neymar scored a goal in an impressive debut for PSG to help it win 3-0 at Guingamp in the French league.

"We don't like to lose, especially against Madrid, and especially when there is a title at stake," Valverde said. "We are hurting after a loss like this, but we have to regroup and get ready for the next match."

Barcelona's night to forget started when Pique slid to defend a cross by Marcelo, only to redirect the ball into the corner of his net.

Barcelona still dominated pos-

session, but ended up playing into Madrid's hands. It was caught off-balance in defense on goals by second-half substitutes Ronaldo and Asensio scored on the break.

Both forwards were left all alone against Pique. And, after maneuvering to pick their spots, Ronaldo and Asensio executed superb strikes from outside the area to beat the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Ronaldo's first goal of the season came after he played just the final 10 minutes of Madrid's win over United as Zidane monitors his return to full speed following an extended summer vacation.

The defeat leaves Barcelona under pressure to spend at least part of the record 222 million euros (\$262 million) it received from PSG for Neymar before the market closes at the end of the month. So far, the club's attempts to pry away Liverpool midfielder Philippe Coutinho and Borussia Dortmund winger Ousmane Dembele have failed.

"The team needs to be renewed," Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets said. "There is no doubt that we have to sign players." AP

The 'stability player,' Matic already making Man United tick

Steve Douglas

AS Nemanja Matic was winning towering headers, intercepting passes, dribbling round opponents and generally running the midfield in his first Premier League game for Manchester United, imagine what Antonio Conte must have been thinking.

The Chelsea coach didn't want to sell Matic, particularly not to a title rival like United. But an offer of 40 million pounds (USD53 million) for a 29-year-old was too good for Chelsea's hierarchy to turn down.

It could prove to be one of the most pivotal pieces of business done in the off-season.

Romelu Lukaku stole the spotlight in United's 4-0 win over West Ham on Sunday, scoring two goals, but it was Matic — a player costing around half as much this summer — who was the key

to the performance.

He dominated Old Trafford in his first match there as a United player, looking every inch the holding midfielder the team needs with Michael Carrick nearing the end of his time at the club.

"He is a player I call a stability player," Mourinho said of Matic.

He was more than that against West Ham. In a man-of-the-match display, he made more passes (69) and covered more distance (11.41 kilometers) than anybody else on the field, while he won more tackles and had more touches (89) than any other United player.

One minute Matic was beating three players with sublime skill and racing down the right touchline. The next he was scooping a pass, Karel Poborsky-style, to Paul Pogba to set up another attack.

He won big headers from

goal kicks and long clearances by West Ham, and read the game masterfully. Eric Bailly and Phil Jones, United's center backs, generally cruised through the 90 minutes with Matic in front of them.

Crucially, and as has been widely predicted, Matic's presence allowed Pogba more freedom to roam forward in central midfield. With strikers Lukaku and Marcus Rashford stretching play with their runs and Pogba making the most of the space behind, United was so much more dangerous.

Pogba scored the fourth goal from 25 meters out in the 90th minute. He hit the goal frame (10 times) more often than scoring (nine goals) last season, but this season could be different — and he could have Matic largely to thank.

Mourinho cannot believe his luck that Matic is his player again, having brou-

ght the Serbia international to Chelsea from Benfica in 2014.

Asked if it was a surprise that Chelsea sold Matic to United, Mourinho said: "It depends on what is happening, or what was happening behind doors. I don't know. Only thing I know is that, of course, with Chelsea money, I brought him to Stamford Bridge because I thought he was a player with special qualities. And since I left, I always thought he could be a perfect player for us."

"But I didn't disturb him, I didn't disturb Chelsea. I never thought it was possible unless something special was happening, and it looked like something was happening because his agent told me, 'You can have him; you just have to pay.' So, we have him and we are very happy with that. He is a player that our team needs."

Chelsea needs him, too,



Nemanja Matic (left) gets past West Ham United's Arthur Masuaku during the EPL match between Manchester United and West Ham United

at the moment. Conte is short on numbers after a frustrating summer in the transfer market. Tiemoue Bakayoko was signed from Monaco, to complement Matic rather than replace him. Bakayoko is currently out injured, leaving Chelsea with Cesc Fabregas and N'Golo Kante as central midfielders.

And Fabregas is now banned after his sending-off in Chelsea's 3-2 loss to Burnley on Saturday.

"My idea was to give Bakayoko the right time to adapt in this league behind Matic," Conte said. "But now after the sale of Matic, we need to try to

accelerate this process for Bakayoko after his injury."

Conte described the departure of Matic as a "great loss" to Chelsea and has said it was a boardroom decision.

"Sometimes you must accept this crazy transfer market," he said.

Spending 40 million pounds on a 29-year-old defensive midfielder doesn't sound like sensible business, but the arrival of Matic has knitted things together perfectly so far for United.

It could be the transfer that tips the battle for the Premier League title United's way. AP

opinion

Views on Asia

Eric Talmadge, AP

WILL NORTH KOREA'S KIM PULL THE TRIGGER? POSSIBLE SIGNS TO WATCH

Tensions between the United States and North Korea tend to flare suddenly and fade almost as quickly — but the latest escalation won't likely go away quite so easily.

Events closer to home, including deadly violence at a white nationalist rally in Virginia, could demand more of President Donald Trump's attention in the days ahead and cut into the volume and frequency of his fiery North Korea rhetoric.

But North Korea has yet to back away from its biggest threat: a plan to lob missiles toward U.S. military bases on the island of Guam that Pyongyang says should be ready for leader Kim Jong Un to review anytime now.

Will it all stop there?

Or, despite the extremely high risks, will Kim really give the go order? And, regardless of what Kim does or doesn't do, will the tough-talking Trump feel compelled to take matters into his own hands?

Unpredictable as the situation is, some potential flashpoints to watch for:

This could be the biggest trigger.

North Korea says it was compelled to put the Guam plan together because it feels threatened by a squadron of B-1B bombers on the island that the U.S. has increasingly sent to fly in Korean airspace in symbolic shows of force during times of particular tension.

But that may be only a pretense.

North Korea is certainly sensitive to the bombers, which could cause a lot of devastation if a war did start. But it also might just want an excuse to fully test the capabilities of its new Hwasong-12 intermediate-range missiles.

Either way, it's a cagey tactic: If Trump orders the B-1Bs to stay on the ground, Pyongyang can claim victory. If he orders them to fly, North Korea has its excuse to launch. If, of course, that's what it really wants to do — Pyongyang wisely left itself a lot of wiggle room and hasn't committed itself one way or the other.

Aug. 15 is the anniversary of the end of World War II in 1945 and the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

Pyongyang likes to use big anniversaries to make high-profile statements with military activity or political provocations. It launched its first intercontinental ballistic missile, for example, on July 4 — Independence Day in the United States.

This week's World War II anniversary isn't linked so closely to veneration of North Korea's ruling Kim family, the primary days for demonstrating national power. But it's a national holiday just the same and could be an opportune moment for the North to make some kind of a move.

So far, however, there haven't been any telltale signs of anything brewing in Pyongyang. The day could just be marked with small celebrations and the distribution of free treats — or maybe more rhetoric about the Guam missile plan.

This is another likely trigger, if Pyongyang is going to actually do anything.

Tens of thousands of U.S. and South Korean troops are expected to kick off the annual Ulchi-Freedom Guardian military exercises on Aug. 21. North Korea sees these exercises and larger ones held every spring as a rehearsal for invasion. Getting Washington to halt them has long been one of Pyongyang's key demands, and it regularly stirs the pot around the time they're held.

North Korea carried out its biggest nuclear test just after last year's UFG drills ended and fired four Scud ER missiles into waters off Japan to coincide with the spring exercises this past March.

This year's UFG exercises are expected to last around 10 days.

More on Korean crisis on p10-12.

THE BUZZ BARCA TO SIGN BRAZIL MIDFIELDER PAULINHO FROM CHINESE CLUB

Barcelona says it has reached a deal with Chinese club Guangzhou Evergrande to buy Brazil midfielder Paulinho for 40 million euros (USD47 million).

The Spanish club says that Paulinho will sign a four-year contract after a medical exam on Thursday. He is set to be Barcelona's first

signing since Neymar left for Paris Saint-Germain for a world-record 222 million euros (\$262 million) last week.

The 29-year-old Paulinho played for Tottenham for two seasons before moving to Guangzhou in 2015. He has made 41 appearances for the Brazil national team.



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

SOURCE: DSMG

No more bongos! Big Ben to fall silent for 4 years of repairs



The statue of former British Prime Minister David Lloyd George is silhouetted against the Queen Elizabeth Tower which holds the bell known as 'Big Ben' in London

THE bongos will soon be gone. Big Ben — the huge clock bell of Britain's Parliament — will fall silent next week as a four-year restoration project gets underway.

The bongos of the iconic bell will be stopped after chiming noon on Aug. 21 to protect workers during a 29-million-pound (USD38 million) repair project on the Queen Elizabeth Tower, which houses Big Ben and its clock. It isn't due to resume regular service

until 2021. Steve Jaggs, keeper of the Great Clock, said Monday that the clock mechanism will be dismantled piece by piece and its four dials will be cleaned and repaired. The 13.5 British ton (15.1 U.S. ton, 13.7 metric tons) bell will be cleaned and checked for cracks.

Big Ben has been stopped several times since it first sounded in 1859, but the current restoration project will mark its longest period of silence.

Parliamentary officials say they will ensure that the bell still sounds on major occasions, such as New Year's Eve and Remembrance Sunday.

The silence presents a problem for the BBC, which broadcasts the bongos every evening before the radio news through a microphone in the belfry.

After testing out the sound of substitute bells, the broadcaster said it will use a recording. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Andreea Alexandru



Start fresh. A man grimaces walking by the "Lettuce Ladies", a group of PETA activists, during an event promoting a vegan lifestyle, downtown Bucharest, Romania, this month. The sign reads in Romanian 'start fresh: become vegan.'

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN's economy grew at a hearty 4.0 percent annual pace in the April-June quarter, helped by stronger consumer spending and corporate capital investment.



UK Southampton is the latest English football team to fall under Chinese ownership. Jisheng Gao, chairman of Chinese sports investment company Lander, has bought an 80 percent stake in Southampton with daughter, Nelly Gao, for USD272 million.



US An Ohio man accused of ramming his car into a crowd of protesters at a white nationalist rally in Virginia will remain in jail - at least until he has an attorney. Judge Robert Downer declined to set bond at a hearing yesterday for James Alex Fields Jr., who faces second-degree murder and other charges, until he has legal representation. More on p14



BURKINA FASO's government spokesman says that the country's special forces have ended an attack by suspected Islamic extremists on an upscale Turkish restaurant in this West African country's capital, Ouagadougou. More on p15