



ELDERLY SIBLINGS FACE PROSECUTION

Two siblings, a 73-year-old man and his sister, 68, are in trouble with police for spreading rumors related to the typhoon

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HATO, THE CITY OF SOLIDARITY



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HURRICANE BRINGS EPIC FLOODS TO HOUSTON

Texas's governor is activating the entire Texas National Guard for search and rescue following

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HATO FORECAST

Public pressures CCAC to probe Fong

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WORLD BRIEFS



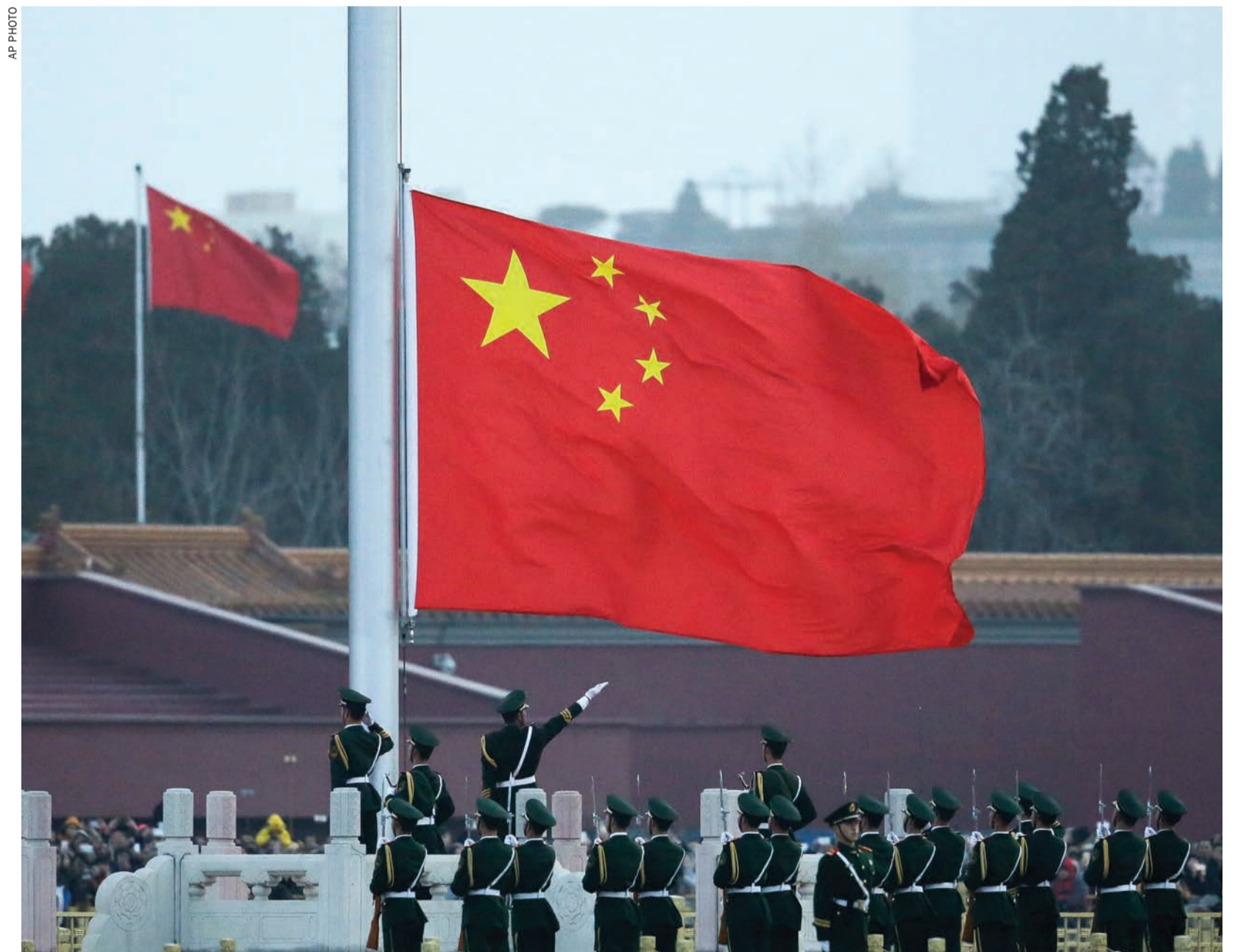
Lebanon-Syria Islamic State militants and their families began leaving a border area between Lebanon and Syria yesterday as part of a negotiated deal to end the group's presence there, Lebanese and Syrian media reported. An unidentified number of militants and their families headed in buses toward a town held by the extremist group in far eastern Syria, near the border with Iraq.

CHINA The Wanda Group yesterday denied a report by a U.S. website that its chairman was detained by Chinese authorities that prompted a plunge in the share price of a Hong Kong subsidiary. More on p10



THAILAND Interpol has issued an international request for the arrest of the billionaire heir to the Red Bull energy drink fortune, stepping up the hunt for the fugitive Thai playboy wanted in a 2012 hit-and-run incident that left a traffic policeman dead in Bangkok. More on p20

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CHINA NEW LAW

Macau might include national anthem education in schools

P2,11

Julie Zhu

TWO local siblings, a 73-year-old man and his 68-year-old sister, have been presented to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for spreading rumors related to the typhoon, the Judiciary Police (PJ) revealed yesterday at a police press conference.

According to a PJ spokesperson, while conducting inspections on online platforms, the PJ found the two siblings spreading rumors.

The brother was initially taken to the police station for interrogation.

During the investigation, the police found a message on the man's Wechat account saying that the Macau government had completely blocked information regarding five dead people who had been found in a parking lot located in Fai Chi Kei.

According to this rumor, four of the dead people were from one family.

The rumor alleged that the government did not allow people to know nor allow journalists to report what had happened. The rumor also urged whoever read it to spread the message.

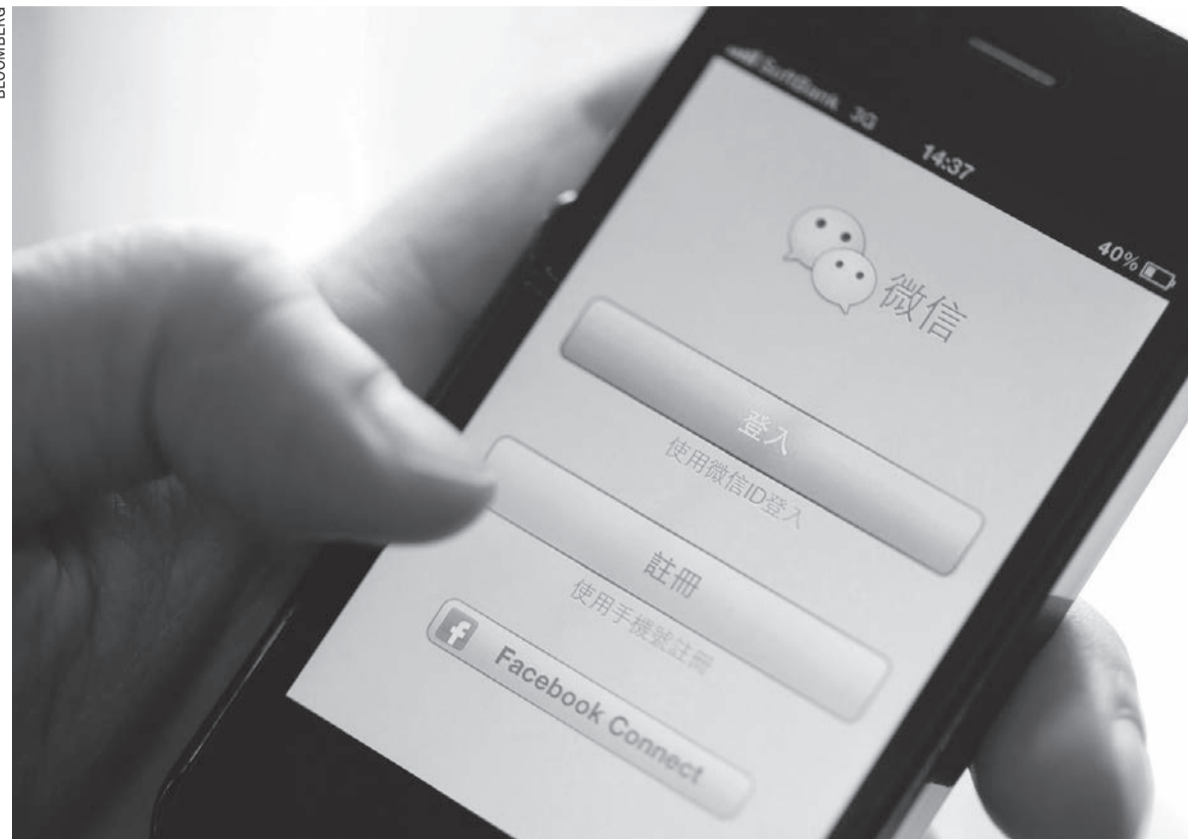
During the investigation, the man admitted to the police that it had been his sister who sent him the message.

The sister was then taken to the police in a continuation of the investigation. The woman said that a third party had forwarded the message to her.

The two siblings sent the message to at least six Wechat group chats, and to 30 private conversations.

Having already been forwarded to the MP, the sentence will de-

Elderly siblings face possible prosecution for spreading rumor



pend on office's decision. If the MP decides to punish the duo, they will face a maximum of six months in prison or a maximum penalty of 240 days of fines.

According to the PJ, this is the first case in which people have been arrested for spreading rumors related to the typhoon's aftermath.

The PJ is currently investigating the case, and it has not

excluded the possibility of more people being involved.

The police authority also calls the public not to resend information relating to Typhoon Hato without first confirming the authenticity of the facts in order to avoid unnecessary panic and chaos, as well as false assumptions.

The authority also noted that spreading fake information might violate the law.

VIETNAMESE ARRESTED FOR FRAUD

A 49-year-old Vietnamese woman has been arrested for keeping money given to her by a victim who wanted the money to be sent to her daughter. The arrested woman, referred to by the police as Mguym, is a domestic helper in Macau.

The victim, named Phan, is a 43-year-old Vietnamese wo-

man who, back in July, gave MOP40,000 to the suspect for her to send to Phan's daughter, who is in Vietnam.

Later on, Phan's daughter reported to her mother that she had not received the money. Phan then reported the situation to the police.

On August 21, the suspect was arrested, but denied having kept the money. However, the police had already collected sufficient evidence to charge the suspect, and forwarded her to the prosecution authority.

USURY VICTIM IS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT

Four mainland residents were arrested for illegally imprisoning a mainland woman in Macau, who was later discovered to be an illegal immigrant. The four arrested consisted of one woman and three men, all between 20 and 30 years old.

The victim, a 48-year-old mainland woman, borrowed HKD200,000 from the four for gambling purposes. Later on, she lost all the money she had borrowed.

Her travel documents were kept by the four, who made HKD35,000 in interest while the woman was gambling. The woman was then imprisoned in a hotel located in Cotai. The case was reported to the police by a hotel employee.

Macau might include anthem education in schools

CHINA'S National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee yesterday continued its review of the draft laws on the national anthem, suggesting the inclusion of the national anthem in the textbooks of both primary and middle schools, according to Xinhua.

Previously, Sonia Chan, the Secretary for Administration and Justice said that "it is mandatory" for Macau to implement China's national anthem laws.

"I think that if a national anthem law is proposed in the future, then it is manda-

tory that it be implemented in Macau as a national law," said Chan.

Last year, the local government also announced that it had reached a consensus with mainland authorities to produce standardized textbooks, particularly for the study of history.

The NPC further suggested yesterday that the anthem should be regarded as important content by primary and middle schools within the curriculum of patriotic education.

Moreover, it says schools should organize students to sing the anthem, as well as

teach them to understand the history and spiritual connotation of it.

Earlier, Qiao Xiaoyang, a member of the Standing Committee of the NPC, also pointed out that the anthem law will be listed in Annex III of the Basic Law in both Hong Kong and Macau.

Qiao said that, in Hong Kong and Macau, any legal articles which can reflect the state sovereignty, and any territorial integrity, national flag, national symbol, and national diplomacy which reflect one country, should all be included in the Basic Laws' annex.

According to Sonia Chan and to Qiao Xiaoyang's previous response, the national anthem should also be featured in Macau's primary and middle school textbooks in case the anthem law is eventually established in Mainland China.

The latest draft suggests a maximum of 15 days of detention, or a warning issued by the police authority, if anybody changes the anthem's lyrics or dishonors it while it is playing or being sung.

The draft made it clear that the anthem should not be used in commercials.



The draft also bans using the anthem in private funerals or on other occasions deemed unsuitable by authorities.

People attending events

where the anthem is being played or sung should behave solemnly and must not display any behavior that disrespects the anthem. (More on p11) JZ

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Times

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CCAC probes weather bureau over Hato forecast, mismanagement

Lynzy Valles

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has initiated an inquiry into the procedures of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) for typhoon forecasting and internal management of the bureau, namely to determine the responsibility of disgraced director Fong Soi Kun over allegations of disregarding the Typhoon Prediction Procedures.

In a statement, the graft buster says it has "received a large number of complaints" in which there are suspicions regarding the prediction of typhoons by the SMG, requesting the intervention of the CCAC to investigate any illegalities or irregularities. The CCAC recalls that last year following Typhoon Nida, in which Signal 8 was not hoisted, they investigated the weather bureau but "did not detect any gross violation of legal provisions."

However, the statement



An SMG chart obtained from the bureau's website on Tuesday evening, August 22, the day before Hato struck. The chart shows Signal 3 was hoisted by that stage

reads, the investigators noted then, "some problems in typhoon forecasting procedures and in the criteria adopted by the SGM as well as in the internal management of the service."

One such group that called yesterday for an investigation into the bureau and its former chief was the Association of Synergy of Macao. The asso-

ciation handed a letter to the office of the Chief Executive, calling for the government to investigate the management of the aftermath of Typhoon Hato, including an investigation into Fong.

The association believes that it has the responsibility to urge the government to review the distressing lessons brought by Typhoon Hato, with

practical and objective progress in mind.

The association also called for a formation of a group of society leaders across different professions, to assist the government in improving its crisis management, and requested a mechanism in which important information could be disseminated to the public swiftly.

"We are asking the CE to open an investigation [into] Fong Soi Kun because his resignation is not enough. [...] He needs to pick up the responsibility and not just resign," said Johnson Ian, vice director of the association.

Ian lamented that Fong served the government for some 30 years and it would be inappropriate should no disciplinary actions be taken, citing the untimely typhoon forecast signals leading up to Hato.

As the group is calling for the government to review the law and its regulations on crisis management, it also condemned the newly launched

committee of the CE, as its members mostly consist of the five secretaries of the executive.

"The [new] committee is not enough," he complained. "They cannot investigate by themselves. We want more commissioners and other experts to get into the committee to really see what is wrong with the system," Ian added.

The government launched a committee yesterday to review its crisis response mechanism, following the disaster brought by Typhoon Hato.

The committee aims to assist the administration in reviewing and creating crisis management projects to respond to catastrophes, including the improvement of works on meteorological forecasting and the reinforcement of civil coordination protection.

Some of the listed competences of the committee include the promotion of a reasonable distribution of resources and coordination between the government and civil society, and to elaborate the general plan of crisis management. The committee will also coordinate general planning and construction of the region's infrastructure, and will conduct public consultation until September 11.

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News At Hand



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Hato also brought stories of solidarity and

PHOTOS BY RENATO MARQUES



Renato Marques

IT was mid-morning on Wednesday, August 23, when Typhoon Hato violently hit Macau, creating dreadful havoc for anything in its path. Almost all the areas in the peninsula and islands were significantly affected, leaving some injured, some dead, and a trail of destruction reaching an amount hard to comprehend. Houses to road vehicles, from public to private facilities, as well as schools, hospitals and heritage sites all suffered severe damage that go beyond what the eye can see.

But that is the story that has now many times been told, and is one of many others that rise from the mix of debris, dirty water, and domestic waste that accumulated in the pungent streets.

However, there are also others worth sharing; stories of solidarity, strangers helping strangers, love and care; stories of humans, and of great humanity.

As soon as the waters lowered to the sidewalk level, the staff from Café Kam Ma Lon located at Rua dos Mercadores, one of the streets formerly submerged in one meter of water, started to put their hands to work, cleaning the coffee shop. In less than two hours, it was reopened and back to "business as usual," without one single whine uttered by the workers.

A few meters further down the alley, a resident who owns

a egg distribution business had finally come out to open the gate of his storage shed to find nothing but mud and destroyed goods, along with a flooded motorcycle that he used for the distribution.

Scratching his head the man, who was over 60-years-old, whispered to himself in Cantonese "It's OK." Passing by were some neighbors who asked how things were, while lending a hand to pull some of the items piled by the entrance out into the alley.

There are stories of solidarity, strangers helping strangers, love and care; stories of humans, and of great humanity

By the end of the same day, the egg distributor was already riding another motorbike borrowed off a friend and modified on the spot, to restart egg distribution.

In the same alley, many neighbors were seen entering each other's houses with brooms and mops, and buckets filled with water borrowed

from fire hydrants, as the area did not have any water or electricity supply at that time or during the days that followed.

At the same time, information started to appear on social network platforms about people both in need and offering help, and groups of volunteers were starting to gather and discuss where to go to lend a hand.

In the Inner Harbor area, one of the areas most affected by the flooding, fire service trucks were trying to make their way into the alleys to reach the calls for help of the people trapped inside shops. They would not have arrived in time had it not been for the locals that helped out. Groups of men spontaneously gathered around flooded cars that were blocking the streets and pulled them by hand to the sides of the streets, allowing the rescuers enough room to pass. The same was happening in many other places across town.

In the following days the number of volunteers boomed, whether it was in association with company-organized groups or even individual and through spontaneous actions, people from all nationalities, locals and tourists alike, were seen helping each other with all they could. Groups of students from local secondary and tertiary education were in great number and in good spirits side-by-side with soldiers from the People's Liberation Army that were deployed in several areas of the city. ►►

READER'S CORNER

Remembering Typhoon Hato

*A leap-day's morning after,
The typhoon's touches still remain:
Uptorn trees, a tangled mess of branches
Like shorn Medusa's hair,
Carelessly swept aside
From the visage of streets.*

*Normally, typhoons clean things, but this one
Has left dark glaciers of mud.
Grim-grinning he hacked through windowpanes
Shattered like raining hail.
Most of our local typhoons are benign,
But he drew blood and tears.*

*Now in our homes, no running water.
Dreamily I buy up Fanta and Coke.
I can drink but I cannot shower.
I shudder to remember
Hato's hateful incursion
Into our lives.*

Joanna Radwańska-Williams
Macao, 25th August, 2017



mutual help

In the corner of the Rua dos Fatiões and Rua do Tarrafeiro, also in the Inner Harbor area, a local bakery was in the street distributing bread and cakes to passers-by, specifically to elderlies. Not far away another group, organized under Macau Red Cross and local neighborhood associations, was distributing bottled water house-by-house, knocking on doors to offer help.

Among neighbors the solidarity was also present. Within communication apps, conversation groups were created to discuss issues among the condominiums and to distribute tasks. Returning from work in local hotels, some carried home small water bottles, leaving them behind at neighbors' doorsteps as they made their way up the stairwell.

As water and electric supplies were still not available for a good number of people, help from others, those more fortunate, was being offered all across social networks; a place to shower, drinking water, food and even a place to sleep were widely offered to all those in need.

With bottled water out of stock in most of the supermarkets and convenience stores and some shop owners taking advantage of the situation to sell bottled water for as much as MOP150, some local restaurants turned to Facebook to inform the public they had stock of the liquid to be sold at regular prices, or even to give away to those in extreme need. The same happened with food, with several stores announcing the give-away of food boxes, restoring the hopes of many in despair, and restoring faith in shopowners doing the right thing.

Faith was restored in a sector that has been on many occasions addressed as a great example of greed and "unlawful behavior," with taxi drivers from both companies being seen throughout those days offering free cab rides for the stranded, while other logistic professionals were also seen offering transportation for flooded motorbikes to a safe or fixing location.

■ Faith was also restored in a sector that has been on many occasions addressed as a great example of greed and 'unlawful behavior'

The work of all of these volunteers and authorities was also boosted by some local companies that offered their staff equipment such as trucks, water pumps, electric generators and heavy machines to help on the task of cleaning the streets. They also contributed to the reestablishment of basic services and utilities.

As the days go by, and basic cleaning and fixing gets close to completion, the calls for help get less frequent. However, we all still need to go out on the street and continue the good examples of providing a helping hand to fix Macau, as soon as possible.

Supermarket prices stable despite large demand

AFTER Typhoon Hato left several supermarkets and convenience stores with almost no bottled water for sale, some stores took advantage of the shortfall in supply, selling drinking water at inflated prices.

Until Friday, many residents were still struggling to find distilled water, while some were charged at least double the standard price in a few small stores.

Michael Lio, general manager of Supermercado Seng Cheong, which currently operates three groceries in the city, told the Times that supermarkets should practice social responsibility and not take advantage of residents in times of calamity.

"We've been in the business for over 50 years [and] it is not good to take advantage of people who are in need. [...] Actually in Macau

this is illegal," said Lio. "[If] we're raising the price when everyone is in need of water and food, it's not good for Macau," he added.

Supermercado Seng Cheong is one of the many groceries in the city who encountered difficulties in the supply of products – particularly during the first two days – due to logistic issues, in addition to many other traders, who also had their premises flooded.





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Water and electricity supply reestablished, with exceptions

Renato Marques

BOTH the water and electricity supply have been reestablished to almost everyone, according to information provided by persons responsible for both utilities in a joint press conference, where an evaluation was given on the current status after the passage of typhoons Hato and Pakhar.

Regarding the water supply, Susana Wong, director of the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) informed, "Almost all Macau is back to normal [in terms of supply]. Nevertheless there are 25 buildings with problems." She added that Macao Water services are following up and dealing with these cases individually.

For those residents that are still without water supply, Wong said the bureau will provide help through



Susana Wong

tanker trucks.

The head of DSAMA also informed that four swimming pool facilities have already reopened their shower rooms to the public in order to provide assistance with personal

hygiene.

As for electricity, the head of the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector (GDSE), Hoi Chi Leong, said that the latest typhoon, Pakhar, "didn't cause any important damage to be re-

ported." He noted that the supply of energy from CEM should be reaching virtually 100 percent of the population, with exceptions in "particular cases" where the problems affecting certain buildings were due to the buildings' own wiring system, which in specific cases were damaged and not yet able to be repaired.

According to information provided to the Times by in-field staff, such problems stem from "specific parts" that are different than those commonly in use by most of Macau's systems and had to be ordered from abroad, which explains such a delay.

The city experienced a cut-off in the supply of both electricity and water after Typhoon Hato struck the territory last Wednesday. It took several days for the water supply to be restored for most of the population.

Int'l fireworks competition canceled

The 29th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, which was slated to begin on September 2, has been cancelled, following an official announcement. The government has announced that a number of its organized cultural, recreational and exchange-related activities will be cancelled so that more resources can be allocated to the restoration work after the natural disaster. Meanwhile, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said that it has requested local travel agencies suspend their arranged tour groups in Macau until August 30. Since Typhoon Hato washed through the peninsula, MGTO has received 22 enquiries, complaints and suggestions regarding visitor itineraries, taxi and travel agency services, and hotel room rates.

Senior's Day set for Chung Yeung

September 9 in the Chinese calendar (October 28 this year) has been set as Senior's Day, according to a notice published in the Official Gazette. The announcement was published yesterday, and according to the notice signed by the Chief Executive, took effect on August 18. Senior's Day will be held at the same time as Chung Yeung Festival, which falls on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, and has always been a mandatory public holiday in Macau. The festival is traditionally used in Chinese culture to pay respect to the elderly.

AD

Carta de agradecimento do Chefe do Executivo, Chui Sai On, a todos os cidadãos

Caros cidadãos de Macau:

No dia 23 de Agosto, o tufão "Hato", o mais intenso dos últimos 53 anos, assolou Macau, tendo causado graves perdas de vidas humanas e de bens materiais. Perante esta tão severa desgraça, os cidadãos de Macau não ficaram parados nem derrotados, nem se entregaram a lamentos e queixas, pelo contrário, lançaram mãos ao trabalho, e envolveram-se activamente na recolha de bens, apetrechos e utensílios e na distribuição de água e de comida. Os cidadãos mostraram a sua solidariedade, o seu espírito de entreatajuda, prestaram assistência mútua, e deram grandes contributos para as acções de socorro e salvamento, o que é demonstrativo do espírito de Macau, o espírito de entreatajuda. Quero, em representação do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau, expressar um profundo agradecimento e as mais elevadas saudações a todos os cidadãos!

O Governo, persistindo sempre no seu objectivo primordial de servir os cidadãos, logo após a ocorrência da tempestade e com o apoio do Governo Central, empenhou-se imediatamente no planeamento dos trabalhos de rescaldo do tufão e no investimento total de recursos. Os cidadãos responderam a esta grande catástrofe com acções concretas, tendo organizado, por sua iniciativa, grupos de voluntários, integrados por moradores e vizinhos, que saíram às ruas e se juntaram às forças de assistência, nas várias operações, designadamente de remoção do lixo, de detritos e de árvores derrubadas, de limpeza das ruas, de distribuição de água e de comida às famílias afectadas pela falta de água e electricidade, em especial aos grupos mais vulneráveis. Foram actos de solidariedade e de entreatajuda demonstrativos do grande amor humano, que nos emocionam.

Estamos, por isso, orgulhosos e comovidos. Agradecemos a vossa participação activa e a vossa abnegação total nas acções de recuperação dos efeitos causados pela tempestade; Agradecemos a vossa compreensão e o vosso apoio, que foram um grande estímulo para o trabalho dos colegas da linha da frente e que nos dão confiança para realizarmos com empenho e da melhor forma os diversos trabalhos.

Contando com a participação activa dos cidadãos e com o auxílio de vários departamentos do Interior da China, das províncias e cidades irmãs, da Guarnição em Macau do Exército de Libertação do Povo Chinês e de instituições do Governo Popular Central em Macau, a sociedade de Macau, unida e solidária, tem ultrapassado estes momentos difíceis. Actualmente, o abastecimento de água e de electricidade, assim como o trânsito, estão basicamente normalizados, e os trabalhos de recuperação pós-catástrofe estão a ser desencadeados de forma ordenada.

Admitimos que ainda existe, a nível institucional, um grande espaço para melhoramentos, e que o Governo necessita de efectuar uma revisão global dos mecanismos de resposta a situações de catástrofe. Reitero, aqui, que o Governo da RAEM irá empenhar todos os esforços para desenvolver, da melhor forma, os trabalhos de socorro e de reparação dos efeitos decorrentes de calamidades, assim como irá fazer um balanço deste incidente e efectuar uma revisão do mecanismo vigente, incluindo a divulgação de informações meteorológicas, o sistema de alerta prévio, a sensibilização sobre segurança, de modo a aperfeiçoar gradualmente o mecanismo de prevenção de catástrofes e de socorro, sem frustrar o apoio e as expectativas dos cidadãos.

Os trabalhos de socorro e de recuperação estão ainda a decorrer e espero poder continuar a contar com o apoio dos cidadãos, para juntos lutarmos pela vitória final e construirmos um Macau mais belo!

O Chefe do Executivo da
Região Administrativa Especial de Macau
Chui Sai On

Carta aberta do Chefe do Executivo, Chui Sai On, aos trabalhadores da Administração Pública

Caros colegas:

Em 23 de Agosto, o forte tufão «Hato» assolou Macau, com graves consequências, designadamente grandes perdas de vidas humanas e de bens materiais. Depois da ocorrência desta catástrofe, e contando com o apoio do Governo Central, o Governo da RAEM adoptou activamente diversas medidas, envidando todos os esforços com vista à reparação dos efeitos da catástrofe. Com o auxílio de diversos departamentos do Interior da China, das províncias e cidades irmãs, da Guarnição em Macau do Exército de Libertação do Povo Chinês e de instituições do Governo Popular Central em Macau, e com a participação activa de toda a sociedade, Macau tem vindo a ultrapassar esta adversidade em plena comunhão de esforços. Actualmente, o abastecimento de água e de electricidade, assim como o trânsito, estão basicamente normalizados, e os trabalhos de recuperação pós-catástrofe estão a ser desencadeados de forma ordenada.

No processo de execução dos trabalhos de recuperação, todos os trabalhadores da Administração Pública, especialmente os colegas das forças de segurança, do Instituto para os Assuntos Cívicos e Municipais, do Instituto de Acção Social, do Instituto de Habitação e dos Serviços de Saúde, entre outros, na linha de frente, dia e noite, não receando a arduidade e a perigosidade da situação, contribuíram altruisticamente para vencer as dificuldades dos processos de salvamento e socorro; Cumpriram lealmente os seus deveres e asseguraram a boa imagem dos trabalhadores da Administração Pública da RAEM, o que lhes granjeia o reconhecimento e o louvor da população.

Neste momento, a situação pós-catástrofe mantém-se severa. O funcionamento de muitos equipamentos de apoio social ainda não voltou à normalidade, e a vida da população continua afectada. Encontramo-nos actualmente numa época de chuvas e de tufões e, por ainda existir possibilidade de novas catástrofes, o Governo da RAEM espera que todos os trabalhadores da Administração Pública se mantenham firmes no princípio de servir a população, para que sejam activamente implementadas as diversas medidas de intervenção, de acordo com o planeamento do Governo. Neste momento particular, é fundamental que os trabalhadores se mantenham firmes e dedicados nos seus postos de trabalho, ao serviço da população, contribuindo para a resolução oportuna das dificuldades dos cidadãos, e para ajudar as vítimas da catástrofe a ultrapassar esta difícil situação.

O Governo da RAEM está a encontrar soluções que permitam acelerar a remoção de lixos e a limpeza das vias públicas, e a monitorizar medidas de prevenção de epidemias. O Governo apela a todos os trabalhadores da Administração Pública para que, além do desempenho das suas funções, e no pressuposto da garantia da segurança individual, continuem solidariamente empenhados nos trabalhos de voluntariado e a envidar todos os seus esforços no auxílio ao pessoal da linha de frente, permitindo assim que Macau regresse à normalidade, o mais brevemente possível.

Finalmente, quero expressar o mais profundo agradecimento e apresentar cumprimentos a todos os trabalhadores da Administração Pública, e saudações aos seus familiares. Obrigado pelo vosso árduo trabalho!

O Chefe do Executivo da
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A man wipes the sweat from his head while he looks at an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, yesterday

MARKETS

World shares mostly fall on euro strength, US storm damage

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

WORLD stocks were mostly lower yesterday as the euro's gains sent European shares lower and investors waited for damage assessments from Tropical Storm Harvey, which battered Texas' refinery-rich Gulf Coast and sent gasoline futures spiking.

KEEPING SCORE:

European shares sank in early trading. France's CAC 40 lost 0.2 percent to 5,094.29 and Germany's DAX shed 0.5 percent to 12,109.07. Wall Street was poised to open lower. Dow futures lost 0.2 percent

to 21,776.00 and broader S&P 500 futures dipped 0.1 percent to 2,439.90. British markets were closed for a holiday.

STORMY WEATHER:

Incessant rain from Harvey, which slammed ashore as a strong hurricane late last week, has submerged much of Houston and shut down Texas's oil and gas industry. It's unclear how bad the damage is to facilities along the state's Gulf Coast but preliminary signs indicate widespread losses, which will have big implications for the U.S. economy and oil and gas prices. Gasoline futures trimmed earlier gains but were still at their highest level this year, up 4.4 percent to USD1.74

a gallon, while crude futures were mixed. S&P Global analysts said about 2.2 million barrels per day of refining capacity was down or being brought down by Sunday.

NO SURPRISES:

The gatherings of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, was last week's big economic event but investors found no surprises in speeches by Fed chief Janet Yellen and European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi. There was nothing to change investors' expectations that the Fed will continue to gradually raise interest rates and prepare to trim its \$4.5 billion balance sheet. Investors were now looking ahead to econo-

mic data releases due later this week, including China's purchasing managers' index on Thursday and U.S jobs data on Friday.

CURRENCIES:

The euro was at \$1.1936, off earlier highs that took the currency to its strongest level in more than two and a half years. The currency continued to rise after jumping Friday during Draghi's speech. He didn't address the financial health of the eurozone, but investors took that as a sign of confidence in the continent's economy. A stronger euro makes European exports more costly for foreign buyers. The dollar fell to 109.19 Japanese yen from 109.36 yen on Friday.

MARKET VIEW:

"All of this is bad news for European stocks, particularly the export-heavy DAX, and we could see further moderation for European stocks at the start of this week," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at City Index.

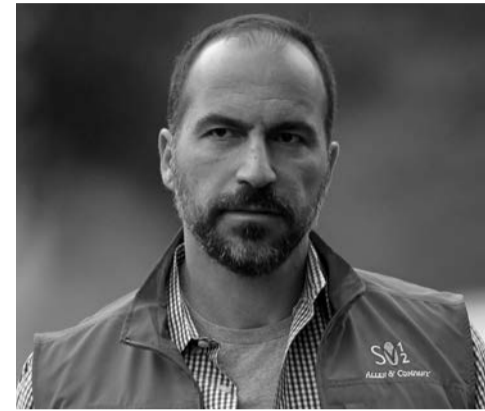
ASIA'S DAY:

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index ended practically unchanged at 19,449.90 and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.4 percent to 2,370.30. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose less than 0.1 percent to 27,863.29 and the Shanghai Composite in mainland China added 0.9 percent to 3,362.65. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.6 percent to 5,709.90. Taiwan's benchmark rose and indexes in Southeast Asia were mixed.

ENERGY:

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 42 cents to \$47.45 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 44 cents to settle at \$47.87 per barrel on Friday. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 3 cents to \$52.01 per barrel.

Expedia CEO to lead Uber



Dara Khosrowshahi

EXPEDIA CEO Dara Khosrowshahi has been named Uber's top executive, taking the difficult job of mending the dysfunctional ride-hailing giant and turning it from money-losing behemoth to a profitable company.

Uber's fractured eight-member board voted to hire Khosrowshahi yesterday [Macau time], capping three days of meetings and the withdrawal of once-top candidate Jeffery Immelt, former CEO and still chairman of General Electric, two people briefed on the decision said. They didn't want to be identified because the decision had not been officially announced.

Khosrowshahi has been CEO of Expedia since August of 2015. The online booking site is one of the largest travel agencies in the world.

He will replace ousted CEO Travis Kalanick and faces the difficult task of changing Uber's culture that has included sexual harassment and allegations of deceit and corporate espionage. Uber also is losing millions every quarter as it continues to expand and invest in self-driving cars.

The company currently is being run by a 14-person group of managers and is without multiple top executive positions that will be filled by Khosrowshahi.

He immediately will face troubles on many fronts, including having to deal with multiple board factions that had once pushed Immelt and Hewlett Packard Enterprise CEO Meg Whitman. Several factions of the board are suing each other. **AP**

China mixup shows risk of poor communication spooking market

THE capacity of China's central bank to surprise markets is so great that, last week, it left investors chewing over whether a data error was a policy signal.

A closely watched Chinese benchmark rate surged 55 basis points at the open on Wednesday. While the National Interbank Funding Center was cited as saying later that the outsized price move was a mistake, the confusion shows the downside to the monetary authority's opaque use of interbank tools to adjust liquidity in the financial system.

Investors monitor gyrations in the one-week weighted average repo rate as it's

seen to be a weather vane for People's Bank of China policy. While the central bank maintains a raft of more traditional benchmark interest rates, it's focusing more on market-based measures these days, and traders are keenly aware they need to expect the unexpected.

"The tricky thing about what happened Wednesday was that the open prices were surprising, but at the same time not impossible, and this created the confusions," said Zhou Hao, a senior emerging-markets economist at Commerzbank AG in Singapore. "Some participants tend to see a surprise move as a normal way for the authorities to

deliver new policy steps."

China's central bank - among the least transparent in major Asian economies as ranked by Bloomberg Intelligence - is known to sometimes resort to surprise market moves to communicate policy. In June 2013, it made no change to its goal of "prudent" monetary policy even as it drove the overnight repo rate to a record in what was seen as a stress test for banks. It has spread its influence to Hong Kong's overseas market as well, pushing offshore yuan borrowing costs to improbable levels to crush currency speculators.

Policy makers have since then taken steps to give more

clarity on their thinking. The latest came earlier this month, with a statement urging investors not to focus too much on short-term concerns and saying a diverging pace of credit expansion doesn't mean monetary policy is losing steam.

"The PBOC has made great progress in becoming more transparent and improving public communication," said David Loevinger, managing director of emerging-markets sovereign research at TCW Group Inc. and a former China specialist at the U.S. Treasury. "Still, while there's a lot of statements coming from various PBOC officials, it's sometimes hard to discern

who's speaking with authority. All central banks have struggled with market guidance; still, by almost any measure, the PBOC remains among the least transparent."

The PBOC declined to comment on faxed questions on how it plans to improve communications with the market. The National Interbank Funding Center - a central bank arm that manages China's money-market trading platform - doesn't have a statement regarding the price changes, a media officer said in a text message.

The Aug. 23 spike in money rates saw the seven-day weighted average repo rate

surging to 3.44 percent, which would have been the highest since April 2015. It came at an especially jumpy time for investors, with policy makers pushing rates higher as part of an effort to reduce leverage in the financial system. Last week, the central bank drained a net 330 billion yuan (USD50 billion) in open-market operations, the most since June. It withdrew a further 100 billion yuan yesterday. The 20-day moving average of the overnight repurchase rate is at 2.82 percent, near the highest since April 2015. The seven-day weighted average repo rate was at 2.89 percent yesterday. **Bloomberg**



Photo released by US Customs shows a tunnel exit with ladder inside in San Diego

23 Chinese detained in smuggling tunnel found in California

Authorities in California say they have found a smuggling tunnel that carried dozens of people across the border from Mexico into the United States. Agents detained 23 Chinese nationals and seven Mexican citizens they believe crossed into the U.S. illegally through the tunnel. Border Patrol agents discovered the crude tunnel described as a hole in the ground with a ladder inside it over the weekend near San Diego's Otay Mesa border crossing. The San Diego Union-Tribune says agents saw a group of men and women in the street who ran when the agents approached. Some people tried to get back into the tunnel. Authorities say the tunnel may be an extension of an incomplete tunnel previously discovered by Mexican authorities.



Lifeng Ye (seated-center) is comforted by her son Xinyang Zhang (left)

Family of abducted Chinese scholar speak of helplessness

The suspect in the abduction of a University of Illinois scholar from China is scheduled to appear in court for a pretrial status hearing. Lawyers for Brendt Christensen indicated before today's hearing that they'll ask the federal judge overseeing the case in Urbana to delay the trial date. It's currently scheduled to start Sept. 12. Requests by defense attorneys for more time to go through evidence are common. Yingying Zhang disappeared June 9, weeks after arriving at the central Illinois campus. The 26-year-old was doing research in agricultural sciences and expected to begin work on her doctorate in the fall. Investigators say they believe she's dead. Her body's hasn't been found. Christensen is suspected of abducting her in Urbana while she was going to sign an apartment lease.

One dead, 37 missing in Guizhou landslide

A landslide buried dozens of homes in southern China, killing one person and leaving 37 missing, the local government said. The side of a mountain crashed down on the homes of 34 families on the outskirts of the city of Bijie around midday, the Guizhou provincial government said on its microblog. It said rescue teams had been dispatched along with tents, blankets and other emergency supplies. Mountainous Guizhou is one of China's poorest provinces and the provincial government estimated losses at more than 5.1 million yuan. There was no immediate word on the cause, although southern China has been battered in recent days by a pair of typhoons bringing heavy rain that can saturate soil and destabilize steep land.

WANG JIANLIN

Wanda denies website report its founder was detained

THE Chinese conglomerate that owns Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment yesterday denied a report by a U.S. website that its chairman was detained by Chinese authorities that prompted a plunge in the share price of a Hong Kong subsidiary.

Wanda Group rejected as "malicious slander" the report by Bowen Press that Wang Jianlin was temporarily detained in the eastern city of Tianjin last week and barred from leaving China. The Chinese-language Bowen Press cited unidentified sources.

Investors are unusually sensitive to reports about the status of Chinese business leaders following the disappearance of a billionaire in Hong Kong, reports that others have been questioned by authorities and tighter government control over investments abroad.

Shares in Wanda's hotel unit traded on the Hong Kong stock exchange fell 10 percent following the Bowen Press report but partially recovered yesterday and were down 6.4 percent at midday. Wanda's parent company is privately held.

Wang is one of China's richest businesspeople, with a fortune estimated by the Hurun Report, which tracks the country's wealthy, at USD30 billion.

Wanda is one of the most



Wang Jianlin

prominent of a group of Chinese companies that have expanded aggressively abroad in recent years, investing billions of dollars in acquiring hotels, insurance companies, manufacturers of autos and robots and other assets.

Wanda bought Legendary last year. It acquired AMC in 2012, becoming the world's biggest cinema operator, and added the smaller

Carmike Cinemas chain last year.

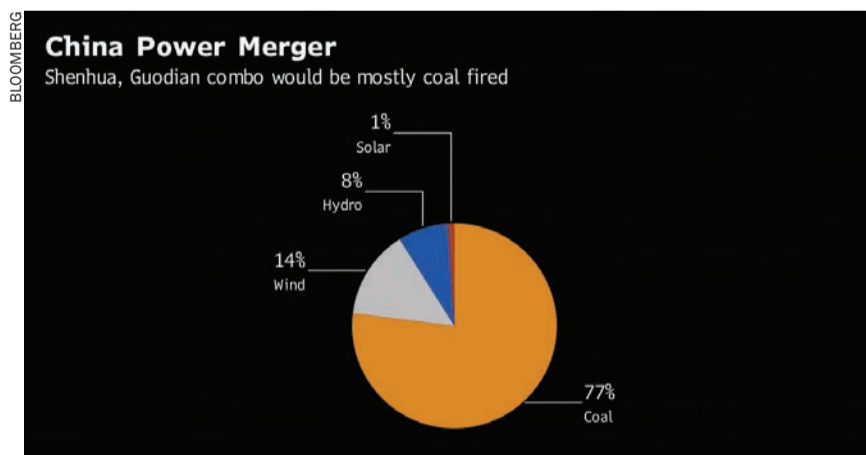
That buying spree cooled last year after Chinese regulators tightened controls over outbound investment. The central bank governor said in March that Beijing needed to rein in excessive spending on foreign entertainment and sports assets that he said did little to develop China's economy.

Wanda agreed in Novem-

ber to pay \$1 billion for Dick Clark Productions, which produces the Golden Globes and the "Miss America" pageant. The seller, Eldridge Industries, called off the deal in March, saying Wanda failed to complete the purchase.

Financial markets were rattled in February by reports another billionaire, Xiao Jianhua, was taken from his Hong Kong hotel by mainland police, though authorities have yet to confirm that. Executives of other companies also have been detained or questioned. **AP**

Wang is one of China's richest people, with a fortune estimated at USD30 billion



Gov't merging state-owned energy giants

CHINA'S government announced yesterday it will combine the world's big-

gest coal producer and a major power utility as part of a marathon campaign to make sta-

te industry, which dominates the economy, more efficient and profitable.

The merger of Shenhua Group and Guodian Group, both state-owned, comes as Beijing is also trying to shrink a glut of coal production, but yesterday's announcement gave no indication whether the companies would reduce output.

Chinese regulators have arranged a series of mergers in state-owned industries in an effort to create bigger, more efficient and financially robust competitors.

The one-sentence Cabinet statement gave no financial details or information about how public shareholders might be affected. Both Guodian and Shenhua have subsi-

diaries with shares traded on stock exchanges in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Shenhua's publicly traded subsidiary, China Shenhua Energy Co., reported 2016 profit of 24.9 billion yuan (USD3.8 billion) on revenue of 183 billion yuan. It also operates power plants and railways.

Guodian's main publicly traded subsidiary, China Guodian Power Co., reported 2016 profit of 4.6 billion yuan (\$707 million). The parent Guodian company says it has a total of almost 120,000 employees and assets worth 803.1 billion yuan (\$121 billion). **AP**

Law draft threatens 15 days of jail for improper anthem use

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A proposed Chinese law threatens those making inappropriate use of the country's national anthem with up to 15 days in jail, state media reported yesterday, amid a surge in state-promoted patriotism under President Xi Jinping.

The draft legislation would make it illegal to play the anthem at funerals and on other "improper" occasions, as well as to "maliciously" modify its wording or present it in a "distorted or disrespectful" way, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Settings at which the anthem can be played include political gatherings, award ceremonies, flag-raising ceremonies, important diplomatic occasions and major sport events, Xinhua said.

The draft was given a second hearing yesterday by the standing committee of the National People's Congress, China's legislature. Passage in a third hearing is required for it to become law.

"The legislation governing the use of the national anthem is feasible, necessary and of great significance to foster and practice socialist core values and to promote the patriotism-centered spirit of the nation," Xinhua quoted Zhang Haiyang, deputy head of the legislature's Law Committee, as saying.



AP PHOTO

Xi, China's strongest leader in decades, has appealed to resurgent nationalism among the public by pursuing a strong military, the vigorous expansion of the world's second largest economy and a muscular foreign policy that frequently seeks to confront the U.S. and other

major powers. China recently established its first overseas military base in the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti and Chinese companies have been scooping up overseas assets such as New York's famed Waldorf Astoria hotel.

Xi, who has also led the ruling

Communist Party since 2012, has established a growing cult of personality that leans heavily on his image as a patriotic leader who brooks no slight to national dignity.

China's entirely state-controlled media relentlessly promote a view of China as morally su-

perior to the West, and popular culture has been increasingly leveraged to stir patriotism among the younger generation for whom communism as a system has little meaning. The film Wolf Warrior II offering a bare-knuckled take on Chinese nationalism became the country's all-time box office champion this summer, taking advantage of a two-month blackout period during which foreign films cannot be shown in Chinese cinemas.

Xi, China's strongest leader in decades, has appealed to resurgent nationalism by pursuing a strong military, [economic] expansion, a muscular foreign policy

China's national anthem, titled "March of the Volunteers," was originally featured in a patriotic play that ran during the nearly 15-year struggle against Japan that lasted through the end of World War II. Lyrics include "Arise, ye who refuse to be slaves, with our flesh and blood let us build our new Great Wall." AP

HIGH HIMALAYAS

China, India to pull back troops from border confrontation

Nirmala George, New Delhi

INDIA and China have agreed to pull back their troops from a face-off in the high Himalayas where China, India and Bhutan meet, signaling a thaw in the months-long standoff, India's government said yesterday.

India's Ministry of External Affairs said India and China had diplomatic exchanges in recent weeks over the situation on Doklam plateau in the eastern Himalayas and both had agreed to "go back to the status quo" before the standoff.

Both India and China said their troops would continue to patrol in the Doklam area as they did before the face-off.

The breakthrough comes just days before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to travel to China for a meeting of BRICS leaders next month. The BRICS grouping comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters that Chinese forces in the area had verified the Indian pullout and that China will "continue to exercise its sovereignty and uphold its territorial integrity in accordance with the historical conventions."

Hua said Chinese border troops were continuing to patrol in the area, but made no mention of their road-building activities

that had prompted India to send its forces across the border nearly three months ago.

An official of the Indian ministry said his country also planned to verify "in due course of time that Chinese troops have also moved back."

"Both sides have acted maturely and have agreed to go back to the status quo," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

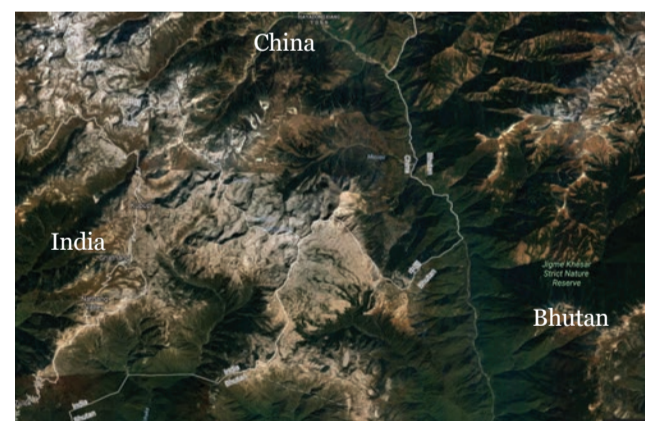
The confrontation, which began in June when Indian troops moved in to stop China from constructing a road in the Doklam region in Bhutan, was the worst in decades. India had insisted that the im-

passe would be resolved through diplomatic talks, while China demanded that India withdraw its troops from Doklam before any talks could take place.

Doklam is also claimed by the tiny kingdom of Bhutan, but Beijing says it belongs to China based on an 1890 Chinese-British treaty.

The area, also popularly referred to by Indians as the "chicken neck," is a narrow corridor that links mainland India with its remote northeastern states.

New Delhi's concerns about the Chinese presence in Doklam stemmed from fears that if China was able to block the corridor, it would isolate India's northeast from the



A satellite image of high Himalayas where China, India and Bhutan meet

rest of the country.

Relations between the two Asian giants have often been strained, partly due to an undemarcated border.

China claims some 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India's northeast and cites the region's cultural affinity with Tibet as evidence that the area is part of what it calls "southern" Tibet. India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai

Chin plateau in the western Himalayas.

Differences also remain over the presence of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled China in 1959 during a failed uprising against Chinese rule. The Dalai Lama and the self-proclaimed Tibetan government-in-exile have since been based in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala.

China and India fought a brief war in 1962, leading to fears that the recent row could spiral out of control. AP

INDONESIA

Woman sentenced to seven years for terrorism plot

A would-be suicide bomber was sentenced to seven and a half years prison for plotting to bomb a guard-changing ceremony at Indonesia's presidential palace in Jakarta, her lawyer said Monday.

The lawyer, Kamsi, who uses a single name, said that her client Dian Yulia Novi, 28, will give birth within days and doesn't plan to appeal.

Novi was arrested in December after police detected the plot to bomb the ceremony, a popular family attraction in the capital, Jakarta.

She was among four suspected militants that included her husband, Solihin, arrested one day before the planned attack.

A three-judge panel sentenced Novi on Friday immediately after hearing the last presentation from her lawyers, shortening the usual process



Dian Yulia Novi (center)

due to the woman being in the final days of her pregnancy.

"She planned to run close to the presidential guards during the ceremony and blow herself up with a pressure cooker bomb," said the presiding judge, Syafrudin Ainor Rafiek, at the East Jakarta District Court. "The defendant has been proven

guilty of violating the anti-terrorism law."

Prosecutors had sought a 10-year prison term for Novi, a former migrant worker in Singapore and Taiwan.

Kamsi said that Novi wasn't aware of her pregnancy until several weeks after being arrested.

In a separate trial at the same court, the judges sen-

tenced a second woman, Tutin, to three and a half years in prison for hiding information about the plot from authorities.

Police say Tutin helped to radicalize Novi, encouraged her to become a suicide bomber and introduced Novi to Solihin.

Prosecutors have requested 15 years in prison for Solihin, the alleged leader of a small extremist cell in Central Java's Solo city, and eight years for a fourth suspected militant, Agus Supriadi. Their verdicts are expected in mid-September.

Solihin previously told Indonesian TV that he married Novi as his second wife to facilitate her desire to become a suicide bomber.

Novi said in a television interview after her arrest that she learned about jihad on social media and was influenced by articles written by Aman Abdurrahman, a radical cleric who police last week declared was the key suspect behind a suicide bombing and gun attack that killed eight people in Jakarta last year.

She admitted during her trial that she took orders from Bahrn Naim, an Indonesian with the Islamic State group in Syria accused of orchestrating several attacks in Indonesia. AP

VIETNAM

Dozens of bankers tried for graft

SOME 50 bankers were on trial yesterday in Vietnam's capital of Hanoi for alleged graft and mismanagement causing USD69 million in losses.

The case is part of communist authorities' efforts to tackle corruption.

Among those accused were Ocean Bank's former chairman Ha Van Tham and general manager Nguyen Xuan Son, who were accused of embezzling \$2.2 million and abuse of power in appropriating another \$8.8 million. They were also accused of economic mismanagement.

Being convicted of embezzlement carries the possibility of a death sentence.

At the time the bank was 20 percent owned by state oil-and-gas giant PetroVietnam, where Son had previously served as chairman.

Another 44 senior Ocean Bank executives were accused of abuse of power or economic mismanagement. Five executives from different companies were also named in the case.

The case was first brought to trial in February, but judges asked police to investigate further and prosecutors pressed for embezzlement charges to be added against the bank's two former leaders.

The trial is expected to last more than three weeks. MDT/AP

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

A small but growing army of often elderly men and women regularly swing South Korean banners and scream outrage at the jailing of a woman they consider their spiritual mother: disgraced former President Park Geun-hye.

They lash out against politicians, judges and a government they never wanted, against media they accuse of lying to keep leftists, traitors and opportunists in power. The nation's only way forward, they say, is the release and redemption of Park, the daughter of a slain anti-communist dictator and conservative icon.

"What was it that she did so wrong? Why is there so much hate against her?" a tearful Jang Hyeong-ryeol, 48, said outside the courthouse where Park appeared Friday. "This country is not normal. It has lost all objectivity. It's dying."

Park was stripped of her presidential powers and jailed in March in South Korea's biggest corruption scandal in decades. She could receive a lengthy prison term in a trial expected to reach a verdict in mid-October.

Pro-Park demonstrations remain tiny relative to earlier protests that demanded her removal from office and brought millions into the streets. Her supporters refuse to accept the possibility that Park may not be the selfless daughter of South Korea she has always portrayed herself to be.

The fury is the latest reminder of how deeply South Koreans are split along ideological and generational lines, the result of a long-simmering standoff with rival North Korea and the lingering fallout from the conservative military dictatorships that ran the country until the late 1980s.

Thousands of Park's supporters marched in the capital, Seoul, on Saturday in their biggest gathering in months, waving South Korean and U.S. flags. They shouted for Park's release and urged a "dying" South Korea to "wake up."

The latest rally was a reaction to a court ruling Friday that sentenced Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong, the country's most powerful businessman, to five years in prison for crimes including offering bribes to Park. The protesters fear the ruling will work against Park in her own criminal trial.

"South Korea's judicial system has committed suicide," Jung Mi-hong, a former television anchorwoman and one of the rally's organizers, shouted into a microphone as she stood atop a van. "We need to take a stand against the North Korea-sympathizing leftists who threw a person in jail when she didn't even take a penny in bribes, and show them once and for all who's in control."

AP PHOTO



A photo of former South Korean President Park Geun-hye is seen with letters reading "Innocence, Release" on a supporter's head band during a rally to call for her release in Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

Jailed leader Park draws small but growing protests

Despite a heavy police presence, some protesters fought with pedestrians, but there were no reports of injuries. About 8,000 people protested, according to a police officer at the scene who didn't want to be named because he wasn't authorized to speak to reporters.

Three people died amid violent clashes between Park's supporters and police on March 10 after Seoul's Constitutional Court formally removed her from office.

The angst is more than just political.

South Korea has a decaying employment market, a widening gap between rich and poor and arguably the worst elderly poverty rate among developed economies. Some experts see the pro-Park demonstrations as driven by struggling older people who feel marginalized and cling to memories of the 1970s and '80s, when jobs were easier to get under the aggressive industrialization policies of authoritarian leaders including Park's father.

The younger Park, 65, enjoyed a meteoric career as a politician before being elected the country's first female president in 2012. She convincingly beat her liberal rival, current President Moon Jae-in. Her base was conservative older voters

who consider her father, Park Chung-hee, a hero who lifted the nation from the devastation of the 1950-53 Korean War and rescued millions from poverty in the '60s and '70s, despite a brutal record of civilian oppression.

What was it that she did so wrong? Why is there so much hate against her?

PARK SUPPORTER

Park Geun-hye's image of selflessness for her country collapsed for many amid allegations that she colluded with a longtime confidante to take tens of millions of dollars from companies in bribes and through extortion, and allowed the friend to manipulate state affairs from the shadows.

But to her remaining supporters, Park remains the wronged "mother of the nation."

Kim Jeong-hi, 71, said Park couldn't have taken bribes because she was "raised and edu-

cated by Park Chung-hee."

Park's supporters feel North Korea adds urgency to their cause.

Many of them call Moon, who took office in May after winning a presidential by-election to replace Park, a "North Korea-sympathizing leftist" who's persecuting Park because of a political vendetta. Their rallies often rail against North Korea's expanding nuclear weapons program, the policies of liberal governments in Seoul that sought rapprochement with Pyongyang in the 2000s, and Moon's desire to reach out to the North despite a flurry of missile tests.

"We need to drive out the leftist dictatorship or this country will be ruined," Chung Kyung-ae, 62, said during the march Saturday. She was repeatedly interrupted by a man who yelled, "Kill the reds."

There's also frustration over the economy.

"What did the leftists ever do for this country?" 58-year-old Son Tae-ho said. "They did nothing. They just brought a spoon to the table. Now they have the power and are trying to find and persecute every single right-wing person like me."

Son said he doesn't have a regular job and earns a modest living off the stock market. He

used to run a record store and video rental shop before the "internet killed them" in the early 2000s.

Son looks most fondly on the era of Chun Doo-hwan, the military dictator who took power in a coup shortly after Park Chung-hee's assassination in 1979. Chun's government bowed to massive protests and accepted free presidential elections in 1987.

"For me, the Chun Doo-hwan period was the best. Back then, anyone could get good jobs if they just put in a little work," Son said.

Dozens, sometimes hundreds, of Park's supporters have been appearing in front of the Seoul Central District Court on the days of her court appearances. Many supporters who managed to win seats in the courtroom were kicked out for chanting, for giving Park military salutes or for insulting courtroom guards and reporters.

The intensity of the protests is expected to pick up in coming weeks as Park's verdict nears.

As Park's bus left the court for her latest appearance Friday, hundreds of supporters fanatically waved South Korean and U.S. flags and chanted "President Park Geun-hye" and "We love you Park Geun-hye."

Some of them wailed. **AP**



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Michael Graczyk, Houston

OFFICIALS released more water Monday from Houston-area reservoirs overwhelmed by Harvey in a move aimed at protecting the city's downtown from devastating floods, but the release risked flooding thousands more homes, and the nation's fourth-largest city expected to get still more rain.

Meanwhile, water rescues continued, with authorities plucking 2,000 people from flooding in the city. At least 185 critical rescue requests were pending on Monday morning. The goal is to rescue those people by the end of the day, Police Chief Art Acevedo said.

With rain falling unabated, Acevedo said there was nowhere left for the water to drain.

"I'm not sure where the water is going because it's just so much that we can't really absorb more in the ground at this point," he told MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

Harvey, which made landfall Friday as a Category 4 hurricane and then lingered just off the coast as a drenching tropical storm, sent devastating floods pouring into Houston on Sunday. The rising water forced a mass evacuation of parts of the city and overwhelmed rescuers who could not keep up with constant calls for help.

As many as 50 counties are affected by the flooding, Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Brock Long said Monday. The rain and floods have been blamed for at least two deaths.

Emergency vehicles made up most of the traffic Monday in downtown Houston. The normally bustling business district was virtually deserted. Many traffic signals did not work and most businesses were closed.

Residents living near the Addicks and Barker reservoirs — which were created to prevent flooding in downtown Houston — were warned Sunday that a controlled release would cause additional street flooding that could spill into homes. The rising water and continuing rain put pressure on the dams, which could fail if the pressure is not relieved.

Harris and Fort Bend county officials advised residents to pack their cars Sunday night and leave in the morning.

"When the sun comes up, get out," said Jeff Lindner, a meteorologist for the Harris County Flood Control District. "And you don't have to go far, you just need to get out of this area."

The Red Cross quickly set up Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center and other venues as shelters. The convention center was also used as a shelter for Katrina refugees in 2005. By Monday morning, it had already reached half its capacity.

More than 2,600 people had taken shelter there, said Ken Sandy, a shelter manager for the American Red Cross.

Red Cross officials estimated that the convention center can accommodate roughly 5,000 people, al-

AP PHOTO



Water released from Houston reservoirs to protect downtown

though Sandy cautioned that the shelter had run out of cots and was waiting for more to arrive.

The Army Corps of Engineers started the reservoir releases before 2 a.m. Monday — ahead of schedule — because water levels were increasing at a rate of more than 15 centimeters per hour, Corps spokesman Jay Townsend said.

Officials in suburban Fort Bend County issued mandatory evacuation orders late Sunday along the Brazos River levee districts as the river rose to major flood stage. The National Weather Service predicted that the water could rise to 18 meters, 90 centimeters above 2016 records and what County Judge Robert Herbert called an "800-year flood level."

That much water would top the levees and carries a threat of levee failure, Herbert said.

On Sunday, incessant rain covered much of Houston in turbid, gray-green water and turned streets into rivers navigable only by boat. In a rescue effort that recalled the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, helicopters landed near flooded freeways, airboats buzzed across submerged neighborhoods and high-water vehicles plowed through water-logged intersections. Some people managed with kayaks or canoes or swam.

Volunteers joined emergency teams in pulling people from their homes or from the water. Authorities urged people to get on top of their houses to avoid becoming trapped in attics and to wave sheets or towels to draw attention to their location.

Long predicted that the afterma-

th of the storm would require FEMA's involvement for years.

"This disaster's going to be a landmark event," he said Sunday.

The weather service warned that the flooding will get worse in the days ahead and that the floodwaters will be slow to recede once Harvey finally moves on.

Up to 51 centimeters of rain could fall in the coming days, on top of the more than 76 centimeters some places have already seen, weather service Director Louis Uccellini said Monday.

Rescuers were giving priority to life-and-death situations, leaving many affected families to fend for themselves. And several hospitals in the Houston area were evacuated due to the rising waters.

Some people used inflatable beach toys, rubber rafts and even air mattresses to get through the wa-

ter to safety. Others waded while carrying trash bags stuffed with their belongings and small animals in picnic coolers.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner urged drivers to stay off the roads.

The deteriorating situation was bound to provoke questions about the conflicting advice given by the governor and Houston leaders before the hurricane. Gov. Greg Abbott urged people to flee from Harvey's path, but the Houston mayor issued no evacuation orders and told everyone to stay home.

The governor refused to point fingers on Sunday.

"Now is not the time to second-guess the decisions that were made," Abbott, a Republican, said at a news conference in Austin. "What's important is that everybody work together to ensure that we are going to, first, save lives and,

second, help people across the state rebuild."

The mayor, a Democrat, defended his decision, citing the risk of sending the city's 2.3 million inhabitants onto the highways at the same time.

"If you think the situation right now is bad, and you give an order to evacuate, you are creating a nightmare," Turner said.

The Coast Guard deployed five helicopters and asked for additional aircraft from New Orleans.

The White House said President Donald Trump would visit Texas on Tuesday, accompanied by first lady Melania Trump.

Harvey was the fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in 13 years and the strongest to strike Texas since 1961's Hurricane Carla, the most powerful Texas hurricane on record. **AP**

AP PHOTO



what's ON



DREAM WITH LOVE - PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 31, 2017

VENUE: Taipa Houses Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Taipa Village Cultural Association

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6116

BALLADE - CONTEMPORARY ART ANIMAMIX

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

UNTIL: October 15, 2017

VENUE: Macao Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

FLOAT INTO THE FLOW - THE EXHIBITION OF SOU CHON KIT

TIME: 1pm-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 17, 2017

VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community

Development Association, Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: September 17, 2017

VENUE: Macao Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

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

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

DEBRIS - WORKS BY ALEXANDRE FARTO AKA VHILS

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

UNTIL: November 5, 2017

VENUE: Navy Yard No. 1

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Offbeat

VISIONS. PENNSYLVANIA COUPLE SEES IMAGE OF JESUS IN BABY'S SONOGRAM

A Pennsylvania couple says Jesus showed up in their daughter's sonogram picture, easing their concerns after two other children were born with birth defects.

Alicia Zeek and Zach Smith tell WPMT-TV (bit.ly/2wqRJxx) they're not especially religious. But they're convinced the image to the left of their daughter's head is a bearded Christ.

Smith calls the image of Jesus "distinct" and says, "There's another face looking at my daughter."

Zeek's first two children had problems at birth. A daughter was born with two thumbs on one hand. Her son was born with a cleft palate after a difficult delivery in which she and the baby almost died.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	NOS League: Rio Ave - Benfica (Repeated)
18:50	The Brazillians (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:30	Grimm Sr.1
22:10	The Brazillians
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

24 Aug - 30 Aug



A DOG'S PURPOSE

ROOM 1

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Lasse Hallstrom

Starring: Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Brit Robertson

Language: English

Duration: 131min

THE ADVENTURERS

ROOM 1

4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Stephen Fung

Starring: Andy Lau, Shu Qi, Zhang Jingchu

Language: English

Duration: 131min



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 BATTLESHIP ISLAND

ROOM 2

7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Ryoo Seung-Wan

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

Language: Korean & Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 132min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE 2017

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30pm

Director: Atsushi Takahashi

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 101min

THE EMOJI MOVIE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Tony Leondis

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 86min

this day in history



2005 HURRICANE KATRINA HITS NEW ORLEANS

Hurricane Katrina is pummeling New Orleans with howling gusts and blinding rain, after sweeping ashore over the southern Louisiana coast.

The storm has knocked out power and submerged part of the low-lying city in up to 6ft (2m) of rising water.

Katrina has torn part of the roof of a stadium, where many sought refuge.

Mississippi and Alabama are also being pounded by the violent storm, which weakened as it swept inland, but brought winds of 105mph (170km/h).

The category-two storm flung boats onto Mississippi, flooded roads in Alabama and swamped bridges in Florida.

The National Hurricane Center warned the Louisiana city would be pounded throughout Monday - and the potential storm surge could still swamp the city, which sits some 6ft (2m) below sea level.

"It's capable of causing catastrophic damage," director Max Mayfield warned.

"New Orleans may never be the same."

Correspondents in the city say walls of water have been running down the skyscrapers like waterfalls.

Palm trees have been felled, shops wrecked and cars hurled across streets strewn with shattered glass.

A police officer told the BBC he had never seen anything like it. "This is unbelievable," Jonathon Carol said.

Mayor Ray Nagin has said he believed 80% of the city's 485,000 residents have heeded his order for a mandatory evacuation of the city.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Hurricane Katrina caused unprecedented damage in states on the Gulf of Mexico. Up to 80% of New Orleans was flooded after defensive barriers were overwhelmed.

Engineers fought to seal three big breaches in the city's system of canals and levees with tons of gravel dumped in place by truck and helicopter. Pumping-out began eight days after Katrina struck.

Conditions for the tens of thousands of people who had sought shelter in New Orleans' superdome quickly deteriorated. Water and food supplies ran short and sanitary facilities broke down.

As scenes of desperation continued two days after the hurricane, a public health emergency declared and people were finally airlifted or bussed out to safety.

Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Michael Brown resigned after claims of a slow response to the situation.

The economic impact of Katrina became clear in places like Biloxi, Mississippi, where the boat-based casino industry was all but destroyed. Elsewhere, damage to refining facilities led to a hike in oil prices.

The death toll did not reach the levels feared by some, but many lives - and livelihoods - were devastated.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Getting others to cooperate with you will be a piece of cake -- even though you'll secretly feel you have better things to do.

Taurus April 20-May 20

The depth and breadth of your emotions for a certain someone will become quite evident over the next few weeks.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21

You're going to be on the receiving end of some wonderful attention, and you're going to be giving some out.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Don't be surprised if you start feeling unusually introverted today. This astral energy is way more intense lately.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22

More than a couple of things are on your shopping list, and you're not willing to wait until tomorrow -- and definitely not until next week -- to have them, sale or no sale.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Today you might want to slide on over to the slow lane. Tons of interesting stuff is going on now, and if you don't ease up on the gas pedal and brace yourself, you may miss out.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22

After yesterday's dilemma, and last night's sweetness, you're not quite sure what you're feeling. But it is wonderful to be feeling something, isn't it? Still, you're wearing your rose-colored glasses again.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You've been associating with this person for weeks now, and you really feel at home with them. The good news is this person feels the same about you.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's one of those days -- one of those romantic days when anything and everything will remind you of the one you love.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You thought you'd be dashing around for days, trying to ditch that electric bolt of energy that hit you yesterday.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

After the stress and tension of the past couple of days, you'll be happy to know you're due for a nice, relaxing day -- as long as you find someone delicious to hide out with.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20

More love, romance, and passion are on today's agenda than you can handle. The stars are setting you up on several wonderful blind dates over the next three weeks or so.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty.

WEATHER

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table of weather conditions for various world cities including Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ___ all-time high; 5- Sign of things to come; 9- Mornings, for short; 12- Mower brand; 13- Skin openings; 15- Read a bar code; 16- Put a lid ___; 17- Medicine; 18- Sicilian spewer; 19- North Star; 21- Enduring; 23- Thin woodwind instrument; 24- Explosive letters; 25- Woody tissue; 28- Undergo autolysis; 33- City on the Rhone; 34- Commedia dell' ___; 35- Snake-like fishes; 36- Kung ___ chicken; 37- Take an oath; 38- Call for help; 39- Let ___; 41- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 42- Florence's ___ Vecchio; 44- Pericarp; 46- Bugs; 47- Proverb ending?; 48- Mayberry lad; 49- Dampen; 53- Dog-houses; 57- Suffix with buck; 58- Beat it; 60- JFK postings; 61- Stitched together; 62- Country singer Tucker; 63- Squealed; 64- Civil War initials; 65- Org.; 66- Blind piece;

DOWN: 1- At the summit; 2- ___ avail; 3- Seed cover; 4- Zero; 5- Choice; 6- Bullwinkle, e.g.; 7- West ender?; 8- Singer Young; 9- Play opener; 10- Jazz flutist Herbie; 11- Hitch or glitch; 14- Disperse; 15- Colonize; 20- Baseball stats; 22- ___-Cat (winter vehicle); 25- ___ lazuli; 26- Fit to be tied; 27- Sphere; 28- Narrow mountain ridge; 29- Mormon state of western USA; 30- Type of question; 31- Monetary unit of Poland; 32- Curved letters; 34- Flabbergasts; 37- Least fresh; 40- Prolific inventor; 42- Nabokov novel; 43- Unity; 45- Siamese, calico, or tabby; 46- Tarzan, e.g.; 48- Green-lights; 49- Not fem.; 50- Mine finds; 51- Caucus state; 52- Final Four org.; 54- Footnote abbr.; 55- Actress Turner; 56- Army N.C.O.; 59- "ER" extras;

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details and contact information.

The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



Active Info Display



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5 star NCAP



LED Headlight



3D LED Taillight

The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.



Volkswagen

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

2) In the event of any dispute, Volkswagen Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

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FOOTBALL

World Cup qualifying: State of play in Asia, Oceania

IRAN and Brazil, along with host Russia, are the only teams so far assured of a place at the 2018 World Cup. Three more Asian teams will secure their place in the tournament draw in December over the next week as qualifying resumes.

With Iran already securing qualification from Group A, South Korea and Uzbekistan are vying for the second automatic qualifying spot. In Group B, there is a three-way tussle between Japan, Saudi Arabia and Asian Cup champion Australia to finish in the top two.

The two third-place teams from each group will contest a playoff in October to determine who goes into an intercontinental qualifier against the fourth-place team in qualifying from CONCACAF, the North and Central America and the Caribbean confederation.

GROUP A

After all the upheaval from two recent losses that cost Uli Stielike his job as coach, South Korea has a one-point cushion over third-place Uzbekistan and can secure a place in Russia with victory at home against unbeaten Iran on Thursday — if Uzbekistan loses in China. Any other combination of results will leave the second spot up for grabs when the South Koreans travel to Tashkent five days later for its final group game.

South Korea has qualified for the last eight World Cups, and former South Korea midfielder Shin Tae-yong has taken over as coach with the sole aim of extending that streak to nine.

Fourth-place Syria, which is four points behind South Ko-



Saudi Arabia players celebrate after winning the World Cup 2018 qualifying soccer match against Iraq

rea and still has a chance to qualify automatically, will play Qatar on neutral territory in Malaysia on Thursday. China and 2022 World Cup host Qatar each need two wins from the last two matches to stay in the mix.

GROUP B

Second-place Saudi Arabia kicks off match day nine at the fourth-place United Arab Emirates in a strong position to return to the World Cup for the

first time since 2006.

Japan leads the group with 17 points, a one-point buffer over Australia and Saudi Arabia — countries it will meet in its last two games in Saitama and Jeddah, five days apart — and seven points clear of the UAE.

The Japanese could secure qualification for a sixth consecutive World Cup with a win over Australia, but two losses or two draws over the six-day span could see them slip to third.

Unbeaten Australia will be without injured captain Mile Jedinak. Tim Cahill, a veteran of three World Cups and 100 games for Australia, is hoping his team can finally produce its first win in Japan since 1969.

“I’m very focused on being prepared and making sure we are ready for such a big occasion,” Cahill said.

Thailand hosts Iraq on Thursday in a game between two teams which have no chance of making it to Russia.

OCEANIA

Soccer’s smallest region — Oceania — doesn’t have a guaranteed spot at the World Cup. Instead, the final two qualification matches in the confederation determine who will contest a playoff against a South American team for a place in Russia.

New Zealand and the Solomon Islands meet in a home-and-away playoff on Friday and on Sept. 5. The winner could face a daunting opponent in the inter-continental playoff against the fifth place team from South America, with two-time World Cup winner Argentina currently occupying that spot.

“The time pressures of this week are huge and unique,” New Zealand coach Anthony Hudson said. “We only have our full squad together for two and a half days before kick-off on Friday night so every minute with the team counts. This isn’t an excuse, it’s the opposite — it’s a great opportunity for us.”

The New Zealanders qualified by topping Group A of the continental tournament, with a win and a draw against New Caledonia and two wins over Fiji.

New Zealand lost an inter-continental playoff against Mexico in 2014, missing out on a spot in the World Cup in Brazil after going through the group stage in the 2010 tournament unbeaten.

New Zealand has injury problems as it prepares to host the first leg against the Solomon Islands. Captain Winston Reid, defender Tommy Smith, midfielder Marco Rojas and striker Shane Smeltz are all sidelined.

Smeltz, one of the stars of New Zealand’s World Cup campaign in 2010, has been replaced by Wellington Phoenix forward Alex Rufer, the son of former All Whites midfielder Shane Rufer.

All but two players on the Solomons squad were picked from the domestic competition. The Solomon Islands needed to beat Tahiti and Papua New Guinea to advance.

All 32 World Cup slots will be settled by November, ahead of the tournament draw the following month in Moscow. **MDT/AP**

WEIGHTLIFTING

Sports court confirms Chinese doping at Beijing Olympics

TWO Chinese female weightlifters have lost their appeals against being stripped of their 2008 Beijing Olympic gold medals for doping.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said yesterday that the IOC was right to disqualify Cao Lei from the 75-kilogram class and Liu Chunhong in the 69-kilo event at their home Summer Games.

Both tested positive for GHRP-2, which stimulates production of growth hormone, in reanalysis last year of their samples taken in Beijing. Liu also tested positive for sibutramine, a banned stimulant.

Because the cases were similar, the IOC disciplinary commission urged the International Weightlifting Federation to investigate Chinese team

coaches and officials.

Weightlifting risks being dropped from the 2024 Olympics due to longstanding doping problems, and the International Olympic Committee has requested a “satisfactory report” from the governing body by December.

In retesting of samples from the 2008 Beijing Olympics and 2012 London Olympics, about 50

doping cases have been found and more than 25 medals were stripped. Most involved steroids used by athletes from the former Soviet Union republics.

The cases of Cao and Liu involved a growth hormone releasing peptide which could not be detected with the testing technology available in 2008.

The lawyer for both athletes



Liu Chunhong of China displays her gold medal during the 2008 games

argued to CAS that the cases should be dropped because GHRP-2 was not specifically named in the prohibited list of substances published by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

The court’s single judge accepted the IOC case that

a section of the list relating to “hormones and related substances” applied in these cases.

Even without three gold medals stripped from Chinese lifters, the home team still won five of the 15 titles in Beijing. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Daniel Beitler



MOB JUSTICE

"The face of fear has neither eyes nor ears. It is blind and deaf to all but its own terrors." (Victor Kelleher)

What to make of the astonishing online outrage to a seemingly innocuous internal message at Galaxy Macau over the weekend?

The message, sent by an employee of Galaxy Macau on Friday, requested volunteers between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday to "help clean up the Grand Resort Deck so it can be reopened to the public as soon as possible."

The public saw this as a substitute for the street cleaning operations of countless other companies and associations in the city. They jumped to the conclusion that the resort operator was putting its swimming pool first and the city second.

Under the banner of 'corporate social responsibility' - or public relations for those of us who can't tell the difference - netizens condemned the gaming operator for its mercenary cruelty, using adjectives such as "heartless" and "unscrupulous."

Some took great offence to this 'business as usual' message, regarding it as a callous response to the most devastating and lethal meteorological disaster to strike the city in recorded history.

But this act of internet vigilantism also had no regard for the facts. Nobody cared that the operator had conducted its own disaster relief operations days earlier. The mob had reached a verdict and they had found Galaxy guilty.

It took all of about 24 hours for Galaxy Macau's six-year-old social media page to be reduced to rubble.

The public's reaction caused a five-star rating system on Galaxy Macau's Facebook page to plummet from an average of 4.8 stars to 1.0, the lowest possible score on the social media platform. To achieve this, not only did about 8,000 reviews have to be removed by their authors in a matter of hours (leaving just 90 or so remaining!), but also some 27,000 negative reviews had to be posted at the same time.

Something is suspicious about the whole ordeal. The coordination involved here and the sense of unanimity suggests that this attack might not be as innocent as it seems.

And next on the mob's hit list appears to be Pacha Macau after an online rumor surfaced yesterday about an "offensive statement" concerning Typhoon Hato. Whether there is any truth to it is too early to tell, but a statement has already been issued denying that it represents the views of the company.

And what about Sands China? Will they be boycotted because of shift-scheduling allegations against some of their properties that may have resulted in some employees working too many hours?

People are understandably upset by the events that unfolded last week and in the absence of real political accountability, scapegoating is to be expected.

But the mood of Macau netizens, in their zealous reaction to anything they find offensive, is creating a highly repressive atmosphere where people are afraid to speak out lest they, or their company, become the victim of online harassment.

The mob rules with the heart and has no regard for facts. That's why 'mob justice' is not a type of justice; it is a distortion of it.

THE RACIAL CONTENT SWEEPS AWAY BUZZ 'GONE WITH THE WIND' SCREENING

A Tennessee theater has canceled a long-running screening of "Gone With the Wind" because of racially insensitive content in the classic 1939 film.

Officials at Memphis' Orpheum Theatre have announced that the film will not be shown during its summer movie series in 2018. Theater president Brett Batterson says in a statement that "the Orpheum cannot show a film that is insensitive to a large segment of its local population."

The film was shown at the Orpheum on Aug. 11. This is the 34th straight year it has screened at the theater.

"Gone With the Wind" tells the story of the daughter of a Georgia plantation owner during and after the Civil War.

Batterson tells the Memphis Commercial Appeal a "social media storm" played a role in the decision.

THAILAND

Police say Interpol has issued notice for Red Bull heir

Jerry Harmer, Bangkok

INTERPOL has issued an international request for the arrest of the billionaire heir to the Red Bull energy drink fortune, stepping up of the hunt for the fugitive Thai playboy wanted in a 2012 hit-and-run incident that left a traffic policeman dead in Bangkok.

Thai police spokesman Col. Krissana Pattanacharoen said yesterday that his department had been notified by the international police network of the "Red Notice," a worldwide request to find and provisionally arrest an individual, pending extradition.

Vorayuth Yoovidhya skipped Thailand at the end of April, just before authorities issued an arrest warrant after he repeatedly failed to meet with prosecutors since the September 2012 crash. He flew to Singapore on one of the family's private jets. His trail has since gone cold.

"We have been informed that Interpol has issued a Red Notice on the Red Bull heir, and we now have to wait to see what kind of responses we get from member countries," Krissana said. "We have been working on this case and pursuing it using all means, and this Red Notice is what we can do when we believe that it's possible that he is hiding



Vorayuth "Boss" Yoovidhya

in foreign countries."

The Red Notice goes out to all 190 Interpol member countries. Among other measures, it alerts border officials, in theory making international travel more likely to result in arrest. In May, the authorities in Bangkok cancelled Vorayuth's Thai passport.

Vorayuth, 32, is a grandson of the Thai co-founder of the Red Bull brand, the world's most popular energy drink.

It's believed he was at the wheel of a Ferrari that struck a policeman on motorbike patrol on a main road in central Bangkok and dragged him under its wheels. The car then sped off, leaving the officer to die at the scene. Police followed a trail of oil and brake fluid to the Yoovidhya's luxury family compound on a nearby side road.

His failure to keep appointments with prosecutors

means they have been unable to charge him. At the same time, Thailand's statute of limitations is removing what charges he can face. It has already removed one, and another - leaving the scene of an accident - will disappear on the fifth anniversary of the officer's death, this Sunday.

The last remaining charge - causing death by reckless driving - has another 10 years to run.

Since the crash, an AP investigation showed he was continuing to enjoy a luxury lifestyle, globe-trotting in private jets, snow-boarding in Japan, going clubbing in London and partying on the Formula 1 grand prix circuit including posing for photos with the Red Bull team's stable of drivers.

In April, AP reporters traced him to one of the family's luxury London homes, but he refused to answer question. Later that day he, his parents and a cousin hurriedly left the address with a train of baggage.

The handling of the case has led to bitter criticism of the police and prosecutors, and accusations that the wealthy, well-connected family has in effect been exempted from justice.

Police have insisted they are working to find him. AP

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

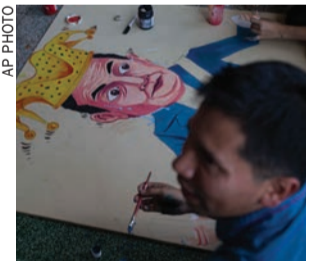
INDONESIA A would-be suicide bomber was sentenced to seven and a half years prison for plotting to bomb a guard-changing ceremony at Indonesia's presidential palace in Jakarta, her lawyer said yesterday. More on p12

YEMEN The Saudi-led coalition battling rebels in Yemen says an airstrike that killed at least 14 civilians, including eight members of a single family, was the result of a "technical mistake."



BRITAIN-EUROPEAN Union Brexit negotiator David Davis says Britain wants to determine a future trade relationship with the bloc in lockstep with obtaining an orderly separation from it. The EU, however, wants to have "sufficient progress" on a clear divorce first with Britain before looking at a future relationship.

SPAIN The pro-independence ruling coalition in Catalonia is submitting a bill to the regional parliament that aims to serve as a transitional constitution should a controversial vote to secede from Spain succeed.



GUATEMALA Two days after prosecutors announced they would seek to lift Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales' immunity, he ordered the expulsion of the head of a highly praised U.N. anti-corruption commission and plunged into a faceoff with the nation's top court and the international community.

COLOMBIA's largest rebel movement has initiated the launch of its political party, vowing to upend the country's traditional conservatism with the creation of an alternative leftist coalition.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Tim Ireland



Notting Hill. Costumed revellers perform in the Notting Hill Carnival in London, yesterday. The carnival has been held every year since 1966 and is one of the largest festival celebrations of its kind in Europe.