



### ELECTRONIC INTEGRATION

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### ENTREPRENEUR SCHEME WITH NEW FEATURES

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

### WORLD BRIEFS



**PORTUGAL** A 12-month-old baby and two foreign women were among the 13 people killed when a huge oak tree crashed down on an outdoor religious festival in Portugal's Madeira Islands, authorities said yesterday. The foreigners killed in the accident were a 42-year-old French woman and a 31-year-old Hungarian woman. **More on p14**

**VIETNAM**'s vice trade minister has been fired for alleged wrongdoing as the ruling Communist Party widened its crackdown on corruption.



**INDONESIA**'s president yesterday vowed a fairer distribution of the nation's wealth and a renewed commitment to protecting diversity after volatile months in which the country's reputation for tolerance was undermined by religious tensions and attacks on minorities. **More on p13**

**MALAYSIA** Scientists have potentially narrowed the search area for the missing Malaysian airliner to three specific locations in the southern Indian Ocean. The new analysis is based on French military satellite images gathered on March 23, 2014 — two weeks after Flight 370 mysteriously veered far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. **More on p12**

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# Electoral commission records 36 complaints

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## Massive power outage in Taiwan caused by human error

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## IACM says there are no eggs imported from Korea

Eggs produced in Korea were reportedly contaminated with the insecticide fipronil. The Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) released a statement clarifying that Macau has not yet imported eggs from Korea this year. IACM informed that imported eggs in Macau come mostly from mainland China, America, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, New Zealand, Denmark and Australia. IACM also released a statement announcing that four mainland produced types of fuzhou (preserved tofu) did not pass the authority's inspection. Related products have been ordered for removal from the market. The tofu was imported to Macau from mainland China and Hong Kong, with both regions' governments having been informed about these incidents.

## Express takes mainland tourists directly to airport

AirAsia together with the airport express operated by the Macau airport launched an express line which will take AirAsia's passengers directly from Zhuhai to the Macau airport. A statement released by the Macau International Airport states that the policy targets SAR free travel schemes, particularly mainland tourists who possess AirAsia flight tickets. On flight day, these tourists can cross the border at Zhuhai, and then take the express all the way to Macau's airport without having to pass by Macau's checkpoints. The express is free for all passengers under these conditions. The service started yesterday and will be extended until December 15. The low cost airline believes that the express service will encourage more passengers from the Pearl River Delta region to fly AirAsia departing from Macau.

## Commission to handle civil servants complaints

The Chief Executive has appointed three people as members of the Commission of Treatment of Civil Servants Complaints. Law Pui Lam is the president of the commission. The two other members are Leong Iok Wa and Kuong Iok Kao. The term is two years long, as members of a part-time committee. The order will take effect on September 18.

# Double-plated car owners can pay mainland tolls with Macau Pass

Julie Zhu

**T**HE China Guangfa Bank Macau Branch, together with Macau Pass and E-Serve launched a rechargeable card which allows Macau's double-plated vehicles to pay mainland tolls and Guangdong province parking fees.

Currently, users of double-plated Macau cars must pay mainland tolls and Guangdong parking fees in cash.

To pay tolls using the rechargeable card, users can now pass through Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) on all mainland highways instead of having to pass through manual channels.

Huang Qiang, vice president of China Guangfa Bank (CGB) Macau Branch, said that the card offers a two percent discount to users in addition to being "environmentally friendly."

Previously, Macau's double-plated car owners had to settle payment in mainland China in advance to be able to use mainland highways.

"Now, with the card, they can process payments in Macau using three available currencies, including Macau patacas, Hong



Li Xianshi (left) and Huang Qiang

Kong dollars, and RMB. It brings convenience to customers, consists of one station service, and [the customers] can consume first and pay later," said Huang, who then noted that the Macau Pass will also provide further customer services to all card users.

Li Xianshi, member of the board of Guangdong E-Serve,

said "we launched the card to provide a more convenient service to Macau's car owners," adding that they, "by using the card, can enjoy a few local [Guangdong] services."

Adding to Li's statement, Huang revealed that currently, there are 15,000 double plated cars in Macau.

"It is a very big group of poten-

tial customers [of the card], as the Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macau Bridge's opening is approaching. We are optimistic for the future," said Huang.

"In fact, ten years ago, Hong Kong launched a similar service, [...] Macau is slightly late, but we are not afraid. This time, the collaboration has something new," he added.

David Lao, Executive Deputy General Manager of Macau Pass, talked about Macau Pass' other cooperation with CGB, citing e-payments in Macau's shops.

"There are more than 1,000 shops [providing Macau Pass or CGB's electronic payment], from transportation to retail, involving more than 10,000 users," said Lao.

Lao remarked that the IC card users can enjoy several options through the Macau Pass' Macau Pay service.

When discussing the possibility of Macau Pass working with Alibaba in further operations (as Alibaba recently signed an agreement with the MSAR government), Lao said that Macau Pass is currently not involved in the agreement.

## Festival promotes region's maritime history

**T**HE first Macau Ocean Culture Festival, which will be running until September, will feature 11 events including short tours at the Sai Van Lake highlighting the brand-new junk boat built by experts from the Lai Chi Vun shipyards.

Organized by the Harbor Culture and History Association, the two-month festival is aimed at promoting Macau's rich culture in maritime cultural arts to local residents.

The festival, which was inaugurated on Saturday, will also feature performances, workshops and themed talks, guided tours and fashion exhibitions based on the region's maritime history and culture.

Some of the events will take place on school campuses, to promote maritime ecology and the city's surrounding waters to students, as cited in a report issued by TDM.

Chan Iat Fong, president of the Harbor Culture and History Association told the press that there is a need to cultivate the culture of the maritime industry, following the 85 square kilometers of waters given to Macau.

Although the government is supporting the association's maritime preservation endeavors, Chan, who comes from a seafaring family, cited in his belief that extra innovative measures are still needed.

The association leader added that the association is also working on the promotion of the history of maritime in the region.

"Our group has organized different events before, but it's the first time we are displaying a junk boat through a maritime event. Actually we are striving to present the significant elements in local maritime history to the people, this is our aim," Chan said.

Lai Chi Vun shipbuilders assisted in supervising the building of a Canton Three Master junk boat that is currently moored at the Sai Van Lake, where it will be available for short tours.

The association leader



A junk boat is currently moored at the Sai Van Lake

also remarked that junk boats, which played a vital role in Macau's history, are not a source of water pollution but rather, attractive results of craftsmanship from centuries ago.

"Unlike mechanical boats, which are against the philosophy of recycling, and powered by fuel, junk boats run on natural and clean energy like wind and man power," said Chan.

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# Commission records 36 election complaints

**T**HE Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) has reported it received a total of 36 complaints concerning unfair election activities during the pre-campaign blackout period, which began on August 3.

Last week, some candidates in the upcoming election reported that the new CAEAL guidelines have resulted in confusion and called for clearer rules.

Now, less than two weeks into the blackout period - when candidates are required not to campaign through social media, telephone or at events - some 36 complaints of election propaganda have been referred to the CAEAL.

According to public broadcaster TDM, president of the CAEAL Tong Hio Fong has said that a "handful" of these cases could constitute illegal campaigning and will be now handed to police authorities for investigation.



"In regards to the complaints, we will make an evaluation and if we think it's an irregularity, we will redirect it to the police for an investigation," said Tong as cited by TDM. "If it is indeed an irregularity, they [police authorities] will enforce a punishment."

Violating the rules of the pre-campaign period can result in a fine of between MOP2,000 and MOP10,000.

Previously, New Macau Association vice-president and lawmaker candidate Sulu Sou was notified by the CAEAL that information regarding his candidacy could be accessed on his social media account. The candidate, who has been tipped as a possible future leader for the local association, later opted to hide his social media page contents entirely.

Pre-campaign guidelines

also state that promotional messages used during the official two-week campaigning period must be removed or deleted on or before midnight on September 15.

The election will take place on September 17, with a revised total of 191 candidates spread across 25 lists.

Candidates will be able to officially campaign during a two-week window next month.

## New footbridge now open

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has completed the inspection of the footbridge in Avenida Doutor Mário Soares and officially opened it for public use. The footbridge crosses over the lanes in Avenida Doutor Mário Soares from the pavement outside Edifício Kuan Fat Fa Yuen and connects to the opposite pavement outside the Finance and IT Center of Macau. There are elevators at both ends of the footbridge for use by residents who need to use the barrier-free facilities. The footbridge was planned and its construction was supervised by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau. Its management was transferred to IACM in late July.



## UM to conduct responsible gambling awareness survey

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has asked the University of Macau to conduct the Responsible Gambling Awareness Survey 2017, according to a statement released by IAS. The survey will be carried out from August 21 until September 3. The university will interview residents aged above 18 years old through a system of random phone number selection. Residents will be asked about their awareness of some basic gaming concepts and about their sense of responsible gaming measures. The results will be used as a reference point for the MSAR government to set up a service aimed at preventing cases of gambling addiction.

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## EDUCATION

## IPM welcomes 900 new students this academic year

**T**HE Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) is welcoming 900 new students this academic year. Over 6,600 students applied for admission to IPM in the 2017/2018 academic year with around 900 joining as freshmen. Over 80 percent of new students are from Macau.

According to a statement from the institute, admission into IPM was highly competitive this year. The opening ceremony for the commencement of the new academic year will be held tomorrow at the IPM Pavilion.

The institute received applications from more than 4,000 students in Macau alone and noted that both the number and quality of applications were very high.

Within Macau, 130 students were recommended for direct admission by their school principals. The institute is awarding scholarships to 150 high-achieving freshmen to encourage them to do their



very best in their studies and to contribute to society in the future.

This year the institute is also welcoming international students from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Portugal, Brazil and Cape Verde. IPM hopes that students coming from diverse cultural backgrounds will encourage intercultural engagement on campus, nurturing an international perspective throughout the student population.

In the new academic year, IPM states that it will continue to uphold its "student-centered" teaching philosophy to nurture future professionals, providing top-notch academic support and facilities to create an enhanced learning environment.

IPM adds that they will ac-

tively explore internship and overseas exchange initiatives to encourage diversified learning and to nurture an international vision among their students. Currently, many of the institute's programs provide study abroad options for their students in addition to providing strategic partnerships to apply for internship opportunities at over 200 organizations locally and abroad. According to the statement, these elements constitute a favorable environment for IPM students to develop their professional expertise.

Moreover, IPM states that it is widely recognized by international academic and professional organizations, as most of the institute's programs have passed international academic reviews.

## Former Uber drivers reportedly operating again

**F**ORMER Uber drivers have reportedly united and returned to work by using a social network to provide taxi services, according to a report by a local Chinese newspaper.

Ride-sharing app Uber announced its withdrawal from Macau last month, leaving many of its approximately 3,000 full-time and part-time drivers out of work.

The report contends that "somebody used a team of previous Uber drivers" to operate taxi services.

In a chatting application, two primary contacts are responsible for answering passengers' orders and allocating drivers.

"The chatting group grows mainly by one member adding another member, but it bans drivers [service providers]," the report reads.

When a member of the chatting group enters a location and a time for a taxi, two intermediary members will take the order and will contact drivers.

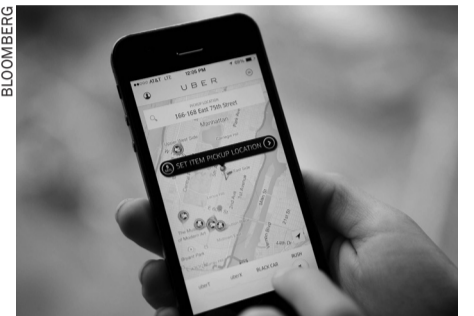
After chatting with the customers and the drivers, the intermediaries will provide the drivers' number, license and car information.

The drivers will then go to pick up the passengers.

Generally, drivers charge MOP50 for distances within the Macau Peninsula, MOP70 from Macau to Taipa, MOP90 from Macau to Cotai, and MOP140 from Macau to Coloane.

The payments are made in cash.

"One resident who used the service [...] said that the platform costs less than taxis, even though sometimes there might be situations where there



are no cars, but overall the service is not bad," the report reads.

Another frequent customer indicated that these drivers were Uber drivers, and that the passengers are Uber's previous customers. This customer also claimed to believe that there are no problems with the current service mode.

The same customer considers that the prices are reasonable, with the most crucial element being that drivers do not refuse to take passengers nor do they overcharge.

The chatting group has clear messages saying that it aims only at helping people who need cars. The group also announced that they will not accept being held accountable for anything taking place outside of the chatting group.

Another passenger who has already used the service, said that it attracted him because the price is lower, relative to taxis, and in fact is basically fixed, and will not be increased even if the cars need to wait in a traffic jam. These reasons made the passenger believe that the adapted ride sharing service still has a market.

## 101 athletes awarded BOC scholarship

**T**HE Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau, China (SOCMC) held the Award Giving Ceremony of the 2016-2017 BOC (Bank of China) Scholarship for Outstanding Athletes in Macau at the Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Center.

The scholarships were awarded to 101 outstanding athletes from 14 sports associations in Macau.

The athletes awarded finished in the first three places at various large-scale sports contests, including the World and Asian Games, and the World and Asian Youth Games.

During the ceremony, Ho Hau-Wah, honorary president of SOCMC, along with Li Guang, ge-

neral director of BOC Macau, Ma Iao-Hang, president of the SOCMC, and Lo Keng Chio, chairman of SOCMC, presented a total of MOP878,000 in prizes to the athletes' representatives.

Established in 2014, in partnership with Bank of China, this is the fourth edition of the scholarship.

The scholarships were set up to cultivate local talents within the SAR government, aiming to award those outstanding individual athletes or teams who have placed either first, second or third in 16 sports games, including; the World and Asian Games, the World and Asian Youth Games, the Asian Youth Athletic Championships, the East Asian Games and the Lusophony Games, and the

Paralympic Games and non-Paralympic Games series.

In the first edition of the award, 152 athletes were awarded. The second edition awarded 83 athletes from 11 Macau sports associations, with a total of MOP1,520,500 in prizes.

Last year, 145 athletes from eight local associations were awarded more than one million patacas.

Ma Iao-Hang hopes that the awarded athletes will improve their performances and set a good example for all of Macau's athletes. Ma further hopes that his association can keep working with the SAR government and with BOC in order to push more organizations and associations to work together towards Macau's sports development. **JZ**

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Renato Marques

# Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme with new features

**L**AUNCHED for the first time in 2013, the government's Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme has now been updated to be more targeted as a result of several adjustments. Among the most highlighted is the requirement for the applicants to possess and provide certification of their completion of one of the training courses on entrepreneurship (they are offered by all of the local tertiary education institutions,) or by the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM).

The minimum required length of these training courses is 42 hours. Applicants can only be exempt from this if they possess an academic degree or diploma from a tertiary education institution with a duration of at least one year in the fields of Business Administration or Management Studies.

The new rules were published in the Official Gazette and introduced yesterday in a specially prepared information session at the Economic Services (DSE).

Other changes on the interest-free business start-up loan program have to do with the widening of the scheme to young entrepreneurs who are creating their own business for the first time, as well as the simplification



Walter Yau (center) pictured during yesterday's press conference

of some bureaucratic procedures that will exempt the candidates from delivering documents such as the M1 form from the Financial Services Bureau (DSF), or the copy of the Commercial Registry Certificate.

Among the improvements designed to ease the burden of bureaucracy is a change to integrate an online portal; the registration, form filling, and booking time for the delivery of documents can be completed online at the DSE website, although a hard copy still needs to be delivered by hand.

The system managing the control of the funds and the expenses

incurred by beneficiaries has been updated, requiring the submission of reports with supporting documents that prove its use every six months.

Some requirements remain unchanged, such as the need for applicants to be a permanent resident of the MSAR with an age between 21 and 44 years, while also owning the applicant company for a period of not over two years. Additionally, the maximum loan to be granted (MOP300,000), and the repayment period of eight years remain the same.

During the presentation of the new rules and procedures,

carried out by the chief of the Department, Conventions and Exhibitions and Economic Activities Development of the DSE, Walter Yau, it was also explained that in some cases, applicants will need to present a guarantor. This will occur "when the amount to be granted is higher than MOP100,000."

Yau also clarified that the "Business Plan," one of the documents needed for the application, is the one that candidates need to pay the highest importance to, since "that is the document that will be analyzed by the Council [that decides on the approval or not of the funding] and needs to convince the Council that the business is a good one and has all conditions to succeed." Yau further remarked that the training courses fulfil the purpose of giving applicants skills to create this document in addition to several other skills related to the daily business management activities such as the fulfillment of accounting and report duties.

The senior manager of Professional Training & Examination,

Quality Management & Enterprise Support, Helena Lei, noted that in general terms, there are two types of courses: those that focus more on basic skills, and as such target younger people with no previous experience in starting or running a business. These courses are more restrictive and have mandatory subjects. The second type of course is for those that already have some business experience and as such, can choose between several topics and fields in which they consider they need more support so that they can develop their businesses.

Lei also informed that these courses will start immediately and applicants can also pay for them using the government's subsidy from the Continuing Education Development Plan from the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau.

The program started in 2013 to "encourage young people to fulfill their dreams of starting their own business and thereby foster economic diversification and innovation in Macau."

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CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

# 35,000 hygiene kits assembled for Clean the World

Lynzy Valles

**A**ROUND 400 volunteers gathered at The Venetian Macao this week to help assemble 35,000 hygiene kits as part of Las Vegas Sands' (LVS) volunteer effort to build 100,000 hygiene kits this year for social enterprise Clean the World.

Kits assembled by Sands China and community volunteers for the 'Las Vegas Sands 2017 Global Hygiene Kit Build' with Clean the World will benefit Children's International, who will deliver the 35,000 kits to families in need in the Philippines.

Each hygiene kit includes soap that is collected from Clean the World's hospitality partners, including LVS properties around the world, and recycled through Clean the World's soap sterilization and re-manufacturing process.

Other amenities in the kit include washcloths, toothbrushes, shampoo and a non-woven bag. An inspirational notecard with encouraging messages from the gaming



operators' team members is also included.

Mark McWhinnie, senior vice president of resort operations and development for Sands China said that there is quite an increase in the number of tables which accommodate volunteers to assemble kits this year.

"Each year it gets better. Not just from the point of view of what we do and the number of kits we build

but also the diversity and representation across all departments to get involved with the exercise," he told the Times.

"It's not just an internal event, it's also other people from the community who have come in and lent some time to put these kits together," McWhinnie added.

McWhinnie also noted that the initiative is part of the ongoing efforts of the Sands ECO360° global

sustainability strategy, which utilizes measures such as energy saving, resource recycling, conservation and community engagement.

"It's part of what we do as far as sustainability is concerned, and sustainability is really part of our DNA now within the company," he added.

Meanwhile Dina Angelucci, vice president of Housekeeping of The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Ma-

cao, and Sands Cotai Central said that it took the team four months to collect and prepare 36,000 toiletry bottles.

The bottles were then sanitized and repacked to boxes for the event.

"This is the third year, and the team loved to participate in this activity because [...] if we can help save one life then it's all worth it," Angelucci said.

"It was quite a big educational process over the last couple of years to make sure the team understands why we're doing it," she added.

The effort is one of a series of hygiene kit building events which are held across LVS properties around the world between August and October.

This is the fourth consecutive year LVS has unitized its properties to build hygiene kits for Clean the World, and the 2017 build events will bring the total number of hygiene kits created with LVS to 500,000.

This year, LVS funding for the kits builds will also provide support for the Clean the World Foundation to fulfill its mission of propelling the global hygiene revolution.

For each kit the company assembles, USD1 will go to the foundation. USD100,000 of funding will be generated in total from its global kit builds and given to the foundation to assist them in their efforts.

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**Volkswagen**

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**C**OMPANIES from Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. to China Life Insurance Co. will participate in a 78 billion yuan (USD11.7 billion) share sale by China's second-largest wireless carrier as part of a government push to draw private capital into its state-owned enterprises.

According to the plan, investors including Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Baidu Inc. will purchase about 10.9 billion shares, or 35 percent, of Shanghai-listed China United Network Communications Ltd. for 6.83 yuan apiece, the state-run company said in a presentation in Hong Kong yesterday. Employees will also get to buy about 850 million shares at 3.79 yuan a share, according to the presentation.

Unicom Group was among six SOEs picked by the nation's economic planner last year for a pilot program in mixed-ownership - China's preferred term for private capital's investments into state firms. It's part of the government's broader push to overhaul its SOEs, whose total revenue almost reached \$7 trillion last year.

Hong Kong-listed China Unicom (Hong Kong) Ltd.'s market value has jumped by almost a third this year to more than \$36 billion before the stock was suspended from trading on Wednesday. China United shares had risen 80 percent since October in Shanghai before they were suspended from trading in Shanghai in April, pending the announcement. The investors will be buying China United's stock at 8.6 percent below its latest closing price.

Both companies are units of unlis-

# Alibaba, China Life join Unicom's USD11.7b stake sale

ted China United Network Communications Group Co. - also known as Unicom Group.

During the past few months, Unicom has signed cooperation agreements with Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent, moves that have generated speculation that the Internet companies would get involved in the government mixed-ownership plan.

Under the latest plan, JD.com Inc., Didi Chuxing, Suning Commerce Group Co. and CRRC Corp. will also be among Unicom's strategic investors.

Unicom Group isn't alone in taking part in China's experiment with privatization. In September, China's National Development and Reform Commission also picked China Southern Power Grid Co., Harbin Electric Corp., China Nuclear Engineering Group Corp., China Eastern Air Holding Co. and China State Shipbuilding Corp. to take part in the pilot program. The idea of infusing private capital is meant to help bring in expertise needed to make state firms more efficient.

In June, China Eastern agreed to sell 45 percent of its cargo-and-logistics unit to four non-state companies. The transaction would inject about 2.26 billion yuan of private capital.

**Bloomberg**



## Cathay posts USD262m half-year loss on fierce competition

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

**H**ONG Kong airline Cathay Pacific reported a loss in the first half of the year on Wednesday, blaming the severe toll from fierce competition.

The airline said it lost 2.1 billion Hong Kong dollars (USD262 million) in the six months to June, compared with a HKD353 million profit from the previous year.

It said revenue was nearly flat at HKD45.9 billion (\$5.7 billion).

"It was a challenging first half. The performance of our core airlines was disappointing," said Chairman John Slosar. The company also operates Asia-focused regional carrier Cathay Dragon.

Slosar said the biggest factor was strong competition, adding that the operating en-



Cathay Pacific Chairman John Slosar

vironment for the rest of the year isn't expected to improve. Cathay is suffering as budget carriers around Asia and airlines based in mainland China like China Southern and China Eastern flood the market with passenger seats on key routes.

Fuel, the airline's single biggest expense, also ate into earnings because of both rising oil prices and historic contracts that

locked in fuel bills at higher levels than today. Another factor was the strengthening dollar, which raises costs for visitors to the city and cuts into profits earned in other currencies after they're converted back to the Hong Kong dollar, which is pegged to the U.S. dollar.

Slosar said a "stellar performance" at Cathay's cargo business helped ease some of the pain, thanks to

strong demand for exports from China and the rest of Asia combined with global e-commerce growth.

The latest numbers add to the financial woes at Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's biggest carrier.

Earlier this year it announced it was embarking on sweeping layoffs after posting a full-year loss of \$74 million for 2016, which was Cathay's first annual loss in nearly a decade.

The company is axing almost 600 jobs, including 190 managers, from its 16,500-strong workforce in its biggest round of cuts since 1998.

The cuts are part of a three-year corporate overhaul that the upmarket airline, founded in 1946, is carrying out as it strives to keep up with its rivals. **AP**

## Zinc breaks USD3,000 barrier as metals rally gathers pace

**Z**INC surged above USD3,000 a metric ton amid persistent global deficits, and aluminum climbed as China reined in illegal capacity, adding fresh impetus to the rally even as some investors expressed concerns.

Zinc jumped as much as 2.6 percent to \$3,037 a ton on the London Metal Exchange, the highest level since 2007, and traded at \$3,029 at 1:20 p.m. in London. Aluminum gained as much as 1.3 percent to \$2,075.50 a ton, the highest since November 2014, while nickel, copper and lead all traded higher.

An index of base metals rallied to a two-year high last week amid better-than-expected demand in China and a weakening dollar. The Chinese government is stepping up moves to shut illegal aluminum and steel plants this year, both to cut excess capacity and help to protect the environment.

Efforts to promote economic growth in China ahead of a leadership reshuffle sche-

duled for later this year are also boosting metals usage in manufacturing and industrial sectors, according to Bernard Dahdah, a metals analyst at Natixis SA in London.

"Earlier this year, a lot of the rally was supply related, but recently we've seen demand starting to support as well," Dahdah said by phone.

Zinc rallied 60 percent last year as worldwide demand topped supply after producers including Glencore Plc suspended some output. In the first five months of 2017, there was a global deficit of 181,000 tons, according to the World Bureau of Metal Statistics.

But the metals rally has some investors warning of a pullback.

Hedge fund manager Crispin Odey is shorting metal stocks in anticipation of slowing growth in China. "China's economy in a year's time will be much weaker than it is now," Odey, whose London-based firm manages about USD6 billion, said in a phone interview. **MDT/Bloomberg**

# Missing mogul returns with USD1 billion for brain research

Yoolim Lee

A dozen years ago, the largest internet company in China wasn't Alibaba or Tencent, but game developer Shanda Interactive Entertainment Ltd. Its founder was a young man named Chen Tianqiao, who had become a billionaire at 30.

Chen was more prominent than Alibaba's Jack Ma for much of the last decade - then he disappeared. He left China, dropping out of public view almost completely. He took his Nasdaq-listed company private in 2012.

Chen is finally ready to talk publicly again. Now 44, he's living in Singapore with plans for his next act. During a visit to his office there, he explained what led him to give up his life's work and cede the market to Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd., whose founders are now the country's two richest men. It started with panic attacks in his 30s, then escalated amid the rising stress of competition and government regulations. He eventually decided he had to salvage his own health.

"As I watched the sunset every night, I thought I would never wake up," said Chen, sitting near the painting of a swirling dancer with his wife in a two-story colonial house that serves as their office.

His experience ultimately led him to a new path. The struggles with his own mental condition, combined with his Buddhist beliefs, convinced him to focus on research of the human brain.

He has set aside USD1 billion for the effort, out of a personal fortune of at least \$2.4 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. That includes \$115 million that Chen and his wife have already given to the California Institute of Technology to establish the Tianqiao and Chrissy Chen Institute for Neuroscience. The rest will be used to directly fund young scientists and set up Chen University somewhere in the U.S.

The concept for the school is unusual to say the least: It will bring together academics in everything from neuroscience, biology and psychiatry to philosophy and divinity studies, and encourage them to work together. Chen thinks it's time to focus on improving humans' emotional well-being after centuries of effort to increase living standards.

"This will be a university whose mission is to try to answer who we are and where we come from," he said. "For thousands of years, we improved our happiness through changing the physical world. We now have to solve this problem by exploring inward."



Billionaire Chen Tianqiao, chief executive officer of Shanda Group, poses for a portrait in his office in Singapore

Chen's influence in China endures. Several of his lieutenants have gone on to become stars in their own right

Chen was born in the Chinese province of Zhejiang, south of Shanghai, in 1973, and grew up as the country began to embrace capitalism in the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution. He graduated from Fudan University a year early, with a degree in economics. He met his future wife, Chrissy, while the two of them were working at a securities firm. They were married within six months, then soon quit to start Shanda in 1999.

At the time, many Chinese entrepreneurs were rushing to create internet portals, directories of web sites similar Yahoo!. Chen, then 26, went his own way: He created an online gaming company with Chrissy, his younger brother and savings of about \$60,000.

Their first big break came in buying distribution rights to the South Korean role-playing game Legend of Mir II. Revenue surged, giving Shanda enough money to begin developing its own games, including the World of Legend. As online game-playing in internet cafes became a craze among China's teenagers, profit doubled from 2002 to 2003. The company raised \$152 million in a Nasdaq initial public offering in May 2004.

Life as a public company proved tumultuous. Shares soared the first year, then plunged the second as fickle users defected to other games. Chen diversified, proclaiming he wanted to become the Disney of China, then doubled down on games and saw his stock rise again. In 2009, he spun off the games unit Shanda Games Ltd. in a \$1 billion offering - the

biggest IPO in the U.S. that year.

"One of the obvious differences between Chen Tianqiao and other entrepreneurs was that he had a very good financial backing and a solid revenue model," said Jixun Foo, managing partner at GGV Capital.

The pressure was taking its toll however. In 2004, while Chen was on a flight from Shanghai to Beijing, he felt excruciating pain in his chest. Convinced he was suffering a heart attack, he rushed to a hospital after landing. The doctors told him his heart was in perfect condition. He was suffering a panic attack.

That afternoon, he sat alone on a bench in China's capital, thinking he'd never do business again. "It was so stressful, so painful," he said. But once he went on medication and recovered, he went back to work.

As Chen's ambitions grew, he expanded into home entertainment. He cut a partnership with Intel Corp. and Microsoft Corp. to create a new set-top box that would allow TV viewers to go online, play Shanda games and buy music and films.

But government officials objected. They were reluctant to cede control over television screens to anyone beyond the government, according to Chen. The project floundered. Chen said he could never talk about the reasons for the failure until now. "Some 10 years have passed," he said.

He suffered his second attack in 2009, this time it was more severe and longer lasting. That's when he hit bottom emotionally, so shaky that he often felt like he couldn't move.

"When you are lying down, you cannot sit down. When you are sitting down, you cannot get up. You cannot breathe," he said.

At first, he came to Singapore to take a break. As he watched Tencent, Alibaba and Baidu Inc. filling the void he had left behind, he planned to return. But his wife cautioned against it, telling him there were different opportunities ahead.

"Many people spend their whole life to climb a mountain. Maybe you can climb several mountains," she said.

A devout Buddhist who studied ways to transcend suffering, Chen decided to change course for good: The family relocated to Singapore in 2010 and began to withdraw from the business. In 2011, they offered to take Shanda Interactive private for \$2.3 billion. They later sold off their stock in Shanda Games and Chen resigned from its board.

Shanda ultimately couldn't make the leap to become China's answer to Disney and lost ground in games as players shifted to smartphones.

"It is a formidable challenge," said Serkan Toto, the founder of Tokyo consultant Kantan Games Inc. "Games are a totally different vertical from a lot of things that Disney has been doing."

For three years, the couple explored what they should dive into next. Eventually, they zeroed in on the brain.

The realization that "there is something more important than selfish you started when I became a mom," said Chrissy, seated next to Chen.

It's not all altruism. The Chens

see enormous business potential in decoding the human brain. Among other projects, they plan to fund research into debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. They've already backed ELMindA Ltd., an Israeli startup that's developing tools for detecting the early stages of brain diseases.

His Singapore-based investment firm, Shanda Group, has invested in more than 100 advanced technology ventures in China and around the world. Virtual reality is a focus in part because of opportunities to connect the technology with neuroscience. He has backed The Void LLC, a U.S. entertainment company that's trying to create a VR theme park; Los Angeles-based VR game maker Survios; and Iceland's Solfar Studios ehf, a VR travel adventure app developer.

Chen's obsession has rubbed off on his daughters, 13 and 8: They now talk about growing up to be neuroscientists. "I have brainwashed them," Chen says.

He has used his assets to make investments well beyond the cerebral. He is the largest shareholder in peer-to-peer giant LendingClub Corp. and in the rural U.S. hospital chain Community Health Systems Inc. He also holds chunky stakes in Legg Mason Inc. and KKR & Co. He's even bought up more than 700,000 acres of timberland in the U.S. and Canada.

Chen's influence in China endures. Several of his lieutenants have gone on to become stars in their own right, including Daniel Zhang, who was Shanda's former chief finance officer and is now Alibaba's chief executive officer.

Former Shanda employees gather for a reunion every year, an event the founder never attends. This year though, Chen surprised the 1,700 attendees in Shanghai on July 30 with a 10-minute video. Many of them got up to take photos of the man they hadn't seen in almost 10 years.

In the end, Shanda's business couldn't keep pace with the emerging titans of China's tech industry. Alibaba's dominance in e-commerce gave it profits to invest in new business lines and promising startups. Tencent has a similar strategic edge through control of messaging services like WeChat, while Baidu owns the search business. Today, Alibaba's Ma is China's richest man with a net worth of \$43.6 billion, while Tencent co-founder Pony Ma is worth \$33.2 billion.

Back in his office in Singapore, Chen says he has few regrets. He applauds Alibaba and Tencent for doing a "very good job," and says he's thankful for the pause he's had in his life. He's ready to move on to his next adventure and leave his 30-something self behind.

"I look at him and think he was a bright young man," says Chen. "But I need to let that Tianqiao stay there and move forward." **Bloomberg**

## TAIWAN

# Mishap triggers blackout as power policies draw scrutiny

A blackout caused by a blunder at Taiwan's biggest gas-fired plant is the latest challenge to an electricity grid recently pushed to its limit and to President Tsai Ing-wen's efforts to reshape the island's power mix.

A combination of unusually hot weather, infrastructure damage from typhoons and Tsai's drive to abandon nuclear power left Taiwan barely able to supply sufficient electricity to residential and business users in the past week. That balance gave way just before 5 p.m. Tuesday when the Tatan power plant, which accounts for almost 9 percent of the island's generation capacity, stopped after workers accidentally shut off its natural gas supply.

Tsai publicly apologized for the power outage that hit more than 6 million households and disrupted some semiconductor production. Electricity was restored by 10 p.m., but not before Lee Chih-kung, Tsai's economy minister, offered his resignation. Both the operator and supplier of the plant, Taiwan Power Co. and CPC Corp., are state-run.

"The outages hurt President Tsai's credibility," Jeffrey Bor, economics professor at Chinese Culture University in Taipei, said by phone. "The impact on the economy is comprehensive. It's like sending a signal to companies to escape fast, because of the risks of electricity supply disruption."

While Tuesday's outage was caused by human error, the



Locals exit a shopping arcade during an island-wide power blackout

blackouts heightened scrutiny of Tsai's policies, including a pledge to rid Taiwan of nuclear and cut its use of coal. The island, which plays a critical role in the world's electronics supply chain, will rely instead under her plan on natural gas, renewables and distributed generation, which entails multiple, smaller power sources that decrease reliance on single plants and can offer greater grid stability.

The disruption Tuesday occurred when engineers replacing power supply equipment for a control system at Tatan's metering station didn't switch the system from automated to manual before starting the work, according to CPC Corp., which provides the plant natural gas. That resulted in two valves being automatically clo-

sed, one for about six minutes, shutting off gas supplies.

There had been multiple warnings about Taiwan's electricity reliability before the blackouts. A week earlier, state-run utility Taiwan Power Co. issued a red alert as the operating reserve margin, the amount of maximum capacity available above peak demand on a particular day, fell to the second-lowest on record. Business associations including the Chinese National Federation of Industries had called for slowing the pace of closing nuclear plants.

Tsai's apology posted on Facebook late Tuesday included a reiteration of her determination to push forward phasing out nuclear in favor of renewable energy.

"The government is promoting distributed green energy to

avoid the situation where an incident at a single power station can affect the power supply for the whole country," Tsai wrote. "We will not change course. Today's incident only makes us more determined."

## Lee Chih Kung, Tsai's economy minister, offered his resignation

New capacity not being delivered on schedule is compounding Taiwan's energy woes, according to Kerry Anne Shanks, a Singapore-based analyst at Wood Mackenzie Ltd.

"Commissioning of the new gas-fired units has been delayed again and again," Shanks said by email Wednesday. "There are now appeals for a review of the nuclear phase-out policy. The government remains committed to a nuclear-free Taiwan by 2025, but this stance will depend on whether the power system can survive the summer."

Taiwan has mothballed one of its four nuclear power stations, and three of the remaining six remaining reactors are shut down. Wu Tsai-yi, president at Taiwan Research Institute, said the restart of two of the shut reactors has been stalled by lawmakers. Nuclear made up 12 percent of Taiwan's power mix last year, down from 17

percent in 2013, according to its Bureau of Energy.

Legislation passed in January set a goal of getting rid of nuclear power by 2025, as well as lowering the share of coal to 30 percent and raising natural gas to 50 percent, with the remainder coming from renewables, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Taiwan's three shut reactors - both units at Jinshan and the No. 2 unit at Kuosheng - have combined capacity of almost 2.26 gigawatts, according to the Atomic Energy Council. The Tatan plant accidentally shut on Tuesday can produce 4.38 gigawatts, according to Taiwan Power Co., known as Taipower. The country's total generation capacity is 49.9 gigawatts, according to Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The impact so far on Taiwan's technology industry has been limited. Advanced Semiconductor Engineering Inc. said production lines are operating again at two plants hit by the blackout and the company is evaluating any losses. ChipMOS Technologies Inc. said production has been restored, while Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. said there was no impact on output, with all lines operating as normal.

Advanced Semiconductor and TSMC are both suppliers to Apple Inc. The main assembler of iPhones, Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., locates most of the production for the U.S. company in mainland China.

The power cut Tuesday hit Taiwan's Hsinchu Science Park, the "heart" of its semiconductor industry, said Anabelle Hsu, a senior research manager in Taiwan at International Data Corp.

"Factories there are running 24 hours a day, so sudden power cut without warning could cause a big damage," Hsu said. **Bloomberg**

# China, India soldiers hurl stones at each other in Kashmir

INDIAN and Chinese soldiers yelled and hurled stones at one another high in the Himalayas in Indian-controlled Kashmir, Indian officials said yesterday, potentially escalating tensions between two nations already engaged in a lengthy border standoff elsewhere.

The Chinese soldiers hurled stones while attempting to enter Ladakh region near Pangong Lake on Tuesday but were confronted by Indian soldiers, said a top police officer. The officer said Indian

soldiers retaliated but neither side used guns.

China did not comment directly on the reported incident, but called on India to comply with earlier agreements and help maintain peace and stability along the border.

An Indian intelligence officer said the confrontation occurred after Indian soldiers intercepted a Chinese patrol that veered into Indian-held territory after apparently it lost its way due to bad weather.

The officer said that soon the soldiers began shout-

ing at each other and later threw stones. He said some soldiers from both sides received minor injuries.

After nearly 30 minutes of facing off, the two sides retreated to their positions, he said.

An Indian military officer said the skirmish was brief but violent and for the first time stones were used.

All the officers spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Soldiers from the two

countries are already locked in a bitter but non-violent standoff in Doklam, an area disputed between China and India's ally Bhutan, where New Delhi sent its soldiers in June to stop China from constructing a strategic road.

China demands that Indian troops withdraw unilaterally from the Doklam standoff before any talks can be held, while New Delhi says each side should stand down. China and India fought a border war in 1962 and much of their

frontier remains unsettled despite several rounds of official-level talks.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Chinese troops sought to avoid confrontations and said India should "make tangible efforts to maintain the peace and stability of the border areas between the two countries."

"I have no knowledge of the details you mentioned, but what I can tell you is that Chinese border troops have always been committed to maintaining the peace and tranquility of the China-India border areas," Hua told reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference.

The website of New Delhi-based English weekly In-

dia Today quoted a report by the Indian military intelligence, which said the use of stones was unprecedented and appeared intended to heighten tension without using lethal weapons. The report said the worst that has happened earlier was an isolated slap or pushing between soldiers from the two sides.

India's worries over Chinese repeated border crossings into Kashmir's Ladakh region have seen a massive Indian army buildup in the cold desert in recent years.

The disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir is divided between nuclear-armed India, Pakistan and China. The part held by China is contiguous to Tibet. **AP**

# North Korea threat prompts Guam natives to assert rights

Grace Garces Bordallo,  
Audrey Mcavoy

**T**HE threatened missile attack by North Korea on Guam has prompted calls for peace from the island's indigenous people, who are weary of yet another conflict after enduring centuries of hostilities.

About one-third of the U.S. territory's 160,000 people identify as Chamorro, the indigenous group that is believed to have migrated to Guam from Indonesia and the Philippines an estimated 3,500 to 4,000 years ago. It is believed to be one of the world's first seaward migrations.

They have since endured colonization by Spanish settlers, bloody skirmishes during World War II and a steady escalation of American military presence on the island. An expert on Guam says it would be "disastrous and tragic beyond words" for the island's indigenous culture if it were targeted in a war between the U.S. and North Korea.

"These islands are the home of the Chamorro people," said Michael Lujan Bavaqua, an assis-



Adrian Cruz, Chairman of the Task Force for Free Association, explains some of the early history of the Chamorro people

tant professor of Chamorro Studies at the University of Guam. "Literally our bones are buried in the soil."

Chamorros have their own traditions, including open ocean navigation of the kind recently highlighted in the Disney animated movie "Moana" and a Roman Catholic religious heritage introduced by colonizers

and missionaries. The Spanish influence began after explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived on the island in the 16th century.

Some Chamorros gathered at a peace rally this week to try to teach the world about their struggle to protect their ancestors' land, assert their rights as indigenous people and pursue some form of self-governance.

Some women wore traditional floral head crowns called mwar-mwars. Some men wore loin-cloths and traditional carved jewelry around their necks. One person blew a shell trumpet, as a summons to rise up.

"It's a call to stand in solidarity not just Chamorro people of this land, but for people all over the world because peace for Guam means peace for the world," said Monaeka Flores, 39, an artist and lawmaker's aide. "If anything should happen here, that's going to be a global war. It's a call to respect the people. And respect the land and to stand in solidarity with us."

The battle for Guam between the United States and Japan during World War II almost completely destroyed Hagatna, the capital city. Not much effort was made to restore during the post-war years.

"You have erased the historical connections of these people. You have destroyed what they have been walking through for centuries," Malia Tony Ramirez, a historian with the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, said of the

three-week battle.

The military's buildup of bases after the war destroyed more historical sites, he said, as did the development of hotels and resorts.

The Chamorro name refers to descendants of the initial people who settled on Guam and smaller, neighboring islands in the Marianas island chain. The U.S. took control of Guam in 1898 after the Spanish-American War. The Navy ruled the island until Japan took control in 1941. The U.S. installed civilian leadership and granted citizenship to Guam residents in 1950.

Today, some Chamorros and others on Guam want the island to be independent or perhaps establish a "free association" relationship like some of its island neighbors have. The free association island states allow the U.S. exclusive military access to their land and waters while their citizens have the right to live and work in the U.S.

Adrian Cruz, an activist and chairman of the Free Association Task Force, said the Chamorro language and traditions have kept his people together for 4,000 years. He said Chamorros will be fine regardless what happens, just like they were during World War II and under the Spanish.

"The Chamorro people are resilient people, and we will survive," Cruz said. **AP**

## Scientists potentially narrow MH370 search area to 3 spots

**S**CIENTISTS have potentially narrowed the search area for the missing Malaysian airliner to three specific locations in the southern Indian Ocean through new satellite and drift analysis of the 2014 crash released yesterday.

But the Australian Transport Safety Bureau cautioned that the drift analysis by Australian science agency CSIRO is based on French

satellite images of "probably man-made" floating objects without evidence that they were from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

Still, the locations could provide potential starting points to search within a 25,000-square-kilometer (9,700-square-mile) expanse identified by a panel of experts in November as the most likely resting place of the Boeing 777 and the 239 pas-

sengers and crew on board.

That expanse adjoins the original search zone far southwest of Australia that was identified through satellite analysis of the final hours of the flight, which apparently ended when the plane ran out of fuel.

Malaysia, China and Australia agreed to suspend the deep-sea sonar search in January after 120,000 square kilometers (46,000 square

miles) of seabed were combed without finding any trace of Flight 370.

The new analysis is based on French military satellite images gathered on March 23, 2014 — two weeks after Flight 370 mysteriously veered far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing — that were taken near the original underwater search zone.

The Australian bureau took over the search for Flight 370 from Malaysia a week later. Satellite experts at Geoscience Australia were not asked to analyze the images until March this year. The experts concluded that a dozen objects appeared to be man-made.

CSIRO then investigated where the objects might have originated before drifting for two weeks. CSIRO identified three potential crash sites — 35.6 degrees S, 92.8 degrees E; 34.7 degrees S, 92.6 degrees E and 35.3 degrees S, 91.8 degrees E.

"So that is a way of potentially narrowing down the search area with the very important caveat that, of course, we can't be totally sure that those objects seen



in the images are actual pieces of plane," CSIRO oceanographer David Griffin said. "This might be a really good clue. It might be a red herring. But if you are going to search, then you'd be silly to ignore this potential clue," he added.

The Australian bureau's chief commissioner, Greg Hood, said in a statement, "Clearly we must be cautious" of the lack a definite link to Flight 370.

Malaysian Deputy Transport Minister Aziz Kaprawi said the civil aviation department would need to evaluate the data since it's based on satellite images from a few years ago. "We will need to verify the data to see if it's credible before we make any decision," Aziz told The Associated Press.

Malaysia, China and Australia have decided that the search will remain suspended unless new evidence pinpoints the wreckage's whereabouts.

But seabed exploration company Ocean Infinity, based in Houston, Texas, said last week it has offered to launch a private search for the Malaysian-registered airliner.

Voice370, a support group for victim's families, said under the terms of the offer made to Malaysia in April, Ocean Infinity "would like to be paid a reward if and only if it finds the main debris field." They urged Malaysia to accept the offer.

Aziz said yesterday that the offer was still being negotiated. "The government wants the terms to be transparent and clear," Aziz said. **AP**

AD

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INDONESIA

# Clinic gives relief to Muslims with tattoo regrets

**E**ACH staccato rat-a-tat-tat of the laser firing an intense beam at the elaborate red, green and black dragon on Taufiq Hidayat's arm is, he prays, bringing him closer to God.

The shirtless, slender 30-year-old says he got his back, an arm and a leg tattooed to "look cool" back in the day when "I was a gang member, a thug at the market."

These days, Hidayat has a newfound zeal for Islam that includes the conviction that Muslims should not alter the body that God gave them. He became so desperate to remove the tattoos that he once applied caustic soda, scarring his arm.

Laser removal, which takes repeated treatment and may not be completely successful but is safer than other methods, was out of the question because it costs thousands of dollars for tattoos as extensive as Hidayat's.

Since his self-mutilation, Hidayat has chanced upon a clinic west of the capital, Jakarta, that is offering laser removal for free, on one condition: While being zapped, patients must read and learn by heart Surah Ar-Rahman, the 55th chapter of the Quran about God's gifts to man.

As a clinic worker aimed the white laser wand at Hidayat's skin, blasting the color pigments with its penetrating light, he stared intently at his smartphone, reciting some of the 78 Ar-Rahman verses.

"Now I have a wife and a daughter. Sometimes she buys snacks that come with tattoo stickers that she applies to her skin. I said, 'Don't do it. It's not good for you.' And she replies, 'But you have a lot of tattoos. I wanna be like Daddy.' And in that moment I felt sad," said Hidayat, tears welling in his eyes.

He is among about 1,000 people who have signed up for free tattoo removal, say organizers of the program. About 200 people have finished or are still being treated and others are on a waiting list.

One of the instigators of the program, community activist Ahmad Zaki, first began offering tattoo removal several years ago to young punk rockers in Java who wanted to "berani hijrah" — dare to move closer to God.

Sometimes they had attempted to remove the tattoos in dangerous ways, with chemicals or slashing their skin with razors, he said.

The idea for the clinic in Tangerang grew from a discussion between Zaki and Rizki Sari, a physician who was a high school friend. Zaki said he and other activists collected about USD8,000 in donations that helped Sari's clinic buy two lasers. News about the clinic has



Taufiq Hidayat reads Quran on his mobile phone as he receives laser tattoo removal treatment at a clinic in Tangerang

spread quickly, thanks in part to a "Dare to Hijrah" Instagram account.

"People with tattoos might think that it's art, culture or personal identity, but the community thinks otherwise," said Zaki, who also runs a religious charity sponsored by a local bank. "It's always false gods, satanic, sexual images, and that's not good."

**People with tattoos might think that it's art, culture or personal identity, but the community thinks otherwise.**

AHMAD ZAKI

Tattooing has lost much of its stigma in Western societies, becoming more or less mainstream, but in some Asian cultures it remains strongly associated with gangs and criminality. In addition to the religious prohibitions in Muslim-majority Indonesia, ideas about tattoos also reveal oppressive attitudes toward women, who if tattooed can be labeled as promiscuous or disreputable and not worth marrying.

Sri Novianti, who has a large red rose tattooed on one hand, Donald Duck drawings on her

fingers and Powerpuff Girls and a ghostly tree on her arms, became a tattooist after graduating from high school because "for me tattoos are like art."

But the 19-year-old now wears a face-covering veil and all-encompassing clothing and wants her tattoos removed because

she feels Indonesian men treat her with respect when she is fully covered.

"I saw the eyes of men and boys no longer looking at me in a disgusting way," she said. "Suddenly, for the first time I felt respected. I wanted to keep wearing the hijab, and I felt like I was a different person, an ho-

norable woman."

The tattoos also caused difficulties at her mosque whenever she performed ablutions before praying.

"Many women seem shocked and cannot accept my presence because of my tattoos," Novianti said.

Sari, the doctor, said those accepted for laser treatment are ardent about getting their tattoos removed because the stigma and burden they experience prevents them from fully practicing their religion.

One participant, she said, had tried to iron his own skin in a misguided attempt to remove tattoos.

"Can you imagine the agonizing pain? That's how badly they want their tattoos removed," she said.

Fuad Ahmadi said he got his first tattoo — biomechanical images and his father's birth date — done by friends after he graduated from junior high school. Now 22, he said he's tried calcium hydroxide and other chemicals to remove that and five other tattoos.

"When I die, I want myself clean," he said as he waited at the clinic. "God gave me clean skin and I ruined it." AP

## Joko: Spread wealth, protect diversity

**I**NDONESIA'S president yesterday vowed a fairer distribution of the nation's wealth and a renewed commitment to protecting diversity after volatile months in which the country's reputation for tolerance was undermined by religious tensions and attacks on minorities.

Joko "Jokowi" Widodo repeated familiar themes in his annual address to parliament that comes a day before celebrations of the 72nd anniversary of Indonesia's independence from Dutch colonial rule.

Jokowi, the first Indonesian president from outside the ranks of the elite or military, said economic development must be spread to all corners of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

"Equitable development will unite Indonesia. Fair development will make us stronger in facing global competition," he said.

Indonesia is the third largest democracy after India and the U.S. and as a member of the Group of 20 major industrialized and developing nations, its economy is among the biggest in the world. But it has dramatic extremes of wealth and poverty, grappling

with both childhood stunting from malnutrition and a mounting health care burden from obesity-related diseases among the wealthier. About 11 percent of the country of more than 250 million people lives in extreme poverty and large numbers are just above that poverty line.

People in far-flung areas of the archipelago such as the westernmost province of Aceh, a region granted substantial autonomy under a peace deal in 2004 with separatists, should be able to get the same standard of education, health care and other services as their "brothers" around the country, Jokowi said.

He also singled out the easternmost Papua region, one of the country's poorest areas where Indonesian rule is deeply resented by indigenous Papuans, saying he wants Papuans to feel the same nationalistic pride as other ethnic groups that make up Indonesia.

He said the government will strengthen its commitment to protecting the idea of "unity in diversity" and "Pancasila," the official state ideology that promotes principles such as social justice, democracy and belief in one God.



Joko Widodo (center) delivers his State of The Nation address

It has been seen as under increasing threat from an upsurge in religious conservatism that led to the imprisonment earlier this year of the then-governor of Jakarta, a minority Christian and ethnic Chinese, on charges of blasphemy.

Persecution of LGBT people has surged in the past two years and religious minorities have faced an increase in violations of religious freedom and acts of intolerance including the eviction of more than 7,000 members of the Gafatar religious community in Kalimantan in early 2016.

# Violence adds momentum to removal of Confederate statues

Jesse J. Holland

**CITIES** and states accelerated their plans to remove Confederate monuments from public property Tuesday as the violence over a Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, moved leaders across the country to plan to wipe away much of the remaining Old South imagery.

Only two statues were taken down immediately, in Gainesville, Florida, where the Daughters of the Confederacy removed a statue of a Confederate soldier known as "Ole Joe," and in Durham, North Carolina, where protesters used a rope to pull down a Confederate monument dedicated in 1924.

But the anti-Confederate momentum seemed to ensure that other memorials would come down soon. Many local and state governments announced that they would remove statues and other imagery from public land, or consider doing so, in the aftermath of Saturday's white nationalist rally that killed one person and injured dozens more.

The changes were publicized as President Donald Trump defended Confederate statues in wide-ranging remarks.

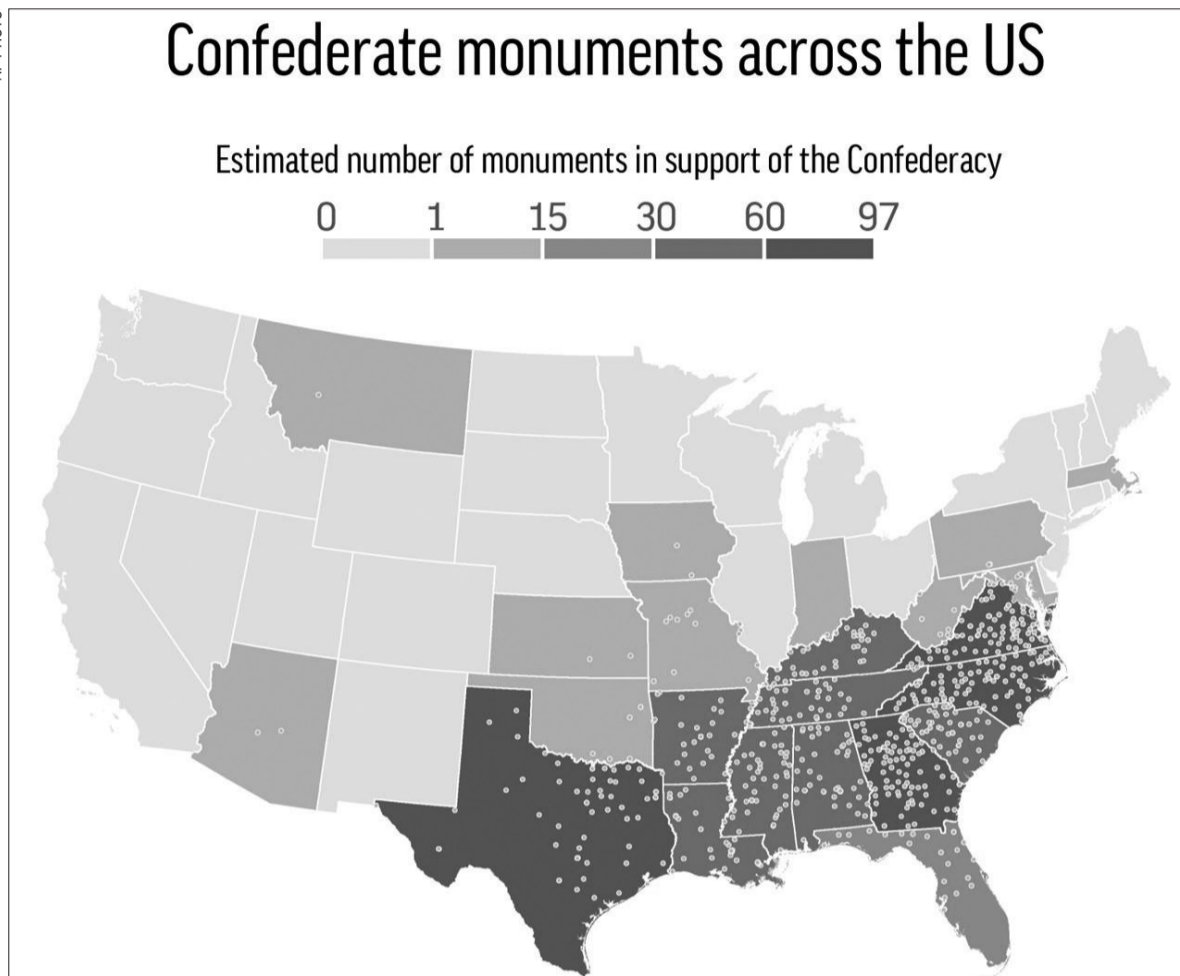
"This week it's Robert E. Lee. I notice that Stonewall Jackson's coming down," Trump said during a visit to Trump Tower in New York. "I wonder, is it George Washington next week, and is it Thomas Jefferson the week after? You know you really do have to ask yourself, where does it stop?"

Asked specifically whether Charlottesville's Lee statue should come down, he said: "I would say that's up to a local town, community or the federal government, depending on where it is located."

All around the country, Republican and Democratic officials at the state and local levels moved swiftly to begin a process to remove the statues.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said he would ask the Legislature

AP PHOTO



to reverse a 2015 law signed by his Republican predecessor, Pat McCrory, that prevents the removal or relocation of monuments, and to defeat a measure giving immunity to motorists who strike protesters. He also planned to ask state officials to determine the cost of moving Confederate statues and to give him options of where they could go.

"Our Civil War history is important, but it belongs in textbooks and museums—not a place of allegiance on our Capitol grounds," Cooper said in a statement.

In Maryland, GOP Gov. Larry Hogan said Tuesday he would push to remove the statue of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney, author of the infamous Dred Scott ruling in 1857 affirming slavery, from state land.

"While we cannot hide from our

history, nor should we, the time has come to make clear the difference between properly acknowledging our past and glorifying the darkest chapters of our history," said Hogan, who before had resisted calls to move the statue.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings announced plans Tuesday to ask his city council to appoint a task force to study the fate of the city's Confederate statues. Rawlings said he personally finds the monuments to be "dangerous totems," but a task force would ensure a productive conversation.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, a Republican, called on state officials Monday to remove a bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Confederate cavalry general and an early leader of the Ku Klux Klan, from the Tennessee Capitol. Protesters earlier draped a black jacket over

the head of the bust while cheering, "Tear it down!"

Similar plans were being made in Baltimore and San Antonio, as well as Lexington, Kentucky; Memphis, Tennessee; Jacksonville, Florida; and elsewhere.

In Durham, Sheriff Mike Andrews said protesters who toppled a nearly century-old Confederate statue in front of a North Carolina government building would face felony charges. The Confederate Soldiers Monument, dedicated in 1924, stood in front of an old courthouse that now houses local government offices. The crumpled and dented bronze figure has been taken to a warehouse for storage.

Deputies later arrested Takiyah Thompson, who identified herself Tuesday as the woman who tied the rope that was used to tear it down. She said her actions were

justified because Confederate statues represent white supremacy.

A law professor and director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University in San Antonio called removal a "slippery slope," saying judging historical figures through a modern lens can be difficult.

"A healthy democracy and people within that democracy should be able to say, 'This is our history.' And history is made up of actions of human beings, and human beings aren't perfect," said Jeffrey F. Addicott, who stressed he was speaking for himself and not the law school.

Statues, he added, can be moved, but he's opposed to them being "put in a warehouse never to be seen again because then you're kind of erasing or rewriting history."

The Sons of Confederate Veterans condemned attempts to take down Confederate statues around the country.

"These statues were erected over 100 year ago to honor the history of the United States," added Thomas V. Strain Jr., the group's commander in chief. "They're just as important to the entire history of the U.S. as the monuments erected to our forefathers."

Strain, who said his group did not participate in Charlottesville, condemned the Klan, white nationalist groups, neo-Nazis and other extremists.

"It's painful to watch for lack of better words," he said. "It was our family that fought, and it was our families that died, and now we have these knuckleheads hijacking the flag for their own purposes."

But city and state officials said Charlottesville convinced them it's time to move on from having Confederate imagery in prominent public places.

In Lexington, Kentucky, Mayor Jim Gray moved up his announcement by a day in reaction to the Charlottesville bloodshed. Memorials to John C. Breckinridge and John Hunt Morgan are perched outside a former courthouse that was the site of slave auctions before the Civil War.

"This is the right time," Gray said Monday. "We accelerated that because of the events in Charlottesville, but I knew that it was the right thing to do." **AP**

**A** 12-month-old baby and two foreign women were among the 13 people killed when a huge oak tree crashed down on an outdoor religious festival in Portugal's Madeira Islands, authorities said yesterday.

The foreigners killed in Tuesday's accident were a 42-year-old French woman and a 31-year-old Hungarian woman, Miguel Reis, a local health official, told a news conference. Their names weren't provided.

Madeira, situated off northwest Africa, is a popular European vacation destina-

PORTUGAL

## Baby, 2 women among 13 killed by tree

tion. Scores of people were gathered in a leafy square, listening to a Mass, when the tree on a slope above the square came crashing down as a choir sang.

Local people told Portuguese media they had told officials that the tree was a danger, but the Funchal city council said it had received no warnings that a tree was unsafe. The public prosecu-

tor's office opened an investigation.

Seven people, including two children, remained hospitalized of the 49 who were injured in Tuesday's accident, which occurred on a public holiday. The children are a 2-year-old French child and a 14-year-old Portuguese, Reis told a news conference yesterday in Funchal,

Madeira's capital.

He said officials hope to conclude autopsies by the end of the week.

Eight women and five men were among the dead. The regional government decreed three days of mourning beginning yesterday.

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa flew to Madeira to offer his condolences. **AP**



SOUTH AFRICA

# Five years after 34 miners shot dead, no arrests

Krista Mahr, Johannesburg

**F**IVE years after South African police shot dead 34 striking mine workers, recalling police brutality under apartheid, rights groups say no one has been prosecuted and miners' living conditions are as "squalid" as ever.

On Aug. 16, 2012, police opened fire on workers demanding wage increases and better living conditions at a platinum mine operated by Lonmin Plc in Marikana. At least 70 were injured.

The shootings shocked South Africa, where mining is a major pillar of the economy.

Despite the outrage, no prosecutions have been made in connection with the killings, Amnesty International said in a report released this week to mark the anniversary. That's despite President Jacob Zuma's pledge last year that criminal charges would be brought against several senior police officers.

"The tragedy of the Marikana killings is compounded by the shocking fact that no one responsible for the bloodshed has yet been held accountable," Shehnila Mohamed, executive director of Amnesty International South Africa, said in a statement.

On Wednesday, rights groups plan to picket outside Lonmin's headquarters and the South African High Commission, both in London, to commemorate the five-year anniversary.

While more than 70 police officers were identified by the government's police watchdog for possible prosecution by the National Prosecuting Authority in May, no action has been taken, Amnesty said.

The prosecuting authority is still evaluating the evidence, the body's spokesman, Luvuyo Mfaku, told The Associated Press. "Once the process is finalized a decision whether or not to prosecute any person(s) in respect of the matter will be made." The police watch-



Police surround the bodies of striking miners after opening fire on a crowd

dog did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Some Marikana mineworkers and their family members say the wider community's living conditions have not sufficiently improved since 2012, a prevalent problem in many South African mining towns.

"After five years, there is nothing happening in Marikana," said Thumeka Magwangqana, a founder of the Sikhala Sonke Women's Organization, an activist group.

Magwangqana lives in an informal settlement near the mine

with her daughter, a former Lonmin worker, and is featured in the 2017 documentary "Strike A Rock" about the group.

"We are fighting for good living conditions," Magwangqana said. "There are no roads, there is no running water. But 200 meters away from our homes, Lonmin has electricity, water, and tar roads."

Lonmin says it has built more than 7,600 houses for its employees at the Marikana mine, but acknowledges about 11,500 employees may still require housing. It attributes the slow progress to "economic conditions and the subsequent collapse of platinum prices," which the company says have dropped by 50 percent in the last two years.

In the aftermath of the shooting, Lonmin also offered jobs to family members of each mineworker who was killed, and established a trust to help deceased employees and contractors' children with their education. **AP**

EGYPT

## Archaeologists discover tombs dating back 2,000 years

Egypt's antiquities ministry says that archaeologists have discovered three tombs dating back more than 2,000 years, from the Ptolemaic Period. The discovery was made in the Nile Valley province of Minya south of Cairo, in an area known as al-Kamin al-Sahrawi.

RUSSIA

## Ex-minister on trial for bribery blames Putin ally

Breaking months of silence, the former Russian economic development minister on trial for allegedly accepting a USD2 million bribe publicly accused the head of Russia's oil company on yesterday of setting him up. Alexei Ulyukayev, the highest-ranking Russian official to have been arrested since 1993, was detained last year at the headquarters of Russia's largest oil producer, Rosneft, after a sting operation set up by the FSB intelligence agency.

AD

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## what's ON



## 32ND COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF MACAO ARTISTS - EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY WINNERS

TIME: 10am to 8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 27, 2017

VENUE: Old Court Building, Avenida da Praia Grande

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

## A PROMENADE IN THE SMALL CITY: AN ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION OF THE MACAO CULTURAL AND CREATIVE MAP

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

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

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

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

## BALLADE - CONTEMPORARY ART ANIMAMIX

TIME: 10AM-7PM (LAST ADMISSION AT 6:30PM, CLOSED ON MONDAYS)

UNTIL: October 15, 2017

VENUE: Macao Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## A GOLDEN WAY OF LIFE - TRES'ORS

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

UNTIL: September 3, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

## CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

## Offbeat

## REMOVAL OF MYSTERIOUS CIRCULAR OBJECT FROM BEACH CANCELED

A tree removal company's attempt to uproot a mysterious object with steel legs that is lodged on a Rhode Island beach has been postponed.

WPRI-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2x1xm6B>) that East Beach Association President Peter Brockmann says the Tuesday evening extrication by Rocky's Tree Service has been canceled due to deteriorating conditions on the beach. There's no word on when the removal will be rescheduled.

The circular object located about 10 feet (3 meters) off shore at low tide has puzzled beachgoers. It has eight stainless steel legs and is capped with concrete.

Brockmann says the best tip he's received on the object came from University of Rhode Island oceanographers who say it could be part of a device used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to monitor currents and sediment flow.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
19:10	The Brazilian (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:30	Yes, Chef!
22:10	The Brazilian
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

17 Aug - 23 Aug

## DORAEMON THE MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1

2:30PM

Director: Atsushi Takahashi

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 101min



## THE BATTLESHIP ISLAND

ROOM 1

4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Ryoo Seung-Wan

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

Language: Korean &amp; Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 132min



## HITMAN'S BODYGUARD

ROOM 2

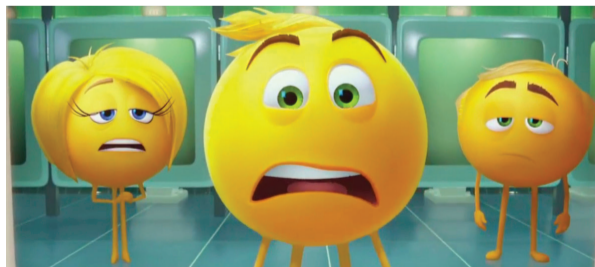
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Patrick Hughes

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson, Gary Oldman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



## THE EMOJI MOVIE

ROOM 3

2:30pm

Director: Tony Leondis

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 86min



## GINTAMA

ROOM 3

4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Fukuda Yuuichi

Starring: Oguri Shun, Tsuyoshi Domoto, Suda Masaki

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 131min

## this day in history



## 1999 TURKEY HIT BY HUGE EARTHQUAKE

The most powerful earthquake to hit Turkey has left at least 1,000 people dead.

The earthquake measuring six-point-seven on the Richter scale struck the industrialised town of Izmit in western Turkey at just after 0300 on Tuesday local time.

Many residents of the heavily populated town were asleep in bed and had no chance of escape.

Few of Izmit's buildings were built to withstand earthquakes and whole districts collapsed.

Buildings were also destroyed in Turkey's largest city, Istanbul, about 50 miles (80 km) north west of Izmit.

Parts of the motorway between Ankara and Istanbul buckled, causing cars to crash into each other.

Within two hours of the initial earthquake there were 10 powerful aftershocks causing more damage and loss of life.

Rescue teams have found some people alive underneath the rubble but hopes are fading of finding many more.

Desperate relatives have also been digging with basic tools or their bare hands.

Local hospitals have been unable to cope with the flood of injured people.

Turkey's prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, has visited the devastated area and said the earthquake was the worst he had experienced.

Mr Ecevit said "The loss is huge. May God help our country and its people."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Turkey is plagued by earthquakes - generally minor - because of its location on the North Anatolian fault line.

The death toll as a result of the Izmit quake eventually reached more than 17,000.

Three months later another devastating earthquake hit the same region of Turkey killing at least 550.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's not like you to talk a lot. You pride yourself on using only as many words as you need to get your point across, no more and no less.

Taurus April 20-May 20 The astrological team on duty today is absolutely insisting you entertain someone special - someone so special they're downright unique - at your place.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're not quite sure what's gotten into you, but you think you like it. You're still as fun-loving and fond of risks as you ever were, but now you're also looking for a safety net, just in case.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're as flexible as can be right now, so having to multitask over the next few days shouldn't be a huge problem for you. The good news is all the lovely things you'll be juggling may include hanging out with someone.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You still haven't settled down, have you? Do you feel as if you're operating your mouth without engaging your brain first? Well, try your best to get it under control. If it doesn't work, though, don't worry about it.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're a sensitive creature with antennae that never, ever fail you. Thus, your internal radar will come in handy today, given the unpredictable, mixed bag of astrological energies bombarding you.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You know all about subtlety. You wrote the book on it, and you know when you're being worked. You'll recognize the signs immediately, and you won't hesitate to spell them out.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You've kept quiet about that attraction you've been feeling for a long time, but you sure can't do it much longer. You really need to talk with someone about this. Better get it off your chest now.

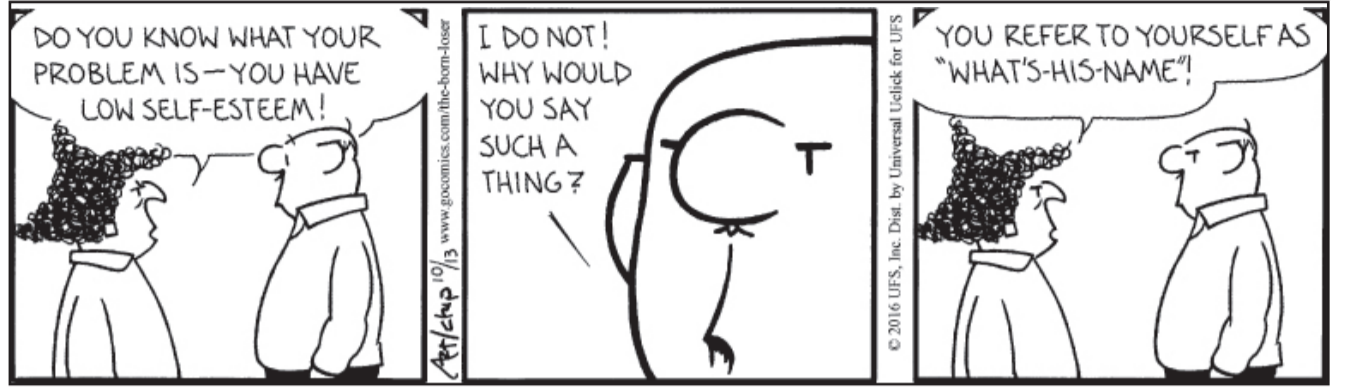
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You could spend the next 48 hours worrying about what one of your closest - but craziest - companions will do next. But why would you want to? Remember, you can love someone just as much as you want.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Part of you really and truly wants to keep quiet about what you're feeling, especially if it concerns a touchy subject. But a much more insistent part of you just won't have it and is determined to let it all out.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're still having a fine old time, and aren't even near ready to call it quits. You're probably running on just a few hours of sleep, too, but you'd never know it. You're excited and enthusiastic.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Today's astrological package includes more than just a touch of passion. We're talking major-league fireworks, in fact. But remember, passion can go both ways. So if you're happy, you'll be emphatically happy.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Beijing 22 29 overcast
Harbin 19 27 cloudy
Tianjin 23 30 moderate rain/cloudy
Urumqi 18 26 clear/cloudy
Xi'an 25 36 cloudy
Lhasa 13 24 drizzle/cloudy
Chengdu 23 30 drizzle
Chongqing 29 37 clear/cloudy
Kunming 18 25 shower
Nanjing 25 31 cloudy/thundershower
Shanghai 26 33 drizzle/moderate rain
Wuhan 25 31 shower
Hangzhou 26 35 cloudy
Taipei 27 35 clear/cloudy
Guangzhou 28 35 clear
Hong Kong 28 32 cloudy

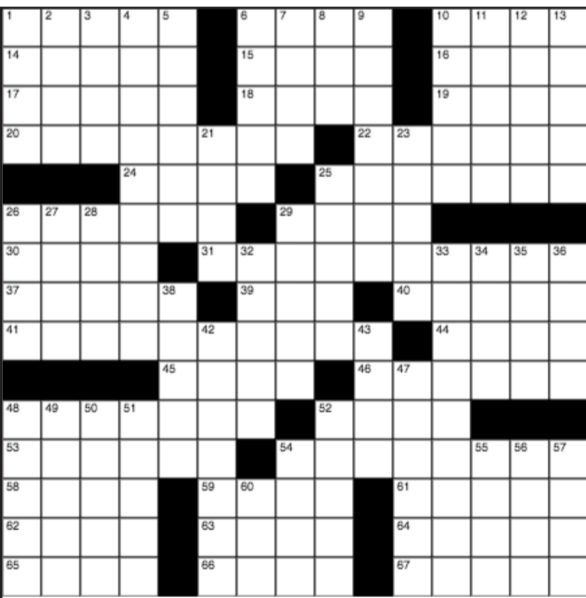
WORLD

Moscow 15 26 cloudy
Frankfurt 15 24 drizzle/cloudy
Paris 14 26 drizzle/overcast
London 14 20 drizzle/moderate rain
New York 19 30 clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fragment; 6- Musical McEntire; 10- Stand up to; 14- Dike, Eunomia and Irene; 15- North Carolina university; 16- And others: Abbr.; 17- Brando's birthplace; 18- Back of the neck; 19- Director Wertmuller; 20- Stately; 22- Deodorant type; 24- Small brook; 25- Lifted; 26- Stir up; 29- Get-out-of-jail money; 30- Lows; 31- Producing thunder; 37- Hilo hello; 39- Colorful card game; 40- No-nos; 41- State in the W United States; 44- Old card game; 45- Ethereal; 46- Mathematical diagrams; 48- Nation; 52- Rocker Clapton; 53- Follows; 54- Professors, collectively; 58- Approach; 59- Brouhaha; 61- Performance; 62- License plates; 63- go brag!; 64- Sudden forward thrust; 65- Hook's helper; 66- Bond classic; 67- Adlai's running mate;

DOWN: 1- Karate blow; 2- Actress Downey; 3- Russian range; 4- Hindu religious sage; 5- Scram; 6- Pertaining to the kidneys; 7- Mideast airline; 8- Hit on the head; 9- Using no fluid; 10- Chops down; 11- Leaning; 12- Boat often made of birchbark, canvas, or fiberglass; 13- African antelope; 21- Belinda Carlisle's "Should You In?"; 23- Greased; 25- Capital of Vietnam; 26- Colorful computer; 27- Vincent Lopez's theme song; 28- Moderately cold; 29- Young rabbit; 32- Rush; 33- Rosy; 34- Peeling potatoes, perhaps; 35- Mormon state of western USA; 36- Concordes, e.g.; 38- worse than death; 42- Unit of magnetic intensity; 43- Mogul capital until 1658; 47- Conundrum; 48- Pennies; 49- Late bedtime; 50- Grammarian's concern; 51- Suckle; 52- Low-budget prefix; 54- Point after deuce; 55- Money maker; 56- "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 57- Matures; 60- Bruins great Bobby;



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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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Lok Pou Macau 700 sq ft / HKD 4,257sq ft HKD 2.98M Lovely Top Floor Apartment Ref: 17065523

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Cheoc Van Coloane Multi-Storey Property Dazzling Sea Views HKD 79,800 / 6,222 sq ft Ref: 17060651



# Grand stage rises for late Thai king's cremation

AP PHOTO



Mythical creatures, angels and gods are coming to life near Thailand's Grand Palace, thanks to the tireless, devout and often volunteer work of artists and craftsmen. They are building a monument for a single moment: the cremation of a beloved king.

More than 100 sculptures and statues will be placed inside a crematorium complex for King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for 70 years before his death Oct. 13, 2016. The structure represents Mount Meru, the place where Buddhist and Hindu gods reside.

Bhumibol was revered by many Thais as their father and a demigod. Huge crowds lined the route when a cortege took his body to the Grand Palace the day after his death, and millions have paid their respects at the throne hall where his body rests in a royal urn.

He will be cremated this Oct. 26 in a ceremony that is expected to be beamed around the world and will be one of the most expensive in history with a budget of 1 billion baht (USD30 million). Afterward, the crematorium will be dismantled.

For the millions of Thais who loved the king, what matters is more personal — how they can contribute to his final goodbye. Amid a clatter of hammers and a deafening whirr of metal grinders, nine elegant, elaborate pavilions have arisen on a field opposite the Grand Palace. The construction is ahead of schedule and the funeral preparations are nearly complete, according to the country's Fine Arts Department.

"Many [artists] who are here are loyal and faithful to the late king," said Surathkij Pheeraphongsil, a director in the department. "Nobody complains about difficulties or about being tired because the late king endured more than us."

At the Fine Arts Department, close by the cremation site, the artisans, craftsmen and artists painstakingly apply the last layers of paint to an array of deities and creatures from ancient epics. Statues of former kings of Thailand, already completed, stand to one side.

Many of the artists are providing their skills for free. "This event has brought together talented artists from across the country to create the most amazing art pieces for the late king," said painter Charoen Marboot. AP



Tom Withers

# LeBron calls for love, unity before taking swipe at Trump

**A**LONG with getting good grades and listening to their parents, LeBron James has encouraged kids in his foundation's educational program to stand up for their beliefs. On Tuesday night, the superstar gave a lesson in how it's done.

Concluding a day of fun and games at an amusement park, James turned serious when speaking about the recent violence and tragedy in Charlottesville. James also took a pointed swipe at President Donald Trump, calling him the "so-called president."

While holding his young daughter, Zhuri, James stood on stage before an excited crowd of students, parents and others connected to the LeBron James Family Foundation and delivered his emotional message.

"I know there's a lot of tragic things happening in Charlottesville," James said to cap the annual event at Cedar Point amusement park. "I have this platform and I'm somebody that has a voice of command, and the only way for us to get better as a society and for us to get better as people is love. And that's the only way we're going to be able to conquer something as one."

Then, James, who endorsed Hillary Clinton last year and introduced her at a rally in Cleveland just two days before the election, went at Trump, whom he has criticized in the past.



LeBron James speaks while holding his daughter, Zhuri

"It's not about the guy that's the so-called president of the United States, or whatever the case. It's not about a teacher that you don't feel like cares about what's going on with you every day. It's not about people that you just don't feel like want to give the best energy and effort to you. It's about us. It's about us looking in the mirror. Kids all the way up to the adults. All of us looking in the mirror and saying, 'What can we do better to help change?' And if we can all do that and give 110 percent, then that's all you can ask for."

"So, shout-out to the innocent people in Charlottesville and shout-out to everybody across the world that just want to be great and just want to love. Thank you, and I love you all."

James' remarks ended a star-studded show that included pop stars Jordin Sparks and Usher as well as his Cavaliers' teammate J.R. Smith. They stood alongside him for his message along with his sons, Bronny and Bryce.

There had been a celebratory vibe all day, as James hosted nearly 7,000 of his foundation's

students and their families, who strolled around the immense park best known for its roller-coasters wearing light blue T-shirts with "We Are Family" across the fronts.

It was as if James' hometown of Akron had all gone out together for the day, and that was exactly the point of the event — to celebrate the successes of kids committed to making more of their lives.

Now in its sixth year, James' foundation has brought hope to children who might not have any otherwise. If the students meet certain criteria, stay in the program and graduate, they can receive full tuition to the University of Akron.

"That means everything," Latasha McCullough said as she sat with her husband, Arthur, and children Arlissa and Arsea while waiting for James to appear on stage.

The McCulloughs have been directly impacted by James and his work, and they're forever grateful. "He doesn't have to do anything," Latasha said. "All he is responsible for are his kids, his family, go to work and provide for his, but he does it for his city. He does it for everybody, everybody's

kids. All the things he didn't have growing up, he's giving it to our kids with no problem and he's not being selfish. It's constant and consistent, you earn what you get."

James has grown his foundation beyond its initial goals of tackling the city's drop-out rate. Next year, the charity will open the I Promise School, designed to help students who have already fallen behind and need extra attention.

Michelle Campbell, executive director of the LeBron James Family Foundation, is awed by what the group has accomplished.

James has led the way. "It's never enough with him," she said. "He is always pushing, just like on the basketball court, pushing and pushing. I could have never imagined what we have done and are doing, but with his belief and what he wants to do and his drive and his ability to put all these partners around us. We can't fail."

"It started out with working with kids and changing a child, then OK, we got the family involved and we learned that some didn't have their high school diplomas, so we broke down those barriers. Now he's changing a whole community. He's uplifting this whole community, on his back." AP

## SPANISH LEAGUE 2017-18

# 5 teams to watch out for this season

**F**IVE teams to keep an eye on when the Spanish League starts on Friday:

### REAL MADRID

Zinedine Zidane has succeeded where former coaches Jose Mourinho, Carlo Ancelotti, Manuel Pellegrini, Juande Ramos and Rafa Benitez all failed.

The former midfield great has re-established Madrid as the dominant team in both Spain and Europe.

The challenge now is to maintain the drive that his team showed through all 38 rounds of the Spanish league last season, en route to conquering its first Liga title in five years.

Zidane's team rounded off a perfect season by successfully defending its Champions League title, making it three European Cups in four years.

Madrid's starting 11 — led by Cristiano Ronaldo, Luka Modric and Sergio Ramos — returns intact, and its supporting cast has

become younger after the exits of Pepe, James Rodriguez, Alvaro Morata, Danilo and Fabio Coentrao.

In their place have arrived defenders Theo Hernandez (19) and Jesus Vallejo (20), as well as promising midfielder Dani Ceballos (21).

### BARCELONA

It has been a decade since Barcelona started a season clearly needing to play catch up to its fiercest rival.

But first it must figure out a "Plan B" to restructure its team after the stunning exit of Neymar for Paris Saint-Germain on a world record transfer that Barcelona did everything it could to prevent.

With its fans angry at Neymar getting away, team executives have been scrambling to use the 222 million euros (USD262 million) it got from PSG when it triggered the release clause in Neymar's contract.

So far it's only post-

Neymar reinforcement is Brazil midfielder Paulinho, who arrives from Chinese club Guangzhou Evergrande. He will add some muscle to Barcelona's midfield, rather than replace the goals provided by Neymar.

Other signings are Portuguese right back Nelson Semedo and Gerard Deulofeu, a forward who came through Barcelona's academy before playing for several other clubs.

So it will fall to new coach Ernesto Valverde to rally a team that is still led by Lionel Messi and top players Andres Iniesta, Luis Suarez and Gerard Pique.

### ATLETICO MADRID

Diego Simeone has made Atletico Madrid a perennial contender both in Spain and the Champions League for the past four seasons. Atletico won the Liga in 2014 and finished third the past three campaigns, while also reaching two European finals.

Simeone will be hard

pressed to repeat the team's recent success after the club was banned from signing new players until 2018 for having broken FIFA regulations regarding youth players.

Through some creative negotiating, Atletico secured the arrival of Spain forward Victor "Vitolo" Machin in January. He will play on loan with Las Palmas until being allowed to register with Atletico next year.

For now, Simeone will continue to rely on French forward Antoine Griezmann, who will stay with the club even though several other European teams showed interest in signing him.

The defense will remain solid with Diego Godin, Filipe Luis and Juanfran Torres, as will the midfield led by Jorge "Koke" Resurreccion, Gabi Fernandez and Yannick Carrasco.

New to Atletico will be the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium, a brand new venue that replaces the Vi-



cente Calderon. The team is also debuting a new club crest this season.

### SEVILLA

Sevilla will look a lot different from the team that was in contention for the Spanish league title last season.

Sevilla stayed close to Real Madrid and Barcelona before losing ground in the end and giving up third place to Atletico Madrid.

That team was led by coach Jorge Sampaoli, who left to take over Argentina's national team. He was replaced by Eduardo Berizzo, who coached Celta Vigo last season.

Berizzo has brought in forward Manuel "Nolito" Agudo, who played under him at Celta and was unsuccessful in a stint with Manchester City last season.

Sevilla also reinforced its attack with Colombian forward Luis Muriel, who signed from Sampdoria.

### VALENCIA

Valencia is looking to turn things around after a couple of seasons in which it flirted with relegation.

The club has struggled under the ownership of Singapore investor Peter Lim, who took over in 2014.

After failing under high-profile coaches Gary Neville and Cesare Prandelli, Valencia will start the new season with former Villarreal manager Marcelino.

There were no major off-season signings, although the club acquired forward Simone Zaza, who had played on loan from Juventus last season. AP

opinion

Made in Macao  
Jenny Lao-Phillips



DOUBLE SEVENTH FESTIVAL:  
CHINESE VALENTINE'S DAY

The seventh month of the lunar calendar is often considered to be the most unlucky time of the year. During this month, when the gate of hell is opened and spirits roam among the living world, even people who are not superstitious will not arrange important events like weddings or grand openings of businesses except on one day. The one and only day within this unlucky month that is considered auspicious is the seventh day of the seventh month, which we celebrate as Chat Zik Zit 七夕節 (Double Seventh Festival), better known amongst young people nowadays as the Chinese Valentine's Day.

Many people would know the famous love story about Niu Lang 牛郎 (Cowhand) and Zhi Nu 織女 (Weaver Maid), the seventh daughter of the Emperor of Heaven. The story interrupted the attention paid to the ghosts during this month. Chat Zik Zit celebrates the one day in the whole year which Niu Lang and Zhi Nu are allowed to meet, after the Empress of Heaven dragged her seventh daughter, who stole away to earth and married the cowhand, back to heaven. Touched by the love they have for each other, every year all magpies fly to heaven on the seventh day of the seventh month to form a bridge for the couple to meet.

So, that is a romantic story, but what do we do during this festival? Actually, the customs practiced on Chat Zik Zit mostly have nothing to do with the story. And although it is now celebrated as a variant of Valentine's Day, it is not a day for lovers either. In fact, in most places, it is not about commemorating the love of the unfortunate couples, but praying to Weaver Maid, the goddess of weaving, as the name implies. The most common tradition is called Hat Haau 乞巧 (to beg for wisdom and dexterity). On the night of the Double Seventh, young maidens set up an altar with incense, fruits, flowers, needles and threads to pray to Weaver Maid for wisdom and skills in needlework, which was considered an important skill for housewives in ancient China. Following the prayer for needlework skills, young girls also pray to meet a good husband.

In some places, the festival involves a competition in threading needles. Girls who successfully thread through seven needles will be blessed with dexterity. In other places, mostly Eastern regions of China, girls gather together to make dumplings. They wrap one coin, one needle and one date into three of the dumplings. At night, the girls will enjoy the dumplings together, and legend has it that the one who gets the dumpling with a coin will have luck, the one who gets the needle will have dexterity, and the one who gets the date will marry soon.

So, how do these customs connect with Valentine's Day? The connection stems from the belief in ancient Chinese society that skills in needlework were one of the most important traits of a good wife. Thus, the better the needlework skills, the better her chance of arranging a marriage with a good family.

Of the many traditions in different parts of China, there is one directly related to the love story on Chat Zik. Around Zhejiang province, each family kills one rooster on the night of Chat Zik, believing that if no rooster crows in the morning, then the night will never end for the Cowhand and Weaver Maid, and they can be together forever. But whether related to the story of the lovers or not, Chinese Valentine's day is not for lovers' celebration, it is supposed to be a day for single girls, or rooster killing.

THE DANIEL CRAIG ANNOUNCES RETURN AS JAMES BOND

Daniel Craig will return for a fifth go-around as James Bond. The actor confirmed reports he would reprise his role as the suave British spy for "Bond 25" during an appearance on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on Tuesday night. The announcement is a reversal for Craig, who told Time Out London in 2015 he'd rather slash his wrists than do

another Bond film.

Craig chalks up that comment as "a stupid answer" and tells Colbert he "couldn't be happier" to return to the role.

Craig breathed new life into the Bond franchise when he took over as 007 for 2006's "Casino Royale."

"Bond 25" hits theaters in November 2019.



TAIWAN

Rainie Yang stars in horror sequel 'Tag Along 2'

TAIWANESE singer and actress Rainie Yang stars in "The Tag Along 2," a sequel to the 2015 hit that's loosely based on a ghostly urban legend in Taiwan about a little girl who appears in the footage of a family's hiking trip.

The only problem was, she wasn't part of the family and no one seemed to recall seeing a young girl on the mountain that day.

The actual footage of the mysterious "little girl in red" was broadcast on Taiwanese television in the 1990s. Some believed that she was roaming the mountains looking for her next victim.

"The little girl in red was photographed really clearly," Yang said in an interview with The Associated Press. "People have been talking about it for the last 20 years. It happened when I was very little but I still remember it well. So it definitely had a far reach."

In the sequel, Yang plays a social worker whose daughter goes missing in the mountains. She joins the search and rescue team and while looking for her lost daughter gets haunted by the little girl in red.

"From there she discovered the obsession of the little girl in red," Yang said. "Everyone has their obsession, whether you're human or a ghost and when you have an obsession, you can't let it go. That's why you keep hanging around, and can't get over it. So because she stumbled across all this, the story began."



Rainie Yang poses during an interview in Taipei

It is customary in Asia to hold a blessing ceremony before filming commences for horror movies to keep the cast and crew from harm's way. Yang said that the sequel included a blessing ceremony before shooting every scene.

She found out later that quite a few "coincidences" happened while filming the first movie — which prompted director Cheng Wei-hao to take extra precautions while making the second.

"When they were shooting the first film, a lot of the men [crew members] will relieve themselves wherever it's convenient. Sometimes they're not being thoughtful about it, and no joke, the next day, they will get a fever. They will get sick the next day."

"So they feel like they had to believe [...] You can't go to toilet wherever you want. They realized that they needed to pay attention to that. So, to avoid people getting sick during the filming of the sequel, and because it's very

inconvenient to find a toilet [in wilderness], and also they didn't want the crew to get sick to delay filming, that's why at every set, there is a toilet just for our cast and crew," Yang said.

The star of the first movie, Tiffany Hsu, returns in the sequel. This time, Hsu's character takes a darker turn and is on the brink of a breakdown. Yang, who is friends with Hsu in real life, said that the challenges for both of them were to put aside their friendship and act like complete strangers when the cameras were rolling.

"We've known each other for about 18 years," Yang said. "We have such great chemistry but there was no use for it in this movie, because her character lives in her world, and I'm focused on mine, so they didn't have much interaction. For us, our challenges lie in pretending we're strangers," Yang said.

"The Tag-Along 2" hits theaters in Taiwan on Aug. 25. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Zhang Ailin



The Zhapo fishing port on Hailing Island in Yangjiang City, south China's Guangdong Province. A three-and-half-month summer fishing moratorium ended yesterday in the South China Sea, including for Macau.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

LEBANON's parliament yesterday abolished a law that allowed rapists to avoid prison by marrying their victims. The repeal of the law, which had been in place since the 1940s, follows years of campaigning by women's rights advocates.



ZIMBABWE's first lady Grace Mugabe has requested diplomatic immunity over an allegation that she assaulted a young model in Johannesburg earlier this week, said South Africa's police. Mugabe is still in South Africa after a day of intense speculation over her whereabouts after a 20-year-old model accused the wife of Zimbabwe's president of assault.

LIBYA A Spanish aid group dedicated to saving migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea says that Libyan coast guard boats have threatened their crews twice in recent days.



BRITAIN-IRELAND There must be no border posts between the U.K. and Ireland after Brexit, and European Union citizens will be able to enter Britain through EU member state Ireland without immigration checks, the British government said yesterday.

COLOMBIA U.N. observers removed the last of more than 8,000 guns once carried by the guerrillas of Colombia's largest rebel army and collected at 26 demobilization sites around the South American nation under a historic peace deal. Some of the weapons will be smelted and transformed into statues commemorating the end to Latin America's longest-running armed conflict.