



ALIBABA DEAL DEEMED LAWFUL

Following public controversy, the government stresses that the Alibaba partnership is legal

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The legislature ended with Raimundo do Rosário promising to change the public housing regulations

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WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA-UKRAINE

The head of Ukraine's top rocket-making company yesterday rejected claims that its technologies might have been shipped to North Korea, helping the pariah nation achieve a quantum leap in its missile program. KB Yuzhnoye chief Alexander Degtyarev voiced confidence that employees haven't been leaking know-how to Pyongyang, according to remarks published by the online site Strana.ua. While denying any illicit technology transfers from the plant in the city of Dnipro, Degtyarev conceded the possibility that the plant's products could have been copied. [More on p12](#)



CHINA-US President Donald Trump has signed an executive action that asks his trade office to explore a possible investigation into China for the alleged theft of American technology and intellectual property. The president said as he signed the memo at the White House, "This is just the beginning." [More on p11](#)

INDONESIA Police say they've arrested five suspected Islamic militants and seized chemicals that were to be used for attacks on several locations, including the presidential palace. The militants arrested in Bandung yesterday are from Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, a network of Indonesian extremist groups that pledges allegiance to Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Among those arrested were a couple that was deported from Hong Kong on suspicion of spreading radical ideology. [More on backpage](#)

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Ho's wife and former associates found guilty

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DORINA LINDEMANN, WINEMAKER

'I think the market is overloaded in Macau'

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Gov't says partnership with Alibaba was done in accordance with law

FOLLOWING a controversy sparked by the New Macau Association (ANM) in relation to the government's partnership with the mainland technology-led giant Alibaba Group, the government stressed that the partnership – via direct contract awarding – was done in accordance with existing legislation.

In a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau yesterday, the government insisted that the absence of a tendering exercise was in conformity with existing regulations, as the project is considered to be beneficial to Macau.

The statement recalled that after publishing the Five-Year Development Plan, the government initiated a research and analysis process regarding digitalization development, while searching for the best possible candidate among eligible companies in the market to provide support services to implement this policy.

After more than six months of discussions and exchanges, the government decided to sign a Framework Agreement with Alibaba Group, which was conducted on August 4.

The budget for each specific project to be developed under the Framework Agreement will be supported by the government's budget for each respective fiscal year.

In the 2017 fiscal year budget, the government allocated a to-



Chinese business magnate, founder and executive chairman of the e-commerce Alibaba Group, Jack Ma

tal of MOP500 million to foster the development of the city's information technology sector. According to preliminary estimates, the SAR is set to allocate about MOP200 million in the next two years to implement related projects.

Last week, the ANM called for the government to halt its cooperation with the technology giant, fearing that a government monopoly on big data and cloud technologies would imperil liberal democracy.

The association demanded that the government take steps to ensure that residents remain informed of any statisti-

cs derived from data obtained by smart city technology. The group also recalled Alibaba's business issues with an express courier where data exchange contracts were violated.

In response the government defended its move, noting that Alibaba Cloud – a unit of Alibaba Group – has strong big data processing capabilities, citing its experience in technology-based governance.

“Macau pays great attention to information security, regional security and data security, as these are understood to be key issues relating to national security. In this regard, Aliba-

ba Cloud is a widely-recognized service provider in the Asia-Pacific region,” the statement noted.

The government said it will have ownership of the entire facility, its equipment, systems, platforms, algorithms, and – in particular – of any data collected and stored in the cloud computing data center.

“Alibaba Group will only provide technical support, without having access to any government data, which is to be stored in Macau and not be transferred overseas,” the statement added.

In a TDM Forum held on Sunday, a member of the Construction of World Tourism and Leisure Centre, Lai U Meng defended Alibaba Group, noting that it has a proven track record of providing the innovative technologies that are needed for this project.

“It includes the articulation, integration, maintenance, and it's complex. Cloud computing

and big data platform is an advanced technology. Therefore, after comprehensive consideration, Alibaba would be the overall responsible,” Lai told the press, as cited in a TDM report.

Although the region's privacy watchdog is backing the project and has vowed to ensure the safety of residents' personal data, some residents who attended the forum doubted the advantages of the partnership.

“It sets the direction of cooperation between the SAR Government and Alibaba, as well as the implementation of the actual projects in the areas of focus, which would be applied and approved independently,” the commission member explained.

Further, the government's statement emphasized that there is no need to change its existing systems as Alibaba's cloud platform and big data management systems are compatible with different systems. **LV**

AGREEMENT WITH ALIBABA STIRS DOUBTS

THE PRESIDENT of a local consumer association, Cheang Chong Fai, expressed doubts over the government's transparency regarding the agreement the MSAR government has signed with Alibaba. In Cheang's opinion, the government should have compared Alibaba with other companies before sign-

ing the agreement. He said that the government at the beginning of its discussion with Alibaba, should have reported to the public. He also noted that, until now, the government has not publicized related information regarding the agreement, and that such behavior is escaping the public's attention.

EDUCATION

UM holds orientation day welcoming 1,700 students

THE University of Macau (UM) held the orientation and convocation yesterday for the 2017/2018 academic year to welcome more than 1,700 freshmen.

Rector Wei Zhao gave the first lecture at the university, encouraging students to make the most of the “great buildings and great professors” at UM to acquire “great knowledge and great character”

so they can address the challenges of the 21st century.

He encouraged the students to strive to acquire knowledge in their academic pursuits by taking full advantage of the teaching and research facilities available to them.

As cited in a press release issued by UM, the rector also reminded the students to be valuable members of society, and expressed

hope that the students will be considerate of others and make contributions to society.

At the ceremony, UM presented 11 kinds of scholarships to 162 outstanding students, including students on the Rector's Honour List. This year UM awarded a total of MOP4 million in over 70 kinds of scholarships and academic prizes to more than 400 outstan-

ding students.

Classes for the new academic year will begin on August 21.

To help freshmen adjust to their life on campus, UM is holding a series of orientation activities, including general briefing sessions, orientation sessions organised by the various faculties and residential colleges, in addition to information sessions and parties.



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AL PLENARY

Original method of public housing allocation to be restored

Renato Marques

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) gathered yesterday to discuss the proposal presented by lawmaker Au Kam San. In debate was the request for a change on the current system used by the government to allocate public housing to households.

Under scrutiny was the fact that the current system is based on three different ordination groups and a lucky draw process, which is considered unfair by many sectors of the society.

The lawmaker requested the government return to the prior point-based system in which applicants were ranked according to their household, assets, income and special attention is given to households with elderly or handicapped people at their duty.

Following the words of Au was lawmaker Mak Soi Kun who was quick to add, "We have to take in good note the people with more needs. The lucky draw seems to be fair but in fact isn't, it's just a matter of luck. The ranking by points is the most fair one."

Such debate of the proposal and related comments received an immediate response from the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário: "We also agree with the by points method so I don't think that we have a problem here," he said. "We already said that we would revise the law and when we do that we will have this in note."

Lawmaker Ella Lei addressed the plenary to add that a points-based system should take into account the "duration of residence in Macau," as a way to prevent public housing resources ending up in the hands of "new immigrants," an idea which was also mentioned by Au.

Rosário then explained that he always agreed with the idea of a regime based on points and that this was not implemented earlier because he "faced a problem" when he took office. "At that time that was a tender already open and there were 40,000 candidates for about 1,000 houses," he said. "We opted for this regime because it was faster. It was a matter of time limitation."

Adding to Rosário's explanation, the president of the Housing Bureau (IH) Arnaldo Santos warned that although it is widely agreed upon, the points system is a "slow process that can take from 6 to 9 months to conclude."

"We will try our best that the candidates can present all docu-



Arnaldo Santos and Raimundo do Rosário (right)

ments right from the moment of application so we can accelerate the process," Santos said.

Ng Kuok Cheong questioned the timing, asking when the government will introduce the new rules and if such a decision is still dependent on a public consultation.

The lawmaker noted, "whatever the system we will use, we will still have a problem as the demand tops by far the supply," he said.

I will not open a tender to 200 housing units only, this makes no sense at all.

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

In reply, Rosário remarked that as he had mentioned during his previous visit to the AL early this month, "I will not open a tender to 200 housing units only, this makes no sense at all. We have to do big things not small." He added that "first we need to review the law of affordable housing, first of the affordable renting and then of the affordable acquisition," explaining that "the one of affordable renting is already on going" and noting that "during the upcoming Policy Address (LAG) for 2018 I will have already more precise information that I will reveal."

Several lawmakers insisted

on the need to establish a permanent system or a fixed time for the tenders to happen, an idea that Rosário refuted by explaining that it would be impossible to keep a "stable offer" of housing units, which is an essential condition for such a system.

The secretary also advanced that according to his estimated figures for the upcoming years, "we will have on Area A and E [of the new landfills] more than 90,000 housing units both in public and private market which will raise the total to about 314,000 housing units. I believe this offer will be sufficient for the upcoming future needs."

As for schedules, the secretary noted that only when there is a preliminary project will it be possible to know exactly the number of housing units, at which point it will be possible to open the tender to receive applications.

Au Kam San expressed dissatisfaction with Rosário's explanations. He said that the new system (without a permanent ranking list) is indeed a "fake points system" noting that to keep the list would "help the remaining candidates to understand more clearly when they would finally get a house."

The IH president explained that such an idea had been discarded since, "keeping a ranking list for a long period of time, it's complicated and that can cause many issues at the time of the final attribution since the applicants at that time might not be eligible anymore."

Vice president Lam Heong Sang remarked that the current system has a "big flaw" as "we can't know what kind of applications have more urgency" noting that the decision to implement the ranking lists is a matter of "political opinion" within the government.

The Secretary tried to cool down the debate around the details of what the new system would be like, noting that such an amendment to the law would have to be discussed at the AL in the coming legislature. The most advanced project, he said, is Avenida Wai Long, which is expected to occur 2019. Lam also noted that over the next 2 years Macau will see an increase of 13,000 housing units to the market (3,000 public houses and 10,000 in the private sector), which according to Rosário will "relieve some of the pressure."

Melinda Chan suggested that instead of the expiration of the ranking lists after each tender, the government could adopt rules that require the applicants to update their applications.

In a laconic way, Rosário reaffirmed his opinions and noted that he would not promise something that he knew he would not be able to fulfill due to pressure from the lawmakers.

Finishing the debate, Cheung Lup Kwan suggested the government to "do studies" and to "resort to the civic associations in order to obtain real and concrete data about the real needs [for public housing quantity and typology]."

MOP foreign exchange rate decreases

The Monetary Authority of Macao announced yesterday that the trade-weighted exchange rate index for the pataca dropped 0.84 points month-to-month and 0.73 points year-on-year to 105.7 in July. This movement suggests that overall, the exchange rate of the pataca declined against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners. The preliminary estimate of Macau SAR's foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP157.9 billion at the end of July. The reserves reduced by 0.8 percent from the revised value of MOP159.2 billion for the previous month while the region's foreign exchange reserves at the end of July 2017 represented 11 times the currency in circulation of pataca.

Chan calls for real names in mobile registration

Lawmaker Chan Meng Kam suggested that the government should establish a policy to prevent people from using unknown mobile numbers. Chan's suggestion took into consideration the tactics used in phone scams. He believes that the government can collect information on phone scams through technology, and then use computer settings from Macau's telecommunication operators to disable the phone scammers accounts, as well as to establish an alarm system to prevent phone scams. Chan also made an inquiry asking the government about the required processes for launching a real name registration policy.

Woman cheated out of MOP10m by phone scam

A local woman aged around 40 years was cheated out of MOP10 million by a male con artist who was claiming to be a British engineer. The victim met the criminal through Facebook, and began a dating relationship entirely based on their interactions via the internet. In June of last year, the engineer told the woman that he would transfer USD15 million to her as funds for their future life together. However, he said that the money had to be transferred to both mainland and Thailand accounts and told the woman that she would first need to transfer USD1.46 million to said accounts. The woman did so, and her family revealed the fraud later.

Paulo Barbosa

LOCATED in Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal, Quinta da Plansel cellar was created in 1997 by Dorina Lindemann. Graduated as a winemaker from the University of Geisenheim, Lindemann became interested in Portugal through the influence of her father, Hans-Jörg Böhn.

Quinta da Plansel produces only Portuguese wine varieties. This year, the 75-hectare winery is expected to produce 500,000 liters. Interviewed by the Times during a promotional visit to Macau, Lindemann praises the Portuguese wine varieties and explains that the company's focus is on quality, rather than quantity.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – You studied viticulture in Germany and later you established yourself in Portugal. How did that happen?

Dorina Lindemann (DL) – When my daddy was 18 years old, he had the fantastic idea to buy a boat together with three students and to travel around the world. He got stuck in front of Lisbon, where the boat capsized. I think my father stayed there for two or three months – it was impossible to go out because they lost their passports. I don't know what happened to him, but it was something strange. He fell in love with Portugal, which changed his mentality and he didn't want to go back home. The idea stayed in his head: 'One day I'm going to live in Portugal'. I think he passed that to me: the passion for Portugal. My father went to Portugal, he finished studying there, he married my mom luckily – now I'm here, I got two children and a brother – and when he reached 40 [years of age], he sold everything in Germany and decided to follow his heart and go back to Portugal.

MDT – Your family was already involved in the wine business back in Germany?

DL – Yes, an import for wines. He [Hans-Jörg Böhn] tried to always import Portuguese wines, but it was impossible at that time, the wine was undrinkable. It was horrible, with too much acidity or just color and no fruitiness. It was impossible to import Portuguese wines. He said: 'I have to research, I have to make something else for Portugal.' Before he went there, he studied [winemaking] for four semesters at the University of Geisenheim. In 1975, exactly after the revolution, my father moved over to Portugal. He bought

Q&A DORINA LINDEMANN WINEMAKER

'I think the market is overloaded



Dorina Lindemann pictured during her visit to Macau

ght a piece of land 100 kilometers east of Lisbon in a beautiful old town named Montemor-o-Novo. Around 40 years ago there was nothing there, it was a poor country site. He began a fantastic project with the University of Geisenheim in order to find out how many native varieties exist in Portugal. It was my father who discovered that the most hidden varieties were still in the dark. It was him, together with a , named Colaço from the University of Évora, who marked the plants to observe them over [many] years and discovered that Portugal has got more than 380 native varieties. On the world stage, Portugal comes in second following Italy, which has 800 native varieties. It is really amazing. From the 380 varieties, he selected 150 and brought them to Alentejo. We made microvinification from each of these varieties for over 10 years. At that time, I always came and visited him during summer and I loved his work. I loved the grapes and loved the vineyards. It was my passion, I was young and wanted to be a winemaker. Everybody was always: 'You are a winemaker? It is impossible. You are female, there are no female winemakers.' It was in the hand of men at that time, even in Germany.

MDT – You mentioned that Quinta da Plansel was set up as a "women power" company. How so?

DL – I finished university and only after that I went back to Portugal in 1993. My father already had his company established

and a nursery where he produced wine plants for those, who are nowadays my competitors. When I arrived, I worked a bit in the nursery and I started to make my own wines at the University of Évora. They had some vessels and they gave them to me and I could work there and start to get my first experiences. In 1997, we started to make the first wine in Quinta da Plansel and we started to build up the winery. The winery wasn't built at once, it was step by step. Every time I had a little bit [of] money, I built up new stuff or bought more vessels. My winery started very small, producing 20,000 liters of wine, which grew over the years. By the time I started in 1997, my husband sent two men to work with me but it was impossible... macho men in the Alentejo. At that time it was usual for women to be having a coffee or be at a bar, the mentality was a bit difficult. Sometimes in the center of Portugal, women were eating in the kitchen and the men in the living room, who would be served by the women. We still find that in Portugal. At that time I decided not to work with men anymore. I had experience working with some women in the field, one of them spoke a little bit of German, because she had lived there. She and another one started to work with me in the winery.

MDT – How large was the staff when you began?

DL – We were a staff of only three persons in the beginning, [producing] 20,000 liters and we did everything by ourselves, except the picking. Only in

2001, the first man, winemaker Carlos Ramos joined. He was very young but very nice and [a] kind man. He is still with the company, a very good partnership. Most of the people [in the company] are women. I still have 20 women working in the field.

MDT – Is your wine made only with Portuguese wine grape varieties?

DL – This is our second specialty. I'm just working with Portuguese wine varieties. The most important brand we have is Plansel. The name comes from 'planta seleccionada' [selected plant], so I'm only using the plants we have selected. Nowadays we have 75 hectares, but five hectares are still from the base, where we have the older original plants.

I try to focus on producing high quality level wine and I want to show the people the passion of our company.

MDT – What is it that's so special about these Portuguese wine varieties?

DL – Portugal has got 380 varieties. Some of them are really special, but [with] most of them you have to plant them together to make a good wine. But we [Portugal] have some special variety, I believe it could be like a pilot variety for the whole world. The number one [variety] at the moment is Touriga Nacional, because it is adaptable to all regions worldwide. There's only one other variety that can adapt as well, Cabernet Sauvignon, which is well known all over the world because you plant it in Africa and in America and it always makes good wine. Touriga Nacional always makes [a] very interesting and different kind of red wine, with some floral no-

tes, adding on to the fruitiness and the berries. The pH, acidity and alcohol always is in a perfect performance [arrangement]. For me, you can easily make a monovariety with Touriga Nacional. I have other two varieties I really love: Touriga Franca and Tinta Barroca, which make very fruity, dark, cherry, elegant wine[s]. Touriga Franca gives a lot of color and tannins and dark fruit, a little bit like Shiraz. I can easily make monovarieties from that. These are the three main varieties I'm focusing on.

MDT – You mentioned that around 50 years ago the Portuguese wine was not good. There was a massive development and it is now becoming famous internationally. Why do you think that happened? There was no sophistication in the wine production before?

DL – There was no section in the vineyards. They had sometimes 20 different varieties in one vineyard and they were harvested at the same time. You cannot harvest different varieties at the same time. Each variety has a maturation [that becomes] ready in a different time. They had no control at [over the] vineyards. In the last 10 to 15 years, with young people coming [to the industry], it is has changed. You look first to the field and to the vineyards and then you look at the winery. It is important to know your fields. If you observe what happened in Portugal, lot of the vineyards have been taken over and replant[ed] with new vineyards and new varieties. I just feel sorry for the Lisbon and Tejo region, because many immigrant varieties are coming in. There is a lot of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardonnay. They are planting the international varieties, because they think it is better in marketing and sales. That is an absolute mistake in my opinion. We should focus more on the native varieties, because we really have good ones. There are varieties that are just good for the north of Portugal, like Baga, but we have varieties that can work all over Portugal and make really great and special wines.



in Macau'

MDT – Do you think the Portuguese wines will get more varied and internationally recognized?

DL – I do. We can't forget that in Portugal Aragonês is a dominant variety. Aragonês is similar to Tempranillo, which is a very good grape variety. Those varieties have 50 more synonyms and are planted all over the world. So Tempranillo and Aragonês is the most planted variety all over the world, much more than Cabernet Sauvignon. In Portugal, the first variety at the moment is Aragonês, second is Touriga Franca and third is Touriga Nacional.

MDT – Two thirds of Quinta da Planzel wine production is exported. Which are the main markets?

DL – It has to do with my history. I'm native German and I think I'm a little bit the ambassador for Portugal in Europe. I do a lot of seminars, wine tasting and I'm also teaching in the University of Geisenheim, where I do lessons about Portugal. I'm really trying to bring the Portuguese varieties to Germany and Switzerland. That's [priority] number one for me. Nowadays I'm selling about 150,000 wine bottles just to small wine shops and retailers. So, it is never going to the supermarket. The second market for me is Switzerland and I'm everywhere a little bit in Europe. Outside [Europe], I'm very glad to have Haigan [Wong, director of Adega Royale], I think we work quite well in Hong Kong and Macau and I have a very good partner in Taiwan. On the other side of the world, I'm working quite well with Canada and Brazil. I also have an importer to Angola, but I'm not focusing there because all the Portuguese people are focusing in Angola and the competition is so high at the moment... The price is dropping down and that is not where I want to go. I try to focus on high quality level wine and I want to show the people the passion of our company. I see that my daughters want to come into the company too, so I think it is very important to stay as a family and do something special. To show the people that we have something special – the

monovarieties –and we focus on the native Portuguese varieties.

MDT – The property also hosts an eco-tourism project, with wine tasting sessions and lodging. Is that an expanding business?

DL – It is new. It's something we need for Portugal. Nowadays the people, especially the European people are increasingly coming to Spain and Portugal because of the crisis. Last year, we had 17 million touristic visitors in Portugal. People are not just coming to enjoy the seaside, they are really interested about culture and wines and olive oil. The sales from wining estates in Portugal have been increasing extremely in the last two years. People come there [to wineries] to buy and also take wine home. This is quite interesting for us. We made the decision two years ago to build up a new tasting room, which is not ready yet. We created space for people to taste the wines in nearby a garden and next to the swimming pool. We are trying to push that, because there are a lot of people passing by and buying wine. There are many international visitors such as a lot of people from Canada, Brazil, as well as a lot of Germans, Danish and Dutch visitors. It's good for the visibility, which is very important: people have to find you, they have to see you. My idea is not to make a shop, but I want people to see a little more of what we are doing.

MDT – In Macau there is a large offering of Portuguese wines, many of which are available in supermarkets. Do you see Macau as a platform for Portuguese wines?

DL – Not anymore. I think the market is overloaded in Macau. This is an old Portuguese colony and if you look at Portugal's economy and the building up of wineries... It's crazy what happened. I think it was okay for Portugal to come to the European Union in 1986, but the European Union did a lot of mistakes. They sent enormous amounts of money to Portugal and it wasn't really controlled. A lot of people from the banks were very clever because they could fill out all these documents to get subsidies. Suddenly, especially



Dorina Lindemann (center) with her daughters

in Alentejo, you find that many wineries were built up in the last 10 years just with subsidies. And we are talking about big wineries, with 100 hectares. From one day to the next, we had wineries producing 5,000 bottles. They had no time to build up a brand or create a marketing strategy. They just got the money from the European Union and they built up enormous wineries. What are they going to do with such amount of wine [they produce]? Build up a new brand? It is quite difficult, you need a lot of years for that. What [will] they do? They send the wine to Macau, to Angola, to Brazil, to all these old colonies. A lot of cheap wine went to those places, overloading everything and losing a little bit [of] the standard. If you look back, eight to 10 years ago, it was normal that you had very expensive and high quality wines here in Macau. Nowadays people go to the supermarket and they have MOP30 wines... So, I think my competitors are all losing money. It is not possible to produce a bottle of wine and sell it for EUR1.50 – that's what most people are doing. At that price you don't pay for the bottle, cork and the work in your field. It is really ridiculous what's going on at the moment, and they are destroying the market. That is not the way I want to go. I'm not going to produce more, I think 5,000 bottles is already a lot.

MDT– Do you think these big producers may swallow the small ones?

DL – What I'm a little bit frightened [of] is that the big ones are absorbing the medium and small ones. So I think the future in wine-making will be very big companies. Look at Symington, which holds 70

It is not possible to produce a bottle of wine and sell it for EUR1.50

percent of the Port Wine market. They bought several companies. Other company, Sogrape, is buying a lot of wine in the Alentejo and Lisbon areas, and is growing enormously. We are talking about 400 million bottles of wine. The smaller brands have to build up a personality and make something special. Like [us,] we focus on the family and we try to put our family into the label, so that the people see the family relation.

MDT– At Quinta da Planzel, you try to introduce new types of grapes and mixes. What are the results?

DL – Yes, and that is why we

have this family estate. We are not really aligned, if we find something very special, we do a special blend and we name it with my name, or with whoever had the idea. Probably we are going to have a new red special wine named after Luísa [one of Lindemann's daughters] using Alicante Bouschet together with Touriga Franca. Probably this will be the news for next year, because the wine needs time, it is not ready yet. But that wine looks great and I believe we will do something very interesting there.

MDT – How does this Macau partnership with Adega Royale work?

DL – I think Haigan [director of Adega Royale] tries more to work with the good restaurants, hotels and not with the wine shops. Because if you put the wines in wine shops, the restaurants are not going to buy them. Especially in Hong Kong I see that if the wine is in the shop, the restaurants are not going to touch it.

CHALLENGING CHINESE MARKET

FOOD AND wine distributor Adega Royale is distributing Quinta da Planzel in Macau. The company's director Haigan Wong told the Times that Dorina Lindemann's wine is distributed in the region for restaurants, hotels and private clients. "Everyone is very enthusiastic about the wine, because it is a single variety and it is more special, you can taste the region and the hard work that she [Lindemann] has put into it. We can feel the heart and soul that you sometimes lose on a

wine, because it is too mass produced. You can feel what is the aim of the wine," he said. Regarding mainland China, with which Adega Royale also works, Wong says that Quinta da Planzel doesn't have enough stock for the sheer size of the Chinese market. According to Wong, the Chinese market is challenging: "We are selling some of the cheaper Portuguese wines to China. But at the end of the day it's hit and miss. Sometimes it goes very well and then something changes."





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Draw today for election teams' airtime on TV

THE Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election is conducting a draw today to determine the order in which candidate teams will be able to use television and radio airtime on local news broadcaster TDM for the purposes of campaigning.

The commission will also conduct a draw to determine the order in which teams will be allowed to use the designated public venues for their respective promotional activities.

An executive order was published in the Official Gazette on Monday specifying the rules for airing election publicity on television and radio channels operated by TDM.

The executive order states that each election team will have a total of 12 airtime slots on TDM's Chinese-language television channel, in which the first 11 slots will last two minutes

and the final slot will be one minute. For the Portuguese-language television channel, there will be eight slots for each team, where the first seven sessions will also last two minutes and the final slot will last one minute.

As for radio channels, there will be a total of 33 one-minute airtime slots per election team for the Chinese-language radio and 21 one-minute slots for the Portuguese-language radio.

According to the executive order, the final airtime slots for both television and radio channels will be broadcasted on September 15, the last day of the two-week campaign period.

There are 25 teams with a total of 192 candidates contesting for the direct election for the Legislative Assembly and six teams with 15 candidates contesting for the indirect election. The election will be held on September 17.

COURTS

Ho Chio Meng's wife and brother found guilty

THE sentences of nine defendants related to the case of the region's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng, were read yesterday at the Court of the First Instance. Six defendants were found guilty. Three others were found innocent.

The trial started on February 17 of this year. Four of the defendants, including Ho Chio Meng's older brother, Ho Chio Shun, Ho Chio Meng's brother-in-law Lei Kuan Pun, previous consultant at the Prosecution Office (MP) Wang Xiandi, and Alex Lam, who was one of the employees of the shell companies established by Ho Chio Meng, never showed up at any previous trial sessions.

Ho's older brother was sentenced to 13 years in jail, Lei Kuan Pun was sentenced to 12 years, and businessman Wong Kuok Wai was sentenced to 14 years.

Another businessman, Mak Im Tai, was sentenced to jail for 12 years. The four defendants will not become eligible for probation at any point during their sentences.



The crimes for which they were found guilty included their involvement in illegal operations within shell companies and taking MPs contracts without ever providing services to MP.

Consultant Wang Xiandi was sentenced to six years in jail.

Ho Chio Meng's wife, Chao Sio

Fu, had her three years and six months jail term suspended.

The other three defendants included Lai Kin Ian, the Director of public Prosecution of the Prosecutor General Office, Chan Ka Fai, a former department head at the Prosecutor General Office, and the aforementioned Alex Lam.

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Air Berlin files for insolvency as Etihad pulls funding plug

Richard Weiss, Tom Lavell

AIR Berlin Plc filed for insolvency after leading shareholder Etihad Airways PJSC withdrew its financial support, marking the second failure of a major European airline in four months after the Persian Gulf carrier pulled the plug on funding Italy's Alitalia SpA in May.

While Air Berlin said in a statement Monday that it will continue flying with the help of government loans, the filing puts thousands of German jobs at risk weeks before German Chancellor Angela Merkel stands for re-election. Deutsche Lufthansa AG said it may buy parts of its main national rival.

Air Berlin has racked more than 2.7 billion euros (USD3.2 billion) of losses in a little over six years and has net debt of 1.2 billion euros. Etihad bought a 29 percent stake in 2012 as part of a plan to feed more passengers through its Abu Dhabi hub by building a network of minority investments, a strategy that it's now unraveling after itself suffering losses of \$1.87 billion in 2016.

"Etihad has notified Air Berlin of the fact that it will not provide any further financial support," the German carrier said in its statement, adding that the move has led it to conclude that there is "no longer a positive continuation prognosis." Etihad's two board representatives have resigned.

Etihad said that it withdrew funding after Air Berlin's operations deteriorated at an "unprecedented pace" in recent months. The state-owned Mideast carrier's links to Germany, which include a code-share agree-



■ Air Berlin has racked more than USD3.2 billion of losses in a little over six years

ment with Lufthansa, remain important and it is ready to assist in finding a "commercially viable" solution for Air Berlin, according to an emailed release.

Lufthansa and another unidentified airline are "far advanced" with plans for a partial rescue and a deal could be finalized in coming weeks, Air Berlin and Germany's economic ministry said in separate statements. The government is supporting the process by providing a 150-million-euro bridging loan through its Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau promotional bank.

Air Berlin submitted the insolvency filing in a local Berlin court, though it said it won't seek bankruptcy protection for the

Niki Luftfahrt GmbH and Leisure Cargo GmbH units.

The discount carrier already has links to Lufthansa, once its arch-rival, following an agreement to lease out part of its fleet to Europe's third-biggest airline group. Plans to merge Niki with TUI AG's German unit in a further restructuring of Air Berlin fell apart in June after Etihad said no agreement had been reached on the joint venture proposal.

Rome-based Alitalia began bankruptcy proceedings for the second time in a decade on May 2 after workers rejected a 2 billion-euro refinancing plan involving 1,600 job losses. Etihad's then-chief James Hogan said at the time that his company wasn't prepared to carry on in investing without the support of all stakeholders.

Hogan has since left the Gulf company, which last month also announced that it was exiting another so-called Equity Alliance partner with the sale of a stake in Swiss regional carrier Darwin to Slovenia's Adria Airways. **Bloomberg**

Euro-Pound parity call chimes as Morgan Stanley Joins HSBC

Anooja Debnath

WHAT once seemed a highly unlikely call on euro-sterling is gaining momentum, with two of the world's leading banks predicting that Europe's shared currency will attain and even go beyond parity with the pound for the first time.

Morgan Stanley sees the pair at 1.02 by the end of March, which represents a 12 percent gain for the euro from current levels, while HSBC Holdings Plc is sticking to its forecast that the euro will trade one-for-one against the pound by year-end. Standard Bank strategist Steve Barrow said "it's not a huge leap of faith to suggest we could get up to the parity area." It would be "foolhardy" to rule out the prospect of the euro reaching the one-pound mark, according to Rabobank International's senior currency analyst Jane Foley.

The euro has surged more than 6 percent against the pound this year amid speculation that the European Central Bank will announce a tapering of bond purchases by autumn. By contrast, the pound is being held down by uncertainty surrounding Brexit negotiations.

"In euro-sterling we've had a very strong conviction and it's one of the biggest forecasts I ever remember making on a major currency," David Bloom, HSBC's London-based global head of currency strategy said in an interview last week. That's "a 20 percent move and that's quite something. It's very unusual that we make such, what was at that time, an outrageous forecast" but "we are roughly

half way there and we believe in it," he said.

Bloom first made his parity call a year ago, when the euro was around 83 pence. HSBC predicts the euro and the pound ending this year at \$1.20, which are both "strong views," he said.

Euro-sterling was little changed at 0.9085 as of 9:20 a.m. in London yesterday, having reached 0.9119 on Aug. 11, its strongest level since October. The pair reached a record 0.9803 in December 2008.

Since France elected pro-European leader Emmanuel Macron in May, risks of the currency bloc fragmenting have diminished. In addition, euro-region economic data are showing signs of improvement. In contrast, Brexit negotiations are far from clear and that's weighing on the pound. That's the main concern for Standard Bank's Barrow.

It all "depends a lot of how the Brexit negotiations go," he said. "On euro-sterling previously we thought the 90-92 area might be the peak, but obviously now I no longer do."

While Morgan Stanley's parity call is partly due to a bullish-euro outlook, the U.K. currency is "likely to weaken in its own right, driven by weak economic performance, low real yields and increasing political risks," Hans Redeker, head of foreign-exchange strategy, wrote in a client note dated Aug. 10.

Still, the number of analysts calling for parity in the pair is relatively small. Of the 62 participants in a Bloomberg currency survey, only HSBC and Morgan Stanley see the pair at or above 1.00 by mid-2018. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

ACCORHOTELS LAUNCHES SEOUL DRAGON CITY



Korea's first 'lifestyle hotel-plex' Seoul Dragon City will open on October 1, featuring four AccorHotels brands, 1,700 rooms, 11 restaurants and bars, 17 meeting rooms, and two multi-function grand

ballrooms.

Four full floors of entertainment in a Sky Bridge suspended between two of the towers will also be featured elements of the property.

Featuring four distinct AccorHotels brands ranging from luxury to economy, Seoul Dragon City will cater to every demographic, according to a press release issued by the company.

The Grand Mercure Ambassador Seoul Yongsan is designed for families and long-stay guests, while Novotel Suites Ambassador Seoul Yongsan is an ideal for long-stay business and leisure guests.

The statement added that Novotel Ambassador Seoul Yongsan will appeal to business and leisure guests, while ibis Styles Ambassador Seoul Yongsan features 591 rooms, making it the ideal choice for business and leisure groups, as well as frequent individual travellers.

MICHELIN GUIDE STREET FOOD FESTIVAL TO DEBUT AT STUDIO CITY



The Michelin guide for Hong Kong Macau will organize its first ever Michelin guide street food festival at Studio City Macau this October.

The event will present chefs from Michelin-starred restaurants and Michelin-recommended eateries across Asia who will be serving their street food creations and signature delicacies.

According to a press relea-

se from the event organizers, dishes will be available at value-for-money prices, with small plates starting from MOP40.

Moreover, eateries from Singapore and Japan will be coming to Macau for the first time. Among them will be the world's first-ever street food stall to be awarded a Michelin star, Hong Kong Soya Sauce Chicken Rice and Noodle from Singapore.

Humble hawker turned Michelin-acclaimed chef, Chan Hon Meng, will be flying in to cook at Studio City alongside fellow Singaporean Wayne Liew from Keng Eng Kee, the popular street food stall known for its fusion of Hainanese cuisine with Malaysian-home-style food. Japan's takoyaki eatery Kougaryu Hon-ten will be coming to serve Bib Gourmand-awarded takoyaki in three different flavors.

In addition, three of Studio City's signature restaurants including one-Michelin-starred restaurant Pearl Dragon, and Michelin-recommended restaurants Shanghai Magic and Bi Ying, will also be showcasing creative delicacies specially made for the festival.

The gourmet festival is free admission and will be held at Studio City's Macau Gourmet Walk from 12pm to 8pm from October 5 to 8.



MOZAMBIQUE

State power company plans to light up the whole country by 2030

MOZAMBIQUE'S state-owned electricity company Electricidade de Moçambique (EdM) intends to light up the whole country by 2030, a project expected to cost over USD16 billion, chairman Mateus Magala said recently.

The project is part of a "sustainable development strategy, which is intended to provide electricity to around 300,000 families per year," said the chairman of EdM, quoted by daily newspaper Folha de Maputo.

This year EdM plans to conclude the project to provide electricity to new districts in the provinces of Zambézia and Tete, created under the new administrative division.

Magala, who spoke on Sunday at a meeting in the central

province of Zambézia, recalled that Mozambique has abundant natural resources that have yet to be explored, and that electricity is needed to allow projects that make use of these resources to move forward.

The chairman of EdM referred to planned or ongoing power generation projects, including the construction of the Mphanda Nkuwa and Cabora Bassa Norte dams and thermal power plants in Bengo, Moatize, Moamba, Kuvaninga and Ressano Garcia.

"Realistically, I think the Mphanda Nkuwa dam will be ready around 2019, with electricity produced there for both domestic consumption and export," Magala said. **MDT/Macauhub**

Standard & Poor's downgrades Angola's credit rating to B-

STANDARD & Poor's (S&P) downgraded Angola's long-term credit rating in domestic or foreign currency from "B" to "B-", but maintained a stable outlook, according to the latest statement from the agency.

S&P backed up its decision with the dynamics of Angola's fiscal revenue, which remains lower than originally forecast, as well as the size of sovereign debt servicing commitments in addition to the weakness of the country's banking sector.

Angola's debt servicing commitments have grown by more than expected, an increase that is due to the government taking on both internal and external loans to cover the fall in tax revenue, due to the continued drop in the price of oil, the country's main export product.

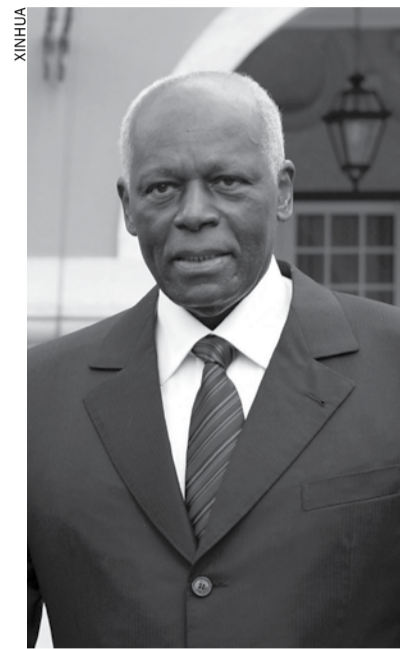
Standard & Poor's said in its credit rating assessment that the value of debt servicing could represent about 15 percent of tax revenues this year, up from 7 percent in 2015.

Angola's economic outlook remains stable, according to the agency, as the country's fo-

reign reserves can help reduce the high current account deficit without being significantly affected.

The Angolan government announced last week that it intends to reissue debt in the form of Eurobonds under a presidential order authorizing the finance minister to place up to 2 billion euros in order to "improve the composition of the portfolio of external debt."

Angola first issued Eurobonds in November 2015, raising USD1.5 billion through a syndicate of banks led by US-based Goldman Sachs International, which included Germany's Deutsche Bank and China's ICBC International. **MDT/Macauhub**



Angola's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos

PRESIDENT TO RETAIN HOLD ON POWER

JOSE EDUARDO dos Santos is set to maintain control from behind the scenes when he steps down as Angola's president next month after almost four decades in office. Dos Santos will until at least 2018 still be leader of the Movement for the Liberation of Angola, or

MPLA, the party that has ruled the southern African nation since its independence from Portugal in 1975. And, this month the government pushed a law through parliament that may enable his appointees to remain in charge of the security services.

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Top US military officer notes 'difficult issues' with China

THE top U.S. military officer told his Chinese counterpart yesterday that the U.S. and China have "many difficult issues" to work through, during a visit that comes amid tensions over North Korea's missile program, Taiwan and China's claims in the South China Sea.

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made the remarks at the opening of a meeting with Fang Fenghui, chief of the People's Liberation Army's joint staff department.

U.S. officials say Dunford's visit aims to create a mechanism for improving communication between the sides, especially on sensitive issues such as North Korea. Dunford and Fang signed an agreement committing the sides to that goal, with the details to be discussed during talks in Washington in November.

Fang said Dunford's visit was a key part of efforts to expand dialogue between the U.S. and China as agreed by President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, when they met earlier this year.

To that end, China has arranged a series of important meetings and visits to help Dunford "know more about our military, (boost) our cooperation and build up our friendship," Fang said.

Dunford responded that the U.S. considered the meetings important to making progress



Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford reviews a Chinese honor guard during a welcome ceremony at the Bayi Building in Beijing, yesterday

on areas of disagreement, without citing any specific examples.

"I think here, we have to be honest — we have many, many difficult issues where we don't necessarily share the same perspective," Dunford said.

"I know we share one thing: We share a commitment to work through these difficult issues," he added, saying that with the guidance of political leaders "we are going to make

some progress over the next few days."

This is the highest-level meeting between the two countries' militaries since Trump and Xi met in Florida in April.

The U.S. delegation will be flying to the northeastern city of Shenyang today to observe an exercise staged by the People's Liberation Army's Northern Theater Command. Fang cited the event as being among the measures aimed at building mu-

tual trust and understanding.

While the sides agreed several years ago to establish a hotline between the Pentagon and China's defense ministry, that mechanism has never gone into operation. U.S. officials say they've attempted to use it, but that the Chinese side has never answered their requests.

The Chinese and U.S. militaries have joined in naval exercises off the coast of Hawaii and other limited multinational

drills mainly aimed at dealing with humanitarian disasters. They've also tried to improve mutual trust through agreements on dealing with unexpected encounters at sea.

Despite those, China deeply resents the presence of the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

■ The U.S. delegation will be flying to Shenyang today to observe an exercise staged by the PLA's Northern Theater Command

Last week, China expressed its "strong dissatisfaction" with the U.S. over the Navy's latest freedom of navigation operation in which a warship sailed past one of China's man-made islands.

Dunford is visiting South Korea, Japan and China after a week in which Trump said he was ready to unleash "fire and fury" if North Korea continued to threaten the U.S.

In a phone call with Trump on Saturday, Chinese President Xi said all sides should avoid rhetoric or action that would worsen tensions on the Korean Peninsula. **AP**

IMF forecasts faster Chinese growth as rising debt adds to risks

THE International Monetary Fund increased its estimate for China's average annual growth rate through 2020, while warning that it would come at the cost of rising debt that increases medium-term risks to growth.

China's economy will expand at an average pace of 6.4 percent annually from 2017 through 2020, compared with a 6 percent estimate a year earlier, the IMF said in its Article IV review. Household, corporate and government debt will increase to almost 300 percent of gross domestic product by 2022 from 242 percent last year, fund staff estimated.

President Xi Jinping

has been pushing financial regulators to address excessive borrowing at state enterprises and has said their indebtedness is "the priority of priorities." But ending the addiction to debt requires measures that include allowing companies to fail and sweeping shifts in the way capital is allocated that policy makers have yet to fully embrace.

"Given strong growth momentum, now is the time to intensify these deleveraging efforts," the IMF said. "Reform progress needs to accelerate to secure medium-term stability and address the risk that the current trajectory of the economy could eventually lead to a sharp adjustment."

Lending to the private sector rose 16 percent in 2016, twice the pace of nominal GDP growth, and since 2008 has risen about 80 percentage points to about 175 percent of output, the fund said. Such large increases in other countries have been associated with sharp growth slowdowns and often financial crises, it said. IMF staff estimated that a healthier pace of credit growth would have kept real GDP growth around 5.5 percent from 2012 to 2016, rather than 7.25 percent.

China is transitioning to more sustainable growth, as reforms are advancing widely, policy makers have taken initial steps to facilitate private-

sector deleveraging and credit growth and corporate debt are both increasing more slowly, the IMF said. Progress also has been made on reducing excess industrial capacity, strengthening local government borrowing policies, and addressing financial sector risks, it said.

Expansion is expected to remain unchanged this year at 6.7 percent owing to momentum from last year's stimulus, the IMF said. Inflation also is seen unchanged from a year earlier at 2 percent this year, it said. The future objective should be for policy makers to focus more on the quality and sustainability of growth and less on quantitative

targets, it said.

With the spotlight on trade tensions as U.S. President Donald Trump mulls a probe of how China handles intellectual property, the IMF report had some positive news for Beijing.

China's current account surplus, seen by many economists as a better measure than the merchandise trade surplus, fell almost 1 percentage point to 1.7 percent of GDP last year on stronger domestic demand, the IMF said. It's forecast to fall to 1.4 percent of GDP this year.

The narrower surplus was driven by a sharp recovery in imports and continued strength in tourism outflows, the IMF said. It added that data limitations suggest tourism imports may be overstated by half a percentage point of GDP and said the surplus is still "moderately stronger"

than is consistent with China's medium-term fundamentals. The yuan remains broadly in line with fundamentals, the report said.

For more sustainable growth, China must boost consumption and reduce its high savings rate in part by spending more on health care and pensions, the IMF said. At 46 percent of GDP, China's national savings rate is more than double the global average, it said.

China also needs to increase productivity, which can be done by better use of resources being allocated to unprofitable "zombie" companies, overcapacity industries and state-owned enterprises, the report said. It estimated that better allocation could increase the contribution of productivity to growth by 1 percentage point over the long term. **Bloomberg**

CHINA criticized President Donald Trump's order for a possible U.S. trade investigation of Beijing's technology policies as a violation of global rules and said yesterday it will "resolutely safeguard" Chinese interests.

Trade groups for technology companies welcomed Trump's order Monday but Chinese officials said Washington was violating the spirit of its trade commitments. They said Beijing will take unspecified action if Chinese companies are hurt.

"The United States should not be the underminer of multilateral rules," a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said at a regular briefing.

"If the U.S. side disregards the fact it does not respect multilateral trade rules and takes action to damage the economic and trade relations between the two sides," said Hua, "then the Chinese side will never sit back and will take all appropriate measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the Chinese side."

Beijing requires automakers and other foreign companies in China to work through joint ventures, usually with state-owned partners. They often are required to give technology to partners who might become competitors.

Beijing says US trade probe would violate international rules

More than 20 percent of 100 American companies that responded to a survey by the U.S.-China Business Council, an industry group, said they were asked to transfer technology within the past three years as a condition of market access, according to Jake Parker, the group's vice president for China operations.

"We don't believe market access should be contingent on transferring technology," said Parker. "It goes counter to China's WTO commitments."

Foreign business groups complain companies are being squeezed out of promising Chinese markets or pressured to hand over technology for electric cars and other emerging industries.

Trump said in April he was setting aside trade disputes while Washington and Beijing worked together to persuade North Korea to give up nuclear weapons development. But American officials have resumed criticizing Chinese policy in recent weeks.



AP PHOTO

"The White House is right to make clear all options are on the table," said Robert D. Atkinson, president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, an industry group in

Washington, in a statement. Parker noted then-President Barack Obama ordered a similar investigation of Chinese policy on green technology in 2010. That ended in a negotiated se-

tlement. "It didn't lead to any unilateral sanctions against the Chinese," said Parker. "Nor did it undermine the overall U.S.-China trade relationship." AP

HONG KONG

Activist arrested over allegation of stapled legs

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

THE strange case of a Hong Kong pro-democracy activist who claimed mainland Chinese agents stapled his legs as a warning has taken another twist after police arrested him yesterday on suspicion of providing false information.

Howard Lam made waves last week with his eye-catching allegations, which rekindled fears about Beijing interfering in Hong Kong despite promising it considerable autonomy since the 1997 handover from Britain. But police said his story didn't check out.

"The victim's reports about his activities on that day and the investigation's results do not match," police said in a statement, "At this time, there's no evidence that anyone was illegally detained in Hong Kong."

Lam, 42, had intended to send a signed photo of Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi to Liu Xia, the widow of late Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, and posted his plans on Facebook. He said he received a



AP PHOTO
Pro-democracy activist Howard Lam, center, is taken away by police investigators in Hong Kong early yesterday

call early last week from an acquaintance on the mainland warning him not to send the photo.

Lam said that on Thursday, unknown Mandarin-speaking men abducted him from a busy street in Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong and rendered him unconscious. He said they beat him and warned him not to follow through on his plan.

He said they also stapled Xs into his thighs because he is Christian. He displayed his wounds to reporters at a news conference Friday, flanked by fellow members of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, before filing a police report and going to a hospital.

Police said Tuesday that they arrested Lam on suspicion of providing false information to mislead police after looked into his allegations, including checking surveillance footage from cameras in the area.

Democratic Party Chairman Wu Chi-wai said party leaders decided to air Lam's allegations in public instead of going to police right away because they feared for his personal safety.

He said Hong Kong's biggest pro-democracy party would provide a full account after the police conclude their investigation.

"We hope the truth will come to light as soon as possible," Wu told reporters.

Lam's case stirred concerns that Beijing is tightening its hold on Hong Kong, following other recent cases including the secret detention of a group of Hong Kong booksellers and a Chinese-Canadian tycoon whose whereabouts are unknown. In both cases, mainland security agents are suspected of taking them across the border, in violation of Hong Kong's constitution. AP



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This image made from video of an Aug. 14 still image broadcast in a news bulletin yesterday

ANALYSIS

Both Korean leaders, US signal turn to diplomacy amid crisis

Foster Klug &
Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korea's military yesterday presented leader Kim Jong Un with plans to launch missiles into waters near Guam and "wring the windpipes of the Yankees," even as both Koreas and the United States signaled their willingness to avert a deepening crisis, with each suggesting a path toward negotiations.

The tentative interest in diplomacy follows unusually combative threats between President Donald Trump and North Korea amid worries that Pyongyang is nearing its long-sought goal of accurately being able to send a nuclear missile to the U.S. mainland. Next week's start of U.S.-South Korean military exercises that enrage the North each year makes it unclear, however, if diplomacy will prevail.

During an inspection of the North Korean army's Strategic Forces, which handles the missile program, Kim praised the military for drawing up a "close and careful plan" and said he would watch the "foolish and stupid conduct of the Yankees" a little more before deciding whether to order the missile test, the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency said. Kim appeared in

photos sitting at a table with a large map marked by a straight line between what appeared to be northeastern North Korea and Guam, and passing over Japan — apparently showing the missiles' flight route.

The missile plans were previously announced. Kim said North Korea would conduct the launches if the "Yankees persist in their extremely dangerous reckless actions on the Korean Peninsula and its vicinity," and that the United States should "think reasonably and judge properly" to avoid shaming itself, the news agency said.

Lobbing missiles toward Guam, a major U.S. military hub in the Pacific, would be a deeply provocative act from the U.S. perspective, and a miscalculation on either side could lead to a military clash. U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said the United States would take out any such missile seen to be heading for American soil and declared any such North Korean attack could mean war.

Kim's comments, however, with their conditional tone, seemed to hold out the possibility that friction could ease if the United States made some sort of gesture that Pyongyang considered a move to back away from previous "extremely dangerous reckless actions."

That could refer to the U.S.-South Korean military drills set to begin Monday, which the North claims are rehearsals for invasion. It also could refer to the B-1B bombers that the U.S. has occasionally flown over the Korean Peninsula as a show of force.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, meanwhile, a liberal who favors engagement with the North, urged North Korea to stop provocations and to commit to talks over its nuclear weapons program.

■ Kim's comments seemed to hold out the possibility that friction could ease

Moon, in a televised speech on the anniversary of the end of World War II and the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, said that Seoul and Washington agree that the crisis over the North's nuclear program should "absolutely be solved peacefully," and that no U.S. military action on the Korean Peninsula could be taken wi-

thout Seoul's consent.

Moon said the North could create conditions for talks by stopping nuclear and missile tests.

"Our government will put everything on the line to prevent another war on the Korean Peninsula," Moon said. "Regardless of whatever twist and turns we could experience, the North Korean nuclear program should absolutely be solved peacefully, and the (South Korean) government and the U.S. government don't have a different position on this."

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, on Monday met with senior South Korean military and political officials and the local media, and made comments that appeared to be an attempt to ease anxiety while also showing a willingness to back Trump's warnings if need be.

Dunford said the United States wants to peacefully resolve tensions with North Korea, but Washington is also ready to use the "full range" of its military capabilities in case of provocation.

Dunford 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 rea-

dy to unleash "fire and fury" if North Korea continued to threaten the United States.

North Korea's military had said last week it would finalize and send to Kim for approval the plan to fire four ballistic missiles near Guam, which is about 3,200 kilometers from Pyongyang.

The plans are based on the Hwasong-12, a new missile the country successfully flight-tested for the first time in May. The liquid-fuel missile is designed to be fired from road mobile launchers and has been previously described by North Korea as built for attacking Alaska and Hawaii.

The North followed the May launch with two flight tests of its Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile last month. Analysts said that a wide swath of the continental United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, could be within reach of those missiles, once they're perfected.

The North's latest report said Kim ordered his military to be prepared to launch the missiles toward Guam at any time. Kim said that if the "planned fire of power demonstration" is carried out because of U.S. recklessness, it will be "the most delightful historic moment when the Hwasong artillerymen will wring the windpipes of the Yankees and point daggers at their necks," the North reported.

Even with North Korea and the Trump administration exchanging tough talk, back-channel diplomatic contacts between the countries have continued, The Associated Press reported Saturday. People familiar with the contacts who spoke on condition of anonymity say those discussions have addressed deteriorating relations and issues including three Americans still detained in the North.

A foreign ministry spokesman for the North yesterday denied that the country is currently discussing the detainees with Washington. "The issue on detained Americans is not an object to discuss in view of the present atmosphere of DPRK-U.S. relations," the state-run Korean Central News Agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

North Korea is angry about new United Nations sanctions over its expanding nuclear weapons and missile program and the upcoming military drills between Washington and Seoul.

Kim said the United States must "make a proper option first and show it through action, as it committed provocations after introducing huge nuclear strategic equipment into the vicinity of the peninsula" and that it "should stop at once arrogant provocations" against North Korea, state media said. **AP**

Nick Perry & Rod Mcguirk

OCEANIA

Political feud erupts between Australia and New Zealand

LIKE squabbling siblings, New Zealand and Australia have close ties but also a rivalry that can sometimes turn ugly.

That tension spilled into politics yesterday, when Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop accused New Zealand's opposition Labour Party of conspiring to undermine her government, a claim New Zealand lawmakers said was "false" and "utter nonsense."

The unlikely dispute involved Barnaby Joyce, Australia's deputy prime minister. Joyce said Monday he'd been advised he was a New Zealand citizen and an Australian court was being asked to determine if he should be kicked out of parliament because Australia's constitution bans lawmakers from being dual citizens.

If Joyce was disqualified, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's center-right government could lose its single-seat majority in the House of Representatives, where parties need a majority to govern.

But Joyce told Australia's parliament yesterday that New Zealand had just told him verbally that his citizenship had been renounced after he requested as much over the weekend, and he was now awaiting written confirmation. Renunciation won't affect the court decision since the case rests on his eligibility to run in the last election.

Bishop said Australia's opposition Labor Party had used their New Zealand counterparts to raise questions about Joyce in the New Zealand parliament.

"This is highly unethical at least, but more importantly it puts at risk the relationship between the Australian government and the New Zealand government," Bishop told reporters in Canberra.

"New Zealand is facing an election," she said. "Should there be a change of government, I would find it very hard to build trust with those invol-



Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop



Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce

This is highly unethical at least, but more importantly it puts at risk the relationship.

JULIE BISHOP

ved in allegations designed to undermine the government of Australia."

New Zealand's election is next month.

New Zealand Labour Party Leader Jacinda Ardern said the claims were false and "highly regrettable." She said she'd contacted the Australian High

Commission to register her disappointment and would be meeting with the commissioner in person.

Bishop was referring to two questions lodged in the New Zealand parliament by Labour lawmaker Chris Hipkins, who asked whether children born in Australia to a New Zealand father automatically had New Zealand citizenship.

Ardern said she had no knowledge of the questions lodged by Hipkins and knew nothing about the Joyce case until it broke in the media this week.

She told Radio New Zealand that somebody connected with the Australian Labor Party had put the questions to Hipkins without mentioning Joyce, and that Hipkins wouldn't have asked them if he knew how

they were going to be used. She called the questions inappropriate.

"I greatly value New Zealand's relationship with the Australian government," she said in a statement. "I will not let false claims stand in the way of that relationship. I would happily take a call from Julie Bishop to clarify matters."

New Zealand's Internal Affairs Minister Peter Dunne said Hipkins had not started the row.

"This is so much utter nonsense — while Hipkins' questions were inappropriate, they were not the instigator," Dunne tweeted. "Australian media inquiries were."

Joyce is perhaps best known abroad for the tough stance he took on Johnny Depp's pet dogs

Pistol and Boo. Joyce threatened to have the Yorkshire terriers euthanized after saying they were smuggled into Australia in 2014 where Depp was filming the fifth installment of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie series.

Depp's then-wife Amber Heard pleaded guilty to falsifying an immigration document to conceal the dogs in a private jet. She avoided jail under a deal that included Heard and Depp appearing in an awkward video warning against others breaking Australia's strict quarantine laws.

The Australian and New Zealand opposition parties are kindred center-left parties, although the Australian party uses the American spelling for its name. **AP**

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USA

Furor over Charlottesville follows Trump home to Manhattan

Jonathan Lemire, New York

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is back in the New York skyscraper that bears his name as the furor over his reaction to race-fueled clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia, over the weekend shows few signs of dying down.

Protesters on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue tried to spoil Trump's homecoming yesterday [Macau time] with signs bearing messages like "stop the hate, stop the lies" and chanting "shame, shame, shame" and "not my president!"

After two days of public equivocation and internal White House debate, the president condemned white supremacist groups by name, declaring "racism is evil".

In a hastily arranged statement at the White House, Trump branded members of the KKK, neo-Nazis and white supremacists who take part in violence as "criminals and thugs."

The groups are "repugnant to everything that we hold dear as Americans," he said.

The move didn't quiet the uproar, however. The leaders of four minority House caucus groups wrote a letter to Trump calling for the removal of White House staff aides Steve Bannon, Stephen Miller and Sebastian Gorka.



Protestors near Trump Tower react as President Donald Trump arrives

The heads of the black, Hispanic, Asian and progressive caucuses are calling in the letter for the firings of the Trump administration officials in the wake of a violent, racist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. The letter asserts their continuing presence in the White House is emboldening a resurgent white supremacist movement in America.

This came a day after Anthony Scaramucci, who was fired as White House communications director after a less than two-week stay, called for Bannon's ouster.

In his initial remarks on the vio-

lence Saturday, Trump did not single out the groups and instead bemoaned violence on "many sides." Those remarks prompted stern criticism from fellow Republicans as well as Democrats, who urged him to seize the moral authority of his office to condemn hate groups.

Trump's softer statement Saturday had come as graphic images of a car plowing into a crowd in Charlottesville were playing continually on television. White nationalists had assembled in the city to protest plans to take down a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert

E. Lee, and counter-protesters gathered in opposition. Fights broke out, and then a man drove into the opponents of the white supremacists. One woman was killed and many more badly hurt. Twenty-year-old James Alex Fields Jr. of Ohio is charged with second-degree murder and other counts.

■ The leaders of four minority House groups [called] for the removal of White House staff aides Bannon, Miller and Gorka

Loath to appear to be admitting a mistake, Trump was reluctant to adjust his remarks.

The president had indicated to advisers before his initial statement Saturday that he wanted to stress a need for law and order, which he did. He later expressed anger to those close to him about what he perceived as the media's unfair assessment of his remarks, believing he had effectively denounced all forms of bigotry, according to outside advisers and

White House officials.

Several of Trump's senior advisers, including new chief of staff John Kelly, had urged him to make a more specific condemnation, warning that the negative story would not go away and that the rising tide of criticism from fellow Republicans on Capitol Hill could endanger his legislative agenda, according to two White House officials.

The outside advisers and officials demanded anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Aides were dispatched to Sunday talk shows but struggled to explain the president's position. A stronger statement was released — but attributed only to an unnamed spokesperson.

Tougher condemnations began Sunday night with Vice President Mike Pence, traveling in South America, declaring that "these dangerous fringe groups have no place in American public life."

On Monday, Trump had planned to interrupt his 17-day working vacation at his New Jersey golf club to travel to Washington for an announcement he hoped would showcase some tough talk on China's trade practices.

But by the time he arrived at midmorning, it was clear all other messages would be drowned out until he said more about Charlottesville.

Trump returned to a White House undergoing a major renovation. With the Oval Office unavailable, he worked from the Treaty Room as aides drafted his remarks.

Reading from a teleprompter, he made a point of beginning with an unrelated plug for the strength of the economy under his leadership. Then, taking pains to insist "as I said on Saturday," Trump denounced the hate groups and called for unity.

"We must love each other, show affection for each other and unite together in condemnation of hatred, bigotry and violence," he said.

Trump for the first time mentioned Heather Heyer by name as he paid tribute to the woman killed by the car.

At the trade event later in the day, he was asked why it took two days for him to offer an explicit denunciation of the hate groups.

"They have been condemned," Trump responded before offering a fresh criticism of some media as "fake news."

He followed with a tweet declaring "the #Fake News Media will never be satisfied." **AP**

Deadly rally accelerates removal of Confederate statues

IN Gainesville, Florida, workers hired by the Daughters of the Confederacy chipped away at a Confederate soldier's statue, loaded it quietly on a truck and drove away with little fanfare.

In Baltimore, Mayor Catherine Pugh said she's ready to tear down all of her city's Confederate statues, and the city council voted to have them destroyed. San Antonio lawmakers are looking ahead to removing a statue that many people wrongly assumed represented a famed Texas leader who died at the Alamo.

Some people refused to wait. Protesters in Durham, North Carolina, toppled a nearly century-old statue of a Confederate soldier yesterday [Macau time] at a rally against racism. Activists took a ladder up to the statue and used a rope to pull down the Confederate Soldiers Monument that was dedicated in 1924. A diverse crowd of dozens cheered as the statue of a soldier holding a rifle fell to the ground in front of an old courthouse building that now houses local government offices.

The deadly white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, is fueling another re-evaluation of Confederate statues in cities across the nation, accelerating their removal in much the same way that a 2015 mass shooting by a white supremacist renewed pressure to take down the Confederate flag from public property.

"We should not glorify a part of our history in front of our buildings that really is a testament to America's original sin," Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe said



Workers begin removing a Confederate statue in Gainesville, Florida

after the statue known as "Old Joe" was returned to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which erected it in 1904.

A county spokesman said he did not know if the statue was removed because of the events that killed one person and injured dozens more Saturday in Charlottesville. But many officials who were horrified by the confrontation soon began publicizing plans to take down statues.

The Southern Poverty Law Center last year counted more than 1,500 things around the country named after Confederate figures or dedicated to the Confederacy, including holidays, statues, flags and the names of cities, counties, schools and parks. Nearly half are monuments, which are in 24 states. Most of the dedications are in the South, but 24 are in the North and 21 in states that did not exist at the time of the Civil War. **AP**

OBAMA'S TWEET GETS TWITTER LOVE

FORMER PRESIDENT Barack Obama's tweet in response to the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, over the weekend is already one of the platform's most-liked posts. Obama tweeted over the weekend: "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion..." The quote comes from Nelson Mandela's autobiography

"Long Walk to Freedom." Obama posted the tweet alongside a picture of himself smiling at a group of children of different races. By yesterday, the tweet had more than 2.4 million likes, making it the second most-liked tweet of all time. Ariana Grande's tweet following a deadly bombing at her concert in England holds the top spot with 2.7 million likes.

ZIMBABWE

First lady accused of assault in South Africa



Zimbabwe's first lady, Grace Mugabe

THE wife of Zimbabwe's president handed herself over to police in South Africa after being accused of assaulting a young woman Sunday night at an upscale Johannesburg hotel, South Africa's police minister said.

Grace Mugabe was due to appear in court yesterday, local news outlet eNCA reported.

Mugabe is "not under arrest because she cooperated and handed herself over," Minister of Police Fikile Mbalula said in a video posted on eNCA.

Twenty-year-old Gabriella Engels has accused Mugabe of assaulting her while she was visiting Mugabe's sons in a hotel room in an upscale Johannesburg suburb. She claims the first lady's bodyguards stood by and watched as Mugabe attacked her.

Engels posted several photos on social media showing a gash in her forehead, which she calls a result of the alleged encounter.

"I had no clue who this woman was when she started beating me," Engels told local radio station 702.

Police confirmed that a 20-year-old woman registered "a case of assault with intent

to do grievous bodily harm" on Monday, but said the suspect could not be named as she had not yet appeared in court.

"The investigation into this case has already reached an advanced stage," a police statement yesterday said.

Meanwhile, President Robert Mugabe said one of his deputies is in a South African hospital, as local media reported he was poisoned at a political rally.

Mugabe did not address the poisoning claims yesterday [Macau time]. He told thousands at a national ceremony to honor independence heroes that Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa is in a hospital in Johannesburg.

Health minister David Parrenyatswa told reporters at the ceremony that Mnangagwa was taken to a hospital Saturday because "he had severe vomiting with diarrhea and became dehydrated." Mnangagwa is now "much better, almost jovial," he said.

Mnangagwa is viewed as one of Mugabe's potential successors and is linked to a faction involved in a vicious succession battle. First lady Grace Mugabe is associated with the other faction. **MDT/AP**

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what's ON



DEBRIS - WORKS BY ALEXANDRE FARTO AKA VHILS

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

UNTIL: November 5, 2017

VENUE: Navy Yard No. 1

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

BRAND STORY - POP-UP SHOP

TIME: 10am-8pm

UNTIL: October 1, 2017

VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

RESTLESS NATURE BY TONG CHONG

TIME: 12pm-8pm

UNTIL: September 6, 2017

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space, Rua dos Clerigos No 10, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Taipa Village Cultural Association

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

MY HANDS MOULD MY THOUGHTS -

SCULPTURAL WORKS BY WU HIN LONG

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

UNTIL: August 27, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Art for All Society

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH THE MAM

COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

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

UNTIL: December 10, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

WOMAN GETS OK FOR LICENSE PLATE
INSPIRED BY 'COVFefe' TWEET

Ohio officials have granted a woman's request to have President Donald Trump's mysterious tweeted typo, "covfefe," on her license plate.

Brittany Scott tells The Columbus Dispatch in May she saw a Twitter post by Trump that read: "Despite the constant negative press covfefe."

The 29-year-old Cortland woman says she wrote in her application that her request stemmed from a tweet from the 45th president of the United States, and the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles approved it.

Scott says she hasn't received any complaints online or from fellow motorists.

A bureau committee examines hundreds of applications each day for vanity plates, denying profane, obscene or sexually explicit ones. It also rejects those it determines could provoke violence or advocate lawlessness.

Cortland is about 103 kilometers southeast of Cleveland.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Champions League: Sporting - Bucarest (Repeated)
18:50	Now Generation (Repeated) - Final
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Portuguese in New England
21:25	Ui Di Sabroso Sr. 2
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Brazilian - Premier
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	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

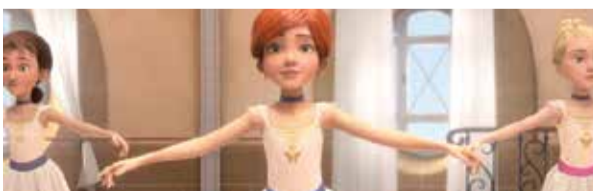
9:15pm

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

1977 ROCK AND ROLL 'KING'
PRESLEY DIES

Elvis Presley, whose singing and style revolutionized popular music in the 1950s, has died.

Presley, 42, was discovered slumped in a bathroom at his mansion in Memphis, Tennessee on Tuesday.

He was rushed to the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis but was pronounced dead on arrival.

The Tennessee state pathologist, Dr. Jerry Francisco, said a post mortem examination of the singer's body had revealed he died of cardiac arrhythmia - a form of heart attack.

"The precise cause has not yet been determined for the cardiac arrhythmia," Dr Francisco said.

"It may take several days to several weeks to determine that specific cause and in some cases it never is determined."

The three-hour examination uncovered no sign of any other diseases or any drug abuse, Dr Francisco added.

Presley was divorced from his wife Priscilla in 1973 but it was rumoured that he had recently become engaged to Ginger Alden, 20.

She was reportedly spotted wearing a \$50,000 (£20,315) diamond engagement ring from Presley.

Ms Alden and other members of his entourage were at Graceland when he collapsed.

There had been indications of Elvis Presley's declining health for some time.

Earlier this year the singer had cancelled several performances in Louisiana and returned to Memphis suffering what his doctors termed "exhaustion".

No arrangements have been announced yet for his funeral which is scheduled for Friday.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Thousands gathered to file past Elvis Presley's body which lay in state at his mansion, Graceland, the day after his death.

Although it was officially stated that he died of heart failure there has always been speculation that an overdose of cocaine and barbiturates also played a part.

Since his divorce from Priscilla in 1973 he had relied heavily on prescription drugs and was known to be a junk-food addict, gaining a considerable amount of weight.

During his lifetime he sold over 300 million albums and made 33 films.

His death has been lucrative for the "Elvis industry".

In 2001 he came top in US magazine Forbes' poll of "Richest Deceased Celebrities".

It put Elvis estate's earnings in 2000 at \$35m (£23m) - \$15m (£10m) of it from Graceland admission fees.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Still feeling solid, practical and responsible, not to mention grounded? Good. Because considering what might tumble out of your mouth today, you're going to need a healthy dose of confidence.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're a natural-born detective, but some clues just aren't worth following. And some folks aren't clever enough to insert an actual meaning into everything they say.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 At this point, your friends are pretty well trained. Most of them don't even bat an eyelash when you get going on one of your favorite subjects, even if it's in a public place. They've learned that resistance is futile.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 From the very moment you got up this morning, you've been in a rather odd mood. You don't want to do anything the way you used to do it, and you don't particularly care if that offends anyone.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Now, it's not like you've ever needed any help getting inspired to say exactly what you want to say - the heck with the consequences - so just imagine what today's verbosity will bring.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Telling you not to go out and spend your every dime on a lark, with absolutely no thought for the future, just isn't going to work - asking you not to won't work, either.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You've been waiting for the right moment to let someone know you're not a child anymore, you're perfectly capable of making your own choices and you don't need their advice.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're done talking about the issue that's been making you crazy for weeks, if not months. You know you can win, and win easily, but you can't justify the energy. It's just as well. You have bigger fish to fry.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Should you dismiss them entirely, help this person find some psychological counseling or just pretend it never happened? Weigh the seriousness of the situation before you do anything at all.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 They'll sit down across from you, or stand right there in front of you, cross their arms and look you straight in the eye. Then they'll ask if you'd please share your opinion of the current situation with them.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your spiritual and psychic qualities are running on high right now. So if you suddenly get the feeling you don't want to be where you are, or that you'd like someone else to be there with you, don't even bother resisting.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've never been fond of blind dates. But now, after one too many interesting experiences, to say you're less than fond of them wouldn't quite cover your sentiments.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

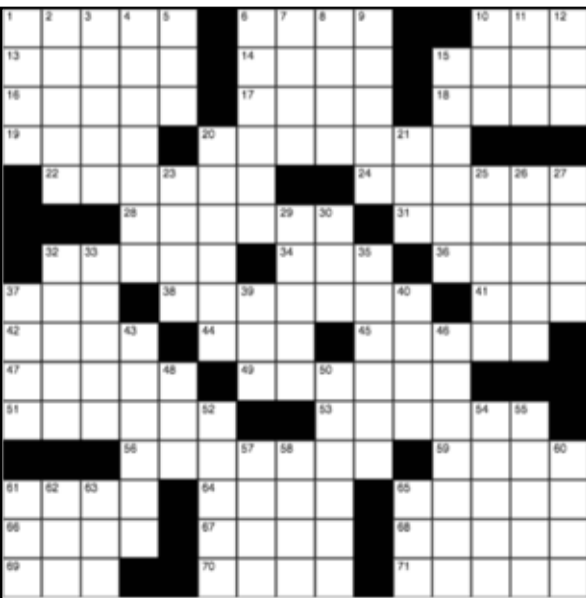
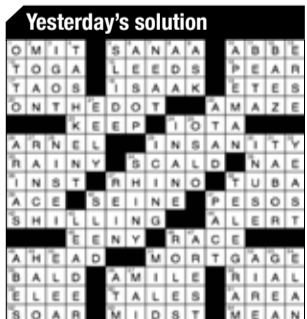
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Org.; 6- Swift; 10- Small batteries; 13- Low-budget prefix; 14- Jai ...; 15- Ms. Fitzgerald; 16- Logrolling contest; 17- ___ avis; 18- Close with force; 19- ___ first you don't...; 20- Dangling item of jewelry; 22- Companion; 24- Take into custody; 28- Soggy and reedy; 31- Exxon Valdez, e.g.; 32- Oldsmobile model; 34- "___ don't say!"; 36- VCR alternative; 37- Wolfed down; 38- Remarkable; 41- A Kennedy; 42- Gyro meat; 44- Tit for ___; 45- One on slopes; 47- Standoffish; 49- Declared; 51- Entered; 53- Crave; 56- Farm vehicle; 59- A Chaplin; 61- Footnote abbr.; 64- Blacken the edges of; 65- Take ___ for the worse; 66- Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued; 67- Roll call call; 68- Intolerant person; 69- Chem., for one; 70- Was indebted to; 71- View;

DOWN: 1- Ethereal; Prefix; 2- Deride; 3- Of the sun; 4- Former; 5- Dove's sound; 6- Capacitance units; 7- Banned orchard spray; 8- Reddish-brown gem; 9- Ornamental coronet; 10- Everything; 11- ___ carte; 12- Newsmen Donaldson; 15- ___ de corps; 20- Implant; 21- Guadalajara gold; 23- Acquire through merit; 25- Best of the best; 26- Cut off; 27- Stepped; 29- Hilton competitor; 30- Teenage lout, to a Brit; 32- Start of a Dickens title; 33- Yellowish citrus fruit; 35- Northern Ireland province; 37- There oughta be ___; 39- Univ. aides; 40- Supplements, with "out"; 43- Liquid container; 46- Stupid; 48- Evergreen tree; 50- Worshiped; 52- Tortilla topped with cheese; 54- Red cosmetic; 55- Noted bankruptcy of 2001; 57- Masticate; 58- Shipping deduction; 60- Initial stake in a hand of poker; 61- UFO crew; 62- ___-tac-toe; 63- Jackie's second; 65- Stomach muscles, for short;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
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Ciaran Fahey, Berlin

FOOTBALL | BUNDESLIGA 2017-18

Five teams to watch out for this season in German top league

FEW expect anything other than Bayern Munich extending its Bundesliga record to six straight titles.

That promoted side Leipzig pushed the defending champions the hardest last season says much about the gap in quality between Bayern and the rest. Bayern won by 15 points last season and expects to maintain its dominance this season as well.

Five teams to keep an eye on in the Bundesliga, which starts Friday:

BAYERN MUNICH

The pressure is on Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti to do better in his second season after claiming "only" the league title in his first. Borussia Dortmund ended Bayern's German Cup hopes, and Real Madrid eliminated the team from the Champions League. It's in these competitions, particularly the latter, that Ancelotti will be deemed a success or a failure.

"Carlo Ancelotti is under observation," former Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn told Kicker magazine on Monday.

The Italian coach has been boosted by the arrivals of French midfielder Corentin Tolisso for a Bundesliga-record 41.5 million euros from Lyon and Colombia forward James Rodriguez from Real Madrid, while defenders Niklas Sule and Sebastian Rudy arrived from league rival Hoffenheim.

The new arrivals will try to make up for the retirements of captain Philipp Lahm and Spanish playmaker Xabi Alonso. Douglas Costa has also departed for Juventus, while new signing Serge Gnabry has been sent out on loan again. He isn't needed as long as Robert Lewandowski keeps scoring.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

Dortmund was the last team to win back-to-back league titles



Dortmund's Lukasz Piszczek, right, and Bayern's Robert Lewandowski vie for the ball during the Supercup soccer final between FC Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund earlier this month

in 2011 and 2012 before Bayern, but years of rebuilding make that a tall order for coach Peter Bosz in his first season.

The Dutchman takes over from Thomas Tuchel, who reinvigorated the young side after a collapse under previous coach Juergen Klopp. Tuchel fell out with club management and some players, and departed under a cloud after winning the German Cup.

Bosz, who worked with young players at Ajax, is expected to do the same again, but his season preparations have been overshadowed by the furor over Ousmane Dembele's potential move to Barcelona. The France forward was suspended for missing training after Barcelona made a huge bid and his future remains unclear. Barcelona, which is

searching for a replacement for Neymar, was expected to make another offer.

Also, striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has been far from committal. The loss of either player would seriously impact on the team's prospects.

LEIPZIG

Leipzig took the rest of the Bundesliga by surprise by finishing second and earning an automatic Champions League qualification in its debut season in the top division. Leipzig, however, only had the Bundesliga to contend with last season after an early exit from the German Cup, so things will get harder this time.

Leipzig has managed to hold onto its top performers from last season. Emil Forsberg and

Naby Keita are still with the club and French forward Jean-Kevin Augustin arrived from Paris Saint-Germain to replace David Selke, who joined Hertha Berlin. Portugal winger Bruma was also signed from Galatasaray.

Sporting director Ralf Rangnick has been canny with his acquisitions so far and further additions could not be ruled out before the end of the month.

HOFFENHEIM

Hoffenheim, which faces Liverpool in a playoff for the Champions League, out-muscled more established teams like Schalke and Bayer Leverkusen for a top-four position last season.

Most of the credit goes to the 30-year-old Julian Nagelsmann, the youngest coach in the Bun-

desliga and the German soccer federation's coach of the year. Since his appointment in February 2016, he has brought Hoffenheim from a relegation scrap to European soccer.

The team will have to cope without defenders Niklas Sule and Sebastian Rudy, who were snapped up by Bayern. Germany striker Serge Gnabry came from the defending champions, however.

Despite the changes, another stellar campaign is expected.

HAMBURGER SV

Hamburg, the only founding member of the Bundesliga still remaining since 1963, has been flirting with relegation in recent seasons and Sunday's German Cup loss to third-division club Osnabrueck - a team that played nearly the whole game with 10 players - suggests another fraught campaign.

A clock in the corner of Hamburg's stadium counts the years, days, hours, minutes and seconds that the side has been in the Bundesliga, but instead of inspiring, it seems to weigh on the players, amplifying the pressure as the team's struggles continue.

Osnabrueck's victory brought all the old fears back to the surface, and the team is far from settled before Saturday's league-opener at home against Augsburg, with questions over players like Nicolai Mueller, Douglas Santos, Wallace, Aaron Hunt and Lewis Holtby.

The only positive is that a lack of German Cup soccer allows the team concentrate exclusively on the league. **AP**

ATHLETICS

Chinese, Portuguese athletes won women's walk races

YANG Jiayu of China won the women's 20-kilometer walk at the world championships.

Yang finished in a personal best 1 hour, 26 minutes, 18 seconds on the two-kilometer loop in central London, only 1 second ahead of Maria Guadalupe Gonzalez of Mexico.

Antonella Palmisano of Italy was third in 1:26:36.

Lyu Xiuzhi had been in line for bronze, but the Chinese walker was disqualified with about 50 meters to go.

Ines Henriques of Portugal set a world record

while winning the first women's 50-kilometer walk at the world championships.

Henriques bettered her own record by winning in 4 hours, 5 minutes, 56 seconds on the two-kilometer loop in central London. She set the previous record of 4:08:26 earlier this year.

Yin Hang was second in 4:08:58, followed by Chinese teammate Yang Shuqing in 4:20:49.

Meanwhile, Trinidad and Tobago swept past the United States in the 4x400-meter relay to

earn the last big upset of the world championships in the final event.

Lalonde Gordon stayed in the slipstream of Fred Kerley for most of the last lap but then pushed past the American to win in 2 minutes, 58.12 seconds. The U.S. team was second in 2:58.61. Britain took bronze in 2:59.00.

The United States had not lost at the world championships since 2003, but the Americans did lose in the Olympic final at the 2012 London Games in the same stadium.

Allyson Felix and Phyllis

Francis won their second gold medals at the world championships by helping the United States win the 4x400-meter relay.

The favored Americans, with 400 champion Francis running the anchor, won in 3 minutes, 19.02 seconds. They finished about 50 meters ahead of silver medalist Britain. Poland took bronze.

Felix also won gold in the 4x100 relay on Saturday. The latest medal was the 16th of her career at the world championships, going back to 2005.

The relay gold also

pushed the United States' overall total in London to 29 medals, another American record at the world championships.

Elijah Manangoi led a 1-2 Kenyan finish in the 1,500 meters at the world championships.

Manangoi beat teammate Timothy Cheruiyot for gold. Filip Ingebrigtsen of Norway took bronze.

Three Kenyans were leading with two laps to go but three-time world champion Asbel Kiprop could not sustain the pace and fell back.

Manangoi won in 3 mi-

minutes, 33.61 seconds, .38 seconds ahead of Cheruiyot. Ingebrigtsen took third in 3:34.53.

Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar won the world high jump title with a perfect series of jumps, clearing 2.35 meters without a miss.

Ilya Ivanyuk of Russia, competing as a neutral athlete because of his country's doping suspension, took silver with a jump of 2.32 meters.

Majd Eddin Ghazal of Syria got bronze jumping 2.29 and beating Edgar Rivera on a countback. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



POWER GRID LEVEL BATTERIES

A fundamental characteristic of most mains power grids around the world is that at any time the amount of electricity being generated must balance the amount of electricity being consumed. Moreover, the amount of power being consumed changes from second to second and varies widely depending on time of day, day of the week and week of the year.

In a mains power grid you cannot have just one big power-station and turn it on and leave it running at full power - you need base-load and peak load generators and you need a sophisticated control center to turn them on and off as the load varies. Base-load generators are usually coal fired or nuclear and can take hours to turn on or off (and waste a lot of energy while this is done). They are used to supply the basic amount of electricity needed, and might be turned off once each year. Hydro-generators that are powered by water leaving dams or gas fired turbines are often used for peak-load power because they can be turned on and off in seconds to match short term dynamic changes in electricity demand, but they cannot run for long periods of time and might be turned on and off several times each day.

Photovoltaic panels and wind-power generators put more complexity into the mix because they can only supply electricity when the right environmental conditions are met - on sunny days or windy days and nights. And it is very wasteful to turn them off when they could be generating power.

The end result is that mains power grids are designed with enough generating capacity to meet the highest peak demand (the worst case scenario) and then most of the generating capacity is only used half of the time. This is expensive and wasteful.

Adding large scale batteries to the grid can smooth out this mismatch between electricity production and consumption. Then you just need enough capacity to meet average demand, and you run the generators all the time and they charge the batteries during periods of low demand and you discharge the batteries to supplement the generators during high demand periods. The problem is that batteries are also expensive, especially the very large batteries needed for mains power system level energy storage.

The requirements for grid level batteries are very different to the requirements for the battery in your mobile phone (or even in your car). At the grid level you need lots and lots of power to be stored. The batteries also need to last for a very long time and survive many, many recharging cycles, say 30+ years of general use. Luckily, weight is not a significant issue but the batteries do need to be very cheap.

Light-weight, expensive Lithium Ion batteries are totally the wrong solution for grid level storage, and even the Lead-Acid batteries used in conventional cars are too expensive and do not last long enough. Several research companies are looking at different low cost, high power, long life batteries (and equivalents). One I like is the liquid metal battery technology of www.ambri.com. They are developing pizza box sized cells that are packed together into refrigerator sized modules that can be in turn packed into 40ft container sized storage systems that can supply 500kW for a total capacity of 2MWh. The company is based on research carried out at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and should have commercial products by 2014.

This is the kind of research I would like to see done in Macau universities. It is very practical and is tackling big issues, and does not require very sophisticated or expensive laboratories.

THE BUZZ 'NOT SORRY: OPRAH LETS GO OF 'EMOTIONAL BURDEN' OF WEIGHT

At 63, Oprah Winfrey isn't apologizing for anything, especially her weight.

The media mogul and former talk show host tells Vogue magazine that the high-profile fluctuations in her weight over the years were "a physical, spiritual, emotional burden" for her. But she says that when you hit 60, there are no more apologies.

Winfrey also discussed the 2011 end of her talk

show. She says she misses her connection to the audience, but knew it was time to end the show because the way people consume media was changing.

Winfrey opened up about her relationship with longtime partner Stedman Graham. She says if she and Graham had married long ago, they wouldn't be together. She explains that she wouldn't have been able to fit into a traditional marriage role.

Asked to serve, some CEOs say no more to Trump

Linda A. Johnson, Trenton (N.J.)

FIRST it was the leader of a major U.S. pharmaceutical, then the CEO of an athletic gear company, and before the day had ended, the chief executive of a USD170 billion tech giant. Three of the nation's top executives resigned from a federal panel created years ago to advise the U.S. president.

Now, others are pushing for more executives to refuse to serve President Donald Trump after what many believe to be an inadequate response to a rally of white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, that left one dead and dozens injured.

Announcing his resignation yesterday [Macau time], Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier cited the president's failure to explicitly rebuke the white nationalists. He wrote on Twitter that "America's leaders must honor our fundamental values by clearly rejecting expressions of hatred, bigotry and group supremacy, which runs counter to the American ideal that all people are created equal."

The response from the president was swift, throwing a jab at Frazier, a highly respected executive and one of only four African Americans to head a Fortune 500 company, according to the Executive Leadership Council.

Trump tweeted that at least



Merck Chairman and CEO Kenneth Frazier

Frazier will now "have more time to LOWER RIPOFF DRUG PRICES!"

The response, and the speed in which it arrived, caught many off guard.

William Galston, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said he couldn't "think of a parallel example" of any president responding as viciously as Trump to a CEO departing an advisory council.

"Usually, certain niceties are observed to smooth over a rupture," said Galston, who served as a domestic policy aide in the Clinton administration.

Within hours, Under Armour CEO Kevin Plank, who has felt some blowback for his support of the president, resigned from the same panel, saying his company "engages in innovation and sports, not politics." Plank did not specifically mention Trump or Charlottesville, but said his company will focus on promoting "unity, diversity and

inclusion" through sports.

But Intel CEO Brian Krzanich was more specific when he resigned a short time later, writing that while he had urged leaders to condemn "white supremacists and their ilk," many in Washington "seem more concerned with attacking anyone who disagrees with them."

The president followed up later in the day, tweeting that Merck "is a leader in higher & higher drug prices while at the same time taking jobs out of the U.S. Bring jobs back & LOWER PRICES!"

Drugmakers have come under withering criticism for soaring prices in the U.S., including by Trump, though he has yet to act on a promise to contain them.

The exchange lit up social media, with many people lauding Frazier and blasting the president. There was also a push online seeking more resignations from the remaining executives on the same panel, just over 20 of them.

Trump eventually made a statement condemning bigotry yesterday [Macau time] at a press conference, but already, other executives came to Frazier's support.

Unilever CEO Paul Polman wrote on Twitter, "Thanks @ Merck Ken Frazier for strong leadership to stand up for the moral values that made this country what it is." AP

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES Police says 21 alleged drug offenders were killed in raids in the northern Philippines while resisting arrest in the largest official single-day toll of the president's anti-drug campaign.



NEW ZEALAND and Australia have close ties but also a rivalry that can sometimes turn ugly. That tension spilled into politics, when Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (pictured) accused New Zealand's opposition Labour Party of conspiring to undermine her government, a claim New Zealand lawmakers said was "false" and "utter nonsense." More on p13

USA A Canadian man attempted to ship live snakes to China through the mail. The U.S. attorney's office in New York says 28-year-old Chaoyi Le, of Mississauga, Ontario, was taken into custody in Los Angeles after getting off a flight from Shanghai. Prosecutors say he previously was found with 55 live reptiles — including ball pythons — in Chicago during a trip from Toronto to China in February 2014. Officials say many of the reptiles are protected under international law.

USA Jury deliberations are set to begin in the murder trial of two Syracuse men charged with fatally shooting a college student from China during a drug deal robbery last year. The prosecutors and the defense lawyers for 24-year-old Cameron Isaac and 20-year-old Ninimbe Mitchell made their closing statements yesterday in a Syracuse courtroom. The defendants are charged with fatally shooting 23-year-old Yuan Xiaopeng on Sept. 30 during a marijuana deal.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Andres Kudacki



Hong Kong, New York. Participants row during a race at the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in the Queens borough of New York, this weekend. The annual event drew hundreds of participants, paddling aboard painted boats.