



PEARL HORIZON CENTERED
Kou Meng Pok, said that he would withdraw from the election if the gov't addressed the concerns of Pearl Horizon property buyers

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TRUMP DISCUSSES NORTH KOREA WITH XI
Donald Trump has discussed North Korea's strongest nuclear test yet with Chinese President Xi Jinping

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HURRICANE IRMA DEATH TOLL HITS 10

P15 SEVERE WEATHER

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ANIMAL RIGHTS

Horses die at MJC due to alleged negligence

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



MYANMAR Journalists saw new fires burning yesterday in a Myanmar village that had been abandoned by Rohingya Muslims, and pages ripped from Islamic texts that were left on the ground. That intensifies doubts about government claims that members of the persecuted minority have been destroying their own homes. The United Nations says some 146,000 people have fled Myanmar into Bangladesh since violence erupted there on August 25. More on p12

CHINA-S. KOREA South Korea has warned its citizens in China to avoid "friction" and "needless arguments" with Chinese people after the U.S. military added more launchers to a contentious missile defense system in South Korea that Beijing opposes. More on p10

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES The son and son-in-law of the Philippine president (pictured), who has been accused of condoning extrajudicial killings of thousands of drug suspects, yesterday appeared in a Senate inquiry looking into a huge shipment of illegal drugs from China that slipped through Manila's port. More on p12

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TYPHOON HATO

Owners of damaged vehicles get tax rebate

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AL ELECTION

Pearl Horizon buyers prioritize solving their issues

Julie Zhu

THE first candidate of list 24 to the Legislative Assembly election, Kou Meng Pok, said that he would withdraw from the election if the government can resolve the concerns of Pearl Horizon property buyers before September 17.

This was revealed yesterday during a press conference organized by the União dos Promittentes-Compradores do Pearl Horizon para Defesa do Direitos.

"If it can be solved before the 16th [of September], I will bail out from the election. I am not saying this just now, I have been saying it for a long time," said Kou who, when speaking to the Times, disclosed that the group is participating in the election because the Pearl Horizon issues are unresolved.

"We are participating in the election because, after two years of legal fights, the Pearl Horizon incident has not been solved. We are forced to walk this path," declared Kou. The group decided to run for the election back in April.

"[Pearl Horizon buyers] talked about running for the election, but I thought it was unnecessary because, after all, the election involves politics. But throughout the past, the



Kou Meng Pok (center)

information was uneven. Since the beginning, we don't know what has been happening regarding the Pearl Horizon case. We hope that our voices can be heard when we enter the AL in order to solve our issues by ourselves. We can even unite with the lawmaker who helped us to enhance the support we have received," said Kou.

Kou's campaign includes four other candidates – Hong Cheng Tun, Lee Ho Tak, Chan Wai Ngo and Xu Youse – who are also buyers of Pearl Horizon properties.

"We do not have the experience of a political team. We do whatever the law asks us to do," Kou noted.

When discussing his prospects for the AL, especially in terms of election results, Kou said "the more the better" regarding the number of seats the group hopes to obtain in the AL.

The slogan of the group is "Macau residents, please save the Pearl Horizon. Vote for us for our next generation."

"We hope that all sectors can

be benevolent and show some sympathy with respect to us entering the AL to solve the problem," said Kou.

Kou told the Times that the group will not give up the fight to convince the government to allow their properties to be built, even if the group fails to be elected.

"We will continue because this is our legal right. We come out not for the AL election, but for our legal rights. Our stance is clear," said Kou.

The main proposal of Kou's candidacy consists of solving

the Pearl Horizon issue. Kou added that, if elected, his team will focus on other matters.

"In the future, after the Pearl Horizon issue is solved, our team will spend efforts to improve the happiness of Macau residents. Happiness includes basic life necessities, commercial environment, governmental administrative efficiency, and a fair distribution of common resources. Our political platform is abundant and meaningful," said Kou.

We are participating in the election because, after two years of legal fights, the Pearl Horizon incident has not been resolved.

KOU MENG POK

"We will [...] try to make as big a contribution to society as possible, bigger than other people's," Kou continued.

"We are not saying that those lawmakers who helped us are wrong. We thank them for speaking on our behalf, for helping us. We want to improve our strengths. We also hope that they can help us in the next AL [and] do not have other intentions," Kou added.

ASSOCIATE Professor of Law at the University of Hong Kong, Benny Tai, has been accused of instigating chaos in Macau, according to a report by Hong Kong Commercial Daily.

Tai has written articles for Hong Kong newspapers, including Apple Daily, attempting to drive ThunderGo – a call for more than half of the lawmakers to not be pro-Beijing players – in Macau to create impact over the MSAR's ongoing Legislative Assembly (AL) election.

Occupy Central initiator accused of interfering in Macau



Benny Tai

Timothy Kwai, a member of the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies,

wrote one article on Macao Daily News condemning Tai's writings for inciting the public

to break the Basic Law. Tai's articles include pieces teaching Macau residents – namely

those seeking universal suffrage for both lawmakers and the Chief Executive – the proper voting strategy for the AL election. In his articles, he also calls on voters to spread the strategy among themselves.

"Tai [...] on one hand, can show to foreign strengths that he has the ability to instigate the Occupy Central to cause disarray in Hong

Kong, and he also has a plan to cause disarray in Macau," Kwai wrote in his opinion.

Tai has also expressed the view that the Macau government should be held accountable for the consequences of the Typhoon Hato disaster.

Kwai, however, said that the AL and the government cannot be completely blamed for the typhoon disaster.

"Tai's appeal to the Macau public will definitely end up failing. The Judiciary Police should take actions regarding illegal behavior," said Kwai.

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Renato Marques

TYPHOON HATO

Tax rebate for flooded vehicles to include backdate mechanism

FINANCIAL Services Bureau (DSF) director Iong Kong Leong has clarified that the proposed tax reduction on flooded or heavily damaged vehicles that are traded in for new vehicles will include a backdate mechanism. This will allow owners who purchase a replacement vehicle before the passage of the bill to claim the refund once the law is operative.

The tax reduction, which may also include a refund, is a relief measure proposed by the government to assist residents affected by Typhoon Hato.

The information was released on the sidelines of a press conference held yesterday morning at the Transport Bureau (DSAT). Government officials explained the details of the proposal, having been informed the previous day by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, that the tax refund would have to obtain approval from the Legislative Assembly before entering into force.

In light of that, and given that the AL is currently on break and in the middle of the election process for the upcoming legislature, the DSF chief clarified that the proposal would be backdated.

"We are going to request that this proposal [bill] would have a backdate effect



to all the cases that DSAT records as vehicles damaged as a consequence of the typhoon," he said. "The [affected] owners can buy a new vehicle now and will be refunded from the taxes after the law comes into force."

The DSF director clarified that the refund would apply only to vehicles of the same category and belonging to the same owner. "A car will be refunded only for another a car or a motorcycle for

another motorcycle."

Iong also explained that in addition to the previously established maximum ceilings of MOP140,000 for cars and MOP5,500 for motorcycles, there will be minimum ceilings of MOP8,000 for the cars and MOP2,000 for motorcycles. These will be the minimum amounts that the government will refund vehicle owners.

The calculation of the final amount will also take note of the number of years the damaged vehicle has been in operation. Each year of life will correspond to a depreciation rate of 10 percent per year after the first year of age until a limit of 10 years old. This period is considered the "vehicle lifespan."

During the same conference, DSAT director Lam Hin San said that the bureau does not have yet a clear idea of how many vehicles have been affected.

"We are still doing this calculation and we don't yet have a final figure," Lam said, explaining that the DSAT's request for owners to proceed with registration cancellation until September 18 has to do with the need to calculate the final number of affected vehicles, as well as

to clear the parking lots to allow the spaces to return to normality.

"We think it is a reasonable timing. Already [...] almost one month has passed and the water was already cleared from all the [affected] parking lots. We also need to calculate the final number [of vehicles affected]," Lam said.

Lam added that DSAT is sending staff to help cancel registrations free of charge. Towing services from streets or public parking lots will also be free.

For private parking lots, the DSAT head said that, upon request, the staff will also help cancel registrations free of charge, but owners must pay for their vehicles to be towed out of private properties.

Full refund for non-available alt-energy vehicles

ONE of the most highlighted measures proposed by government officials regarding the tax refund for vehicles damaged by the typhoon was the possibility of a total tax refund for damaged vehicles, which will be replaced with new vehicles that use alternative energies such as electric, solar power or natural gas (CNG).

The Times questioned government officials on this proposal, since options are scarce for cars using alternative forms of energy in the local and even international market.

Financial Services Bureau director Iong Kong Leong responded, "[For] electric, we have some. As for the others, maybe they don't yet exist or there are few [options], but I think if there is that demand, the car dealers will have [these] in the future."

According to the bureau, there are currently only eight models of electric vehicles (EVs) from five different manufacturers authorized for sale in the region.

After contacting three of the authorized brands, the Times learned that none of the EV models are currently in stock. They would require a special order that, in some cases, might take "one year or more for the delivery."

Regarding solar-powered and CNG-powered vehicles, there are currently no models approved for sale in the region. There are also no fuel stations for CNG vehicles other than one station which is privately owned by public transportation operator TCM, which uses natural gas as fuel in a small number of its buses.

MANY DAMAGED VEHICLES CANCELED REGISTRATION

A TOTAL of 1,010 vehicles canceled their registrations between the second day of Typhoon Hato and Wednesday this week, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced. The total number includes 548 cars and 462 motorbikes, with 90 percent of them representing vehicles damaged by the typhoon. Also, according to DSAT, 83 buses damaged during the typhoon are still waiting to be repaired. DSAT is assisting the bus companies in launching new buses into operation that were not planned for public transportation. Questioned on the final destination for ty-

phoon-damaged vehicles that will have their registrations cancelled, (DSAT) director Lam Hin San said that, for the time being, all the vehicles will be "towed and deposited at a vehicle depot located in Cotai." "There is plenty of space and we shouldn't have any trouble [accommodating] all of them." Lam said that they would then be in charge of the Financial Services Bureau, which will proceed with a public auction, noting, "the company that wins the auction then will decide if they move [the cars] abroad or any other option. They might follow different processes."

Ice cream and frozen desserts tested for bacteria

THE Consumer Council and Food Safety Centre have tested several ice cream and frozen dessert products for bacteria. The issue is pertinent in the aftermath of Typhoon Hato and the ensuing power

shortages.

The Consumer Council (CC) issued a statement yesterday recommending only moderate consumption of such products, given that "ice creams and frozen desserts are high-calorie and

high-sugar foods."

All 30 samples, including ice pops and ice cream, were tested for the presence of pathogenic bacteria. No signs of staphylococcus aureus, listeria monocytogenes or salmonella were found in

the samples.

According to the CC statement, the World Health Organization recommends sugar intake of less than 25g (approximately five sugar cubes) per day for an adult on a standard diet of 2,000

calories per day. The test results show that half of the samples contain about 20g to 28g of sugar per 100g.

The CC also notes that as "ice cream and frozen dessert are heat-sensitive, their quality will be affected and

bacteria will grow if temperature is not well-controlled during transfer or storage."

The CC has reminded consumers to pay attention to the packaging of frozen desserts and check if they have melted before consumption.

Chui Sai On tours Inner Harbor district

Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On yesterday visited one of the most badly affected areas of the city during the passage of Typhoon Hato, the Office of the CE said in a statement. Chui was accompanied by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, the director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSPOT), Li Canfeng, and the Executive Council spokesman, Leong Heng Teng. The CE visited several streets and observed the restoration process, while taking the opportunity to talk to several residents and shop owners about their lives and businesses in the aftermath of the typhoon. The CE promised residents that an adequate solution for the flooding problems would be found to ensure the safety of residents. Other visits to different areas of the region are also expected to take place in the upcoming days to follow up on the recovery progress.

Faster bus line to ease morning transportation peak

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) has launched two express bus routes to better meet the transportation needs of residents living in the northern districts and Seac Pai Van. According to a statement by DSAT, the one-way route bus line 3AX will operate from Monday to Friday, and will run between the border gate plaza and Praça de Ferreira Amarel. The service will be carried out in the morning between 7 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. Circular bus line 25AX will operate between 6 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. from Monday to Friday between the border gate and Seac Pai Van.

Over 1,000 local companies in Hengqin

Until the end of August, more than 1,000 Macau enterprises were registered in Hengqin, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. This represents a fivefold increase compared to when the Hengqin free trade zone was first established. These companies are operating projects involving commercial services, leisure and tourism, cultural and recreational fields. The local government has already recommended 83 Macau projects to enter an industrial park jointly established by Macau and Guangdong. Of these, 20 have reached agreements and 18 have obtained real estate in the park.

Work at school level crucial to developing creative industries

Renato Marques

PROFESSOR Jorge Barreto Xavier said that the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) are fields that still have significant opportunities for exploration and development, especially in the education sector.

The professor of Public Policies for Culture and Management of Creative Industries from ISCTE-IUL in Lisbon was in Macau this week to present a seminar on "Creative Industries as a Tool for Development" and a photography exhibition.

"I think it would be important to have, at some level of the education system, some kind of program specifically addressing creativity. I'm talking about [in

levels such as] primary school, high school... a better stimulation of creativity for the students," Xavier said. Such programs would be "the framework to have [at university level] better students and more people interested in creative industries," according to him.

Xavier noted that there is a second important step of narrowing down creativity to one field.

"You can't do everything. You have to choose what you want – either it's design, or tourism [...] or even visual arts or cinema," he noted.

For the final he said, "you need to have artists and social society working together for that objective."

Regarding the ability of Macau to engage with and succeed on such a task, the scholar said: "Macau has important [economic] growth. But the secret is to find out how to profit from this opportunity for economic development to invest in the future in order not to be [reduced to] a monothematic economic area."

"[The idea is not to compete between industries]. It's an alliance for the future [in which] casinos can batch opportunities together [with CCI]."

Such alliances can occur in different creative fields such as multimedia, visual arts and performing arts. Xavier noted also the CCI are built and developed through "networks that work at a worldwide level."



Jorge Barreto Xavier

Association wants Guia Circuit to be UNESCO heritage



CONTINUING to commemorate its first anniversary, the Macau Guia Circuit for Promotion and Development Association (APDCGM) is displaying a range of art works showcasing several techniques presented at two local art exhibitions with the theme "Macau Guia Circuit to the World Heritage of UNESCO".

The association aims to promote the rise of Macau's racing street circuit as part of the territory's heritage listed by UNESCO, and will host two exhibitions featuring more than 20 local artists. The presented works exemplify a variety of artistic media, including photography, painting, video, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture and installation art. The exhibition aims to increase awareness of the need to preserve the uniqueness of

Guia's street circuit in accordance with strict international standards, for the benefit of Macau residents and tourists.

The first exhibition that opened its doors on August 26 at the Ritz Building Gallery in Senado Square will be on display until September 14, making way for a second and larger exhibition that will be held at the Mount Fortress Corridor Gallery. This second gallery is situated on the eastern slope of the famous historic site and is connected to the Tap Seac Square and St Lazarus Parish by the pedestrian path of the Historic Center of Macau.

The second exhibition will open on September 16 at 6:15 p.m. and will be open for viewing until September 26. At both exhibitions, visitors can observe works from well-known artists such as Konstantin Besmertny, João Saldanha, Cristina Vinhas, Paulo Reis, Adriano Ma, Elisa Vilaça and Alice Yan, alongside many other reputable talents and association members such as José Luis Estorninho, Gonçalo Lobo Pinheiro, Renato Marques, Roy Chan, MJ Lee, Fanny Lai, and Derek Hoo. Admission to both exhibitions is free of charge.

IPIM participated at the 53rd Maputo International Fair



The president of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi (left) is hosted by Irene Lau (right) at the Macau Pavilion

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) participated in the 53rd Maputo International Trade Fair (FACIM), which took place from August 28 to September 3.

During her stay in Mozambique, the Executive Director of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Irene Lau, visited local government agencies, business associations and chambers of commerce, to further promote the exchanges and cooperation between Mozambique and Macau in the fields of economy, trade and convention and exhibition.

IPIM set up a 36-metre "Macau Pavilion" at the venue, principally to display and promote the latest investment environment in Macau and the services provided by the said agency.

Irene Lau also visited the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Mozambique together with IPIM representatives. Chinese ambassador, Su Jian and Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Liu Xiaoguang expressed their concern and condolences and inquired about the disaster relief situation. During the meeting, both sides exchanged opinions on how to better assist mainland

China and Macau enterprises in accessing the Portuguese-speaking countries' market. Ambassador Su introduced the investment environment in Mozambique, and pointed out that there is development potential for Chinese-Portuguese bilingual talents to engage in Traditional Chinese Medicine, tourism and legal sectors, among others, and encouraged enterprises to invest and develop their connection with these markets in Mozambique.

According to IPIM, FACIM is one of the major annual economic and trade events in Mozambique and is also one of the largest international exhibitions in Southern Africa. The exhibitors are mainly from the transportation, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, energy, manufacturing, construction and banking sectors. FACIM is a trade event targeted for manufacturers, vendors, investors, importers, exporters and professional buyers. IPIM has been participating in FACIM since 2007.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Horses die at MJC due to alleged negligence

Daniel Beitler

A horse trainer at the Macau Jockey Club (MJC) has been fired from his job and fined HKD40,000 for negligence after two horses under his care died earlier this year.

The two horses, Lucky Rose and Oyster Romance, were bred in New Zealand and England, respectively. They had been scheduled for retirement and relocation into the "retirement stable," but had been temporarily left under the trainer's care.

Sources said that the horses looked "skinny" and "malnourished" by the time they were due to be transferred. The horses died shortly afterwards, one euthanized and the other unassisted.

The trainer, identified on the MJC website as K. M. Chin, was fired following an inquiry made by the company on August 6. According to a notice published on the Macau Jockey Club's website, evidence for the inquiry was provided by the



trainer in question and a veterinary surgeon at the facility.

Chin contests the cause of the horses' death, claiming that they had become distressed after not running for several months. He denies any malpractice and has submitted an appeal to MJC.

Albano Martins, the president of local animal rights group Anima (Macau), has written a letter to the government, addressed to Secretary for Economy and Finance

Lionel Leong, calling for the horse trainer in question to be permanently banned from the profession.

The letter, seen by the Times, called for the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau to "severely punish him [the trainer] – as the death of those animals was caused by horrible negligence – and to ban him as a trainer at the Macau Jockey Club."

"We also expect that such a cruel act and the punishment [...] can be disclosed by the Macau Government in order to help prevent similar situa-

tions."

Martins said that there are other cases of horses dying from ill treatment in the territory.

Martins criticizes contract extension

LAST month, the government announced that it was renewing MJC's horse racing concession for a six-month period to analyze a development plan submitted by the company for the site's future.

Secretary Lionel Leong informed the public of the government's decision just as the license for the company was due to expire. He said that the six-month period would be sufficient for the government to reach a conclusion.

MJC has posted annual losses since 2004 and has accumulated a deficit exceeding MOP4 billion.

Martins expressed his doubt yesterday that any improvements can be made to MJC during its



Albano Martins

latest renewal period.

"What can they do to improve [in the next six months] if they have been unable to improve for so many years? They don't want horse racing, they want the land," he said.

"That's the only reason I can see why they are [prepared] to have such losses... the land is worth more than MOP4 billion."

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• 私人公證員 Notary Public • 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer

BUDDY Lam, a well-known figure in the gaming industry, resigned in April from his position as vice president of public relations at Galaxy Entertainment Group, the Times has learned.

Lam tendered his resignation in April this year and the company's board accepted it at the end of July. He is currently serving the three-month notice period, according to contractual terms.

Questioned by the Times, Lam did not confirm or deny the information, stating, "I have no comments on the matter."

Recently, there have been rumors on social media alleging that Lam resigned over differences with management concerning Galaxy's public relations blunder last month over labor issues. A source, who preferred to remain anonymous, denied the rumors.

"Those allegations are totally false because he has resigned more than three months ago for personal and family reasons. Buddy has had 14 years in the gaming industry, in these very demanding and stressful positions; he just needs to take a break," the source said.

MDT also learned that Lam will not take any offers from

GAMING

Buddy Lam on the move

casino operators and that he is two years into a PhD degree in Business.

What a twist in life for a former high-school dropout. MyUM, the University of Macau's student newsletter, ran a piece on Lam last April. The piece opens as follows:

"Are the lives of successful people different than everybody else's? He dropped out of high school to be a hairdresser when he was fifteen. He only obtained a GPA of 1.76 during his early days in college. When the part-time job of most college students was still a tutor, he found a job as an interpreter for an erotic dance troupe. But then [...] he made people's jaws drop with a complete turnaround in his sophomore year when he achieved a high GPA of 3.7. He is Buddy Lam, a graduate of UM's Department of English..."

After graduating from UM, Lam did a two-year stint as a TV reporter and anchor at TDM, following the steps of his sister, activist and AL candidate, Agnes Lam.



Lam was in his early thirties when he entered the gaming business in 2003, which later turned out to be the beginning of a high-flying career. After working at the Ve-

netian for almost eight years, he joined Galaxy in 2010 and has worked there ever since. He started as a low-level employee and worked his way up to the position of vice presi-

dent of public relations. "Lam is a confident but humble gentleman. He said three times that he does not consider himself successful," wrote MyUM. **PC**

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The new laws and how they affect you - Part 2

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

Last week we looked at what was and was not revised in the new laws. The main areas revised concern;

- 1. The right to terminate an agreement
2. The recognition of signatures of the Tenant and Landlord
3. The establishment of an arbitration centre for lease agreement related disputes
4. Two revisions were not passed, both concerned with the concept of 'Rent Control' and the establishment of an index by which rent increases can be governed
5. This week we look at the revisions in greater detail

1. THREE YEAR TENANCY CONTRACTS What are they?

There has always been an awful lot of confusion regarding tenancy law and the minimum rental period.

Currently it is perceived incorrectly that the minimum term of a contract is two years.

According to the current regulations (Under 'Tenancy Law') there is no such thing as a minimum term, but there is a maximum term of no more than 30 years.

However, a landlord does not have the right to terminate an agreement unless it has run for a minimum of two years. The terminology here is 'unilateral' termination.

In other words, a one year agreement is legal, but if it is to terminate after that one year, both parties must agree. The terminology here is 'mutual' termina-

tion.

The tenant then has the legal right to remain in the premises for a further year either under a new agreement or under the same terms and conditions as the old one if a new agreement is not reached.

The landlord does not have the right to terminate the agreement within this time frame.

Simply put, the revision to the Civil Code means that the 2 year term will be revised to 3 years.

What's the purpose / intent of the new law?

The government is hoping to offer tenants a little more certainty and security than they have at present by assuring them of this minimum term.

What does this mean for you?

As a tenant, there will be the additional security of knowing that you are in your apartment for a minimum of three years rather than two.

As a landlord, you will now typically start with a three year lease agreement instead of the traditional two years or shorter.

What are the positives, negatives & other thoughts on the law

On the face of it, this would seem to be a victory for tenants and a potential inconvenience for landlords. It is certainly positive in offering tenants more security once they are in an apartment.

However, the negative consequences of this law may create the effect of raising

rental prices as Landlords now want to look further into the future to cover costs.

Thanks to a multitude of reasons there is a shortage of quality housing in Macau, and this measure may serve to deter Landlords from renting, not encourage them.

There are also some unanswered and yet very important questions that must be addressed.

Possibly the most important of these is that under the revised law the landlord is unable to terminate a lease agreement within 3 years. At the same time, the Landlord remains liable under Macau Law if they rent a premise to someone not legally entitled to remain in Macau.

With approximately 150,000 foreigners working here and work permits being renewed for as little as 12 months, the landlord is in the precarious position of breaking the law for terminating an agreement and for not terminating an agreement should the tenant lose their work permit status in Macau.

This is why it is so important for an agent to understand the law and legal repercussions. It is possible to protect a Landlord without detriment to the Tenant, but the setting up of this protection must be done at the outset. Landlords who insist on not paying agents or lawyers to represent them may pay a very high price in the new environment.

Next Week: Final article discussing the revisions in more detail

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Chinese tourists spur Thai mall's USD330 million expansion bet

Anuchit Nguyen

THE Platinum Group Pcl, whose wholesale fashion mall in Bangkok attracts about 15 million people yearly, expects booming Chinese tourism to support its retail shopping center due to open next year.

The firm is investing about 6 billion baht (USD180 million) in the project and is banking on the deep pockets of Chinese visitors to woo retailers, according to President Chanchai Phansopha. Platinum's shares have lagged behind peers this year amid concern the new mall may take time to succeed.

"We want to transform the company from an operator of a wholesale fashion mall into a commercial property developer," Chanchai said in an interview Tuesday. The Bangkok project is part of a wider, 11-billion-baht investment plan



that will also add hotel and office space over five years, he said.

Tourist arrivals in Thailand have surged in the past decade, powered by Chinese visitors who last year numbered almost 9 million and shelled out an above-average \$176 per head daily. While their spending power offers hope, the domestic outlook is darker - consumers are burdened by elevated household debt and economic expansion lags behind Southeast Asian neighbors.

The mall may take longer to

be successful than Platinum expects as it has a retail focus, unlike the popular wholesale center, Chaiyatorn Sricharoen, an analyst at Bualuang Securities Pcl, said in a note. Chaiyatorn rates the stock a sell with a 6.65 baht target price, about 15 percent below Thursday's close.

Platinum's Chanchai said he foresees double-digit percentage growth in 2017 sales and profit, adding the new mall - called The Market - will boost revenue at least 30 percent in 2019. **Bloomberg**

Amazon hunting for second US headquarters for 50,000 staff

Giles Turner

AMAZON.COM Inc. is searching for a site for a major corporate office in the U.S., a development expected to house as many as 50,000 people and to be equal in size to its current Seattle headquarters.

The cost of what Amazon is billing as its "second company headquarters in North America" is expected to top USD5 billion over the next 15 to 17 years, the company said.

Amazon is now asking local and state governments to pitch for its business, with the promise of boosting the local economy.

Any new development by Amazon would have a major impact on the surrounding community. The company is one of the biggest employers in Seattle, on course to have 10 million square feet (929,000 square meters) of office space, more than 15 percent of the city's inventory.

"We expect HQ2 to be a full equal to our Seattle headquarters," said founder and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos. "Amazon HQ2 will bring billions of dollars in up-front and ongoing investments, and tens of

thousands of high-paying jobs."

The e-commerce giant recently moved into a new 500-foot-tall office tower in Seattle, complete with 100-foot-tall orbs - Amazon calls them Biospheres - which will host more than 300 plant species from around the world when they open in 2018.

Cities and local governments will be clamoring to offer lucrative incentives in order to entice Amazon to pitch its new tent. In 2001 Boeing decided to move its headquarters out of Seattle for Chicago, after it was promised a series of tax breaks and incentives worth up to \$60 million - for just 500 employees.

Amazon's Seattle office houses over 40,000, and many of the jobs for Amazon's second home will be new hires, according to Thursday's statement. Incentives the company is looking for include tax credits or exemptions, relocation grants and fee reductions.

Amazon, the world's largest online retailer, is expanding rapidly and also has been opening fulfillment centers across the U.S. and the globe as it

broadens its offerings from books and toys to groceries. On Wednesday, the company announced the first such facility for New York, one of 21 new U.S. warehouses announced so far this year that will employ more than 25,000 people.

Last month, Amazon concluded a \$13.7 billion deal to buy Whole Foods, accelerating its push into groceries and brick-and-mortar stores. Amazon already operates several college campus locations and has plans to build convenience stores.

Staff at the new office are predicted to earn an average annual salary of over \$100,000. The first phase of the development, scheduled for 2019, will require 500,000 square feet, while the total requirement could reach 8,000,000 square feet beyond 2027.

Amazon will let staff in its existing Seattle headquarters move to the new development, according to its website for regions to pitch for the new site, Amazon is looking for a location that can provide staff for "software development and related fields." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

COTAI JET CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH CELEBRATORY OFFERS



Cotai Water Jet is offering a range of special celebratory offers and prizes to mark its tenth anniversary on November 30, according to a statement issued by the company.

The promotions include a Facebook game to win discounted Cotai First tickets and Cotai Class

round-trip tickets for just HKD/MOP100 if the passenger's birthday falls on the tenth day of any month. A maximum of two sets of round-trip tickets may be purchased.

The Facebook game is composed of three questions, which participants must answer

correctly on Cotai's Facebook page during the promotion period every Friday between 11:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. between now and November 30.

Passengers can win one-way adult tickets on Cotai First for just HKD/MOP100 for the sailing period, which ends November 30.

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CHINA supports further United Nations action in response to North Korea's latest nuclear test but also wants to see renewed efforts to begin dialogue involving all sides, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday.

China hopes North Korea will "see the situation clearly and come to the right judgment and choice," Wang said.

He said the U.N. should take "necessary measures," but added that sanctions and pressure should spur dialogue and negotiation between the sides toward the goal of a peaceful solution on the Korean Peninsula.

"We believe that sanctions and pressure are only half of the key to resolving the nuclear issue. The other half is dialogue and negotiation. Only when the two are put together can it unlock the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula," Wang said.

China is a veto-wielding permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, as well as North Korea's main trading partner and source of food and fuel aid.

Also yesterday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang reiterated China's opposition to South Korea's deployment of a U.S. Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense System, also known as THAAD, which is intended to protect against North Korean missile attacks. Beijing says the system's powerful radars will be able to monitor flights and missile launches deep inside northeastern China.

Two of the system's launchers are already operational, and the remaining four were added yesterday amid protests by residents living near the site in South Korea.

Geng told reporters that China had complained to the U.S. and

Beijing supports UN action on North Korea while urging talks



U.S. missile defense system called Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, are seen at a golf course in Seongju, South Korea yesterday

South Korea and urged them to "take seriously the security concerns and interests of China and other regional countries."

The U.S. and South Korea should "immediately stop the deployment process and withdraw relevant equipment," Geng said.

China's opposition to the THAAD deployment has sent formerly strong relations with South Korea into a tailspin, cutting deeply into the crucial economic relationship between the two countries.

South Korean carmaker Hyundai Motor Co. said its China plant halted operation due to a supply disruption on Tuesday, its second shutdown in China in less than a month.

While China has not discussed military planning for a crisis on the Korean Peninsula with the

U.S. or others, its defense ministry reported that the armed forces carried out drills in nearby waters two days after North Korea said it exploded a hydrogen bomb on Sunday.

The ministry said that the exercise in the Bohai Gulf was aimed at "boosting the forces expulsion mission capability" and not at any specific nations or targets. The drills had been pre-planned as part of routine training, according to the statement posted late Wednesday on the ministry's official Sina Weibo microblog account.

While it is usual for the Chinese military to hold drills in the Bohai Sea off its northeastern coast, the timing of Tuesday's exercise has drawn special attention. China has repeatedly said it will not tolerate an armed conflict on its doorstep and says there can be

no military solution to the current tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

In May, China test-fired a new type of missile into the Bohai Gulf amid anger over South Korea's deployment of a sophisticated U.S. anti-missile system to which China has fervently objected. The feud, which shows no sign of waning, has severely impacted diplomatic and economic ties between the two countries.

The Bohai Gulf lies just west of the Yellow Sea, which separates China from the Korean Peninsula.

Outside experts have been unable to verify North Korea's claim that it tested a hydrogen bomb Sunday, but say it's plausible.

China's defense ministry last week said that it had not made any changes to its military posture on the North Korean border. AP

S. Koreans in China told to avoid arguments

SOUTH Korea has warned its citizens in China to avoid "friction" and "needless arguments" with Chinese people after the U.S. military added more launchers to a contentious missile defense system in South Korea that Beijing opposes.

Seoul's Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho June-hyuck said yesterday that the message posted on the website of the South Korean Embassy in Beijing was aimed at protecting the safety of South Koreans in China.

Washington and Seoul say the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system allows South Korea and U.S. troops stationed in the country to better cope with the threat of North Korean missiles.

China has expressed anger over the deployment, saying that the system's powerful radar can be potentially used to peer deep into its territory and monitor its flights and missile launches.

South Korea has previously raised concerns over a reported ban on Chinese tour groups visiting the country in what many saw as Beijing's retaliation over the THAAD deployment.

There have also been reports in past months about growing calls in China to boycott South Korean products and cancel appearances by South Korean pop singers or movie stars.

DANDONG

Chinese border calm as Pyongyang ramps up nuclear program

Helene Franchineau & Christopher Bodeen, Dandong

RISE international tensions over Pyongyang's missile launches and nuclear tests seem a distant concern in the Chinese border city of Dandong, where trucks rumble across the bridge to North Korea and people stroll the promenade beside the Yalu River within sight of North Korean border guards.

With the peak summer tourism season tapering off, staff at hotels, restaurants and travel agencies say the North's activities and threats flying between Pyongyang and Washington have had only a minimal impact on

public sentiment.

"The nuclear test has had no influence on our lives," said a sales manager at the riverside Andongge restaurant, who gave only her surname, Zhang. "Everything goes on as normal."

Dandong is the largest Chinese city along the border and a key jumping-off point for travel and trade with the North, making it a favored spot for reading the pulse of Chinese feelings toward the once-close, now increasingly frosty relationship between the communist neighbors. The remnants of a bridge bombed by the U.S. during the 1950-53 Korean War, and rebuilt only on the Chinese

side, are a reminder of both the conflict that once united the countries and the differences that now exist between them.

Ties of late have been especially strained by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's pursuit of intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons, including the North's sixth nuclear test on Sunday.

However, Wu Haixia, manager of the city's Huyue Inns and Hotel facing the severed bridge, said such incidents were rarely even discussed, possibly as a result of the Chinese government's strict control on news about North Korea.

"I don't know whether the nuclear test is true or

not. We did not hear customers talking about this issue," Wu said.

While the border is fenced and heavily guarded in sections near Dandong, much of it is open, allowing easy crossing during the winter when the Yalu and other rivers freeze over. Despite speculation in foreign media, defense ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang said last week that no adjustments had been made in China's military profile along the border in response to recent tensions.

Yet if people on the Chinese side of the border seem little affected, a manager at Dandong's Pengyun Travel Agency said there had been some de-



Chinese tourists in North Korean costumes pose for souvenir photos near the Friendship Bridge connecting China and North Korea in the Chinese border town of Dandong

cline in the willingness of Chinese to travel across to North Korea for day trips or longer tours.

"A minority raised safety issues and worries about nuclear tests when they came in for consultations," said the manager, who gave only her surname, Ju. Overall, however, Chinese in Dandong seemed only mildly concerned.

A 61-year-old visitor from

Beijing who gave only her surname, Wu, said relations had deteriorated considerably since the Korean War, when the countries were "as close as lips and teeth," employing a common expression of the time.

Despite that breakdown, when asked how the situation was affecting Chinese, she said, "Not worth mentioning." AP

AP PHOTO



Trump discusses N. Korea with Xi

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has discussed North Korea's strongest nuclear test yet with Chinese President Xi Jinping, as the U.S. proposes crippling new sanctions and world leaders tussle over whether pressure or dialogue is the best way to rein in the rogue nation.

The White House is stressing the U.S. and Chinese leaders' joint commitment to ridding the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons. But differences are clear on how best to reach that remote goal as fears escalate over Pyongyang's emerging capability to strike America with a nuclear-tipped missile.

China's state news agency says Xi expressed China's adamant position about "resolving the nuclear issue through talks." Trump noted China's "essential role" and pledged more communication with China "to find a solution as early as possible," Xinhua reports.

President Donald Trump says neither he nor China's leader will put up with North Korea's provocative actions.

Trump commented yesterday after speaking by telephone earlier in the day with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump says Xi doesn't want to see what's happening in North Korea and that Xi "agrees with me 100 percent." North Korea conducted another nuclear test over the weekend.

When asked whether he would take military action against North Korea, Trump said military action is "not our first choice," adding: "We will see what happens."

In a conversation earlier in the week with Britain's Prime Minister, the White House says Trump stressed that "now is not the time to talk to North Korea" and that "all options remain open" to defend the U.S. and its allies.

President Donald Trump has spoken with the leaders of Britain and Australia about North Korea's latest nuclear test.

The White House released details of calls with British Prime Minister Theresa May and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

To May, Trump stressed "now is not the time to talk to North Korea" and that "all options remain open to defend the United States and its allies." He and May agreed to continue work on "increasing diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea."

Trump and Turnbull "confirmed that their two countries will intensify joint efforts to denuclearize North Korea." Trump repeated his commitment to "defending the homeland, territories, and allies of the United States, using all available diplomatic and military capabilities." AP

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JOURNALISTS saw new fires burning yesterday in a Myanmar village that had been abandoned by Rohingya Muslims, and pages ripped from Islamic texts that were left on the ground. That intensifies doubts about government claims that members of the persecuted minority have been destroying their own homes.

About two dozen journalists saw the fires in Gawdu Zara village in northern Rakhine state on a government-controlled trip. Some 164,000 Rohingya from the area have fled across the border in Bangladesh in less than two weeks since Aug. 25, when Rohingya insurgents attacked police outposts in Gawdu Zara and several others, the U.N. refugee agency said yesterday.

The military has said nearly 400 people, most they described as insurgents, had died in clashes and that troops were conducting "clearance operations." It blames insurgents for setting the villages on fire, without offering proof.

The Rohingya who have fled Myanmar, however, all described large-scale violence perpetrated by Myanmar troops and Buddhist mobs — setting fire to their homes, spraying bullets indiscriminately, stabbing civilians and ordering them to abandon their homes or be killed.

On the Myanmar side of the border, reporters saw no Rohingya in any of the five destroyed villages they were allowed to tour yesterday, making it unlikely they could have been responsible for the fires.

An ethnic Rakhine villager who emerged from the smoke said police and Rakhine Buddhists had set the fires. The villager ran off before he could be asked anything else.

No police were seen in the village beyond those who were accompanying the journalists. But about 10 Rakhine men with machetes

MYANMAR

New fires in empty Rohingya village raise questions



Houses on fire in Gawdu Zara village, northern Rakhine state

were seen there. They looked nervous; the only one who spoke said he had just arrived and didn't know how the fires started.

Among the buildings on fire was a madrasa, an Islamic school. Copies of books with texts from the Quran, Islam's holy book, were torn up and thrown outside. A nearby mosque was not burned.

Another village the journalists visited, Ah Lel Than Kyaw, was blackened, obliterated and deserted. Cattle and dogs wandered through the still-smoldering remains.

Local police officer Aung Kyaw Moe said 18 people were killed in the village when the violence began last month. "From our side, there was one immigration officer dead, and we found 17 dead bodies from the enemy side," he said.

He said the fires were set Aug. 25, though some of them continued to burn yesterday. Virtually all buildings in the village seen by journalists had been burned, along with cars, motorbikes and bicycles that fleeing villagers left behind. A mosque was also damaged.

Columns of smoke could be seen rising in the distance, and distant gunshots could be heard.

"They burned their own houses and ran away," Aung Kyaw Moe said. "We didn't see who actually burned them because we had to take care of the security for our outpost. [...] But when the houses were burned, Bengalis were the only ones in the village."

Burning Rohingya homes can make it less likely that they return. Tens of thousands of Rohingya were driven from their

homes in another wave of violence in 2012. Many of them are now confined to camps, while the land they once held is either vacant or occupied by Buddhist squatters.

Nay San Lwin, a Rohingya activist and blogger based in Europe with contacts in northern Rakhine, said that according to witnesses, the Burmese military, border guard police and Rakhine villagers came to Ah Lel Than Kyaw and burned the houses from Monday to Wednesday.

The military said nearly 400 people, most they described as insurgents, died in clashes

On Aug. 25, he said, young men with swords and knives tried to attack the border guard outpost in Aley Than Kyaw but failed. The authorities took away all Buddhist villagers, and many Rohingya villagers fled on their own.

Nay San Lwin said the remaining villagers left after the Burmese military warned them they would be shot dead if they didn't leave.

Myanmar refers to Rohingya as Bengalis, contending they migrated illegally from Bangladesh, though many Rohingya families have lived in Myanmar for gene-

rations.

Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has dismissed the Rohingya crisis as a misinformation campaign.

According to her office, she said such misinformation helps promote the interests of "terrorists," a reference to the Rohingya insurgents who attacked security posts on Aug. 25.

The crisis response director for Amnesty International called Suu Kyi's response "unconscionable."

Yesterday, Suu Kyi told reporters her government was working to improve security and livelihoods for Rohingya, but that "it's a little unreasonable to expect us to resolve everything in 18 months" since her administration took office.

With Rohingya fleeing by the thousands daily across the border, pushing existing camps in Bangladesh to the brink, the government in Dhaka pledged to build at least one more. The International Organization for Migration has pleaded for USD18 million in foreign aid to help feed and shelter tens of thousands now packed into makeshift settlements or stranded in a no man's land between the two countries' borders.

U.N. agencies said they were distributing food to new arrivals, about 80 percent of whom were women and children, joining about 100,000 who had already been sheltering in Bangladesh after fleeing earlier convulsions of violence in majority-Buddhist Myanmar. **AP**

PHILLIPPINES

Duterte's family grilled at Senate inquiry on drugs, payoffs

THE son and son-in-law of the Philippine president, who has been accused of condoning extrajudicial killings of thousands of drug suspects, yesterday appeared in a Senate inquiry looking into a huge shipment of illegal drugs from China that slipped through Manila's port.

Paolo Duterte, currently vice mayor of southern Davao city, and lawyer Manases Carpio have not been directly implicated in the drug shipment. The two were invited to appear in the Senate hearing after

they were mentioned as belonging to an influential group that receives bribes from smugglers operating in Manila and elsewhere.

They denied any wrongdoing. The president has urged them to attend the televised hearing, denying insinuations of corruption against them by opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

The allegations would likely further infuriate the tough-talking president, who has been criticized by human rights groups and Western governments of presiding over a bloody

crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands dead. He said over the weekend that Trillanes, his political foe, has been trying to undermine him and his family with baseless allegations, calling the senator a "political ISIS" who aims to destroy him but could not offer any shred of evidence.

"Once and for all, I now have the time to deny any and all baseless allegations thrown against me," Paolo Duterte told the senators.

He said a senator, whom he did identify, has accu-

sed the Dutertes of being "a family of murderers and I am untouchable." He added without elaborating that "every talk has its day [...] the law of karma will operate specially to those with evil intent."

Carpio, the husband of Sara Duterte, currently the Davao city mayor, said he and his brother-in-law "have been publicly crucified based on rumors and gossips."

At the height of the Senate inquiry, Trillanes accused Paolo Duterte of being a member of the Chinese triad, an organized crime



Paolo Duterte (left) the eldest son of President Rodrigo Duterte and the President's son-in-law Manases Carpio, a lawyer

group, citing intelligence information he said was provided by a foreign government. The young Duterte, Trillanes alleged, has a tattoo at the back that is the mark of a triad gang member.

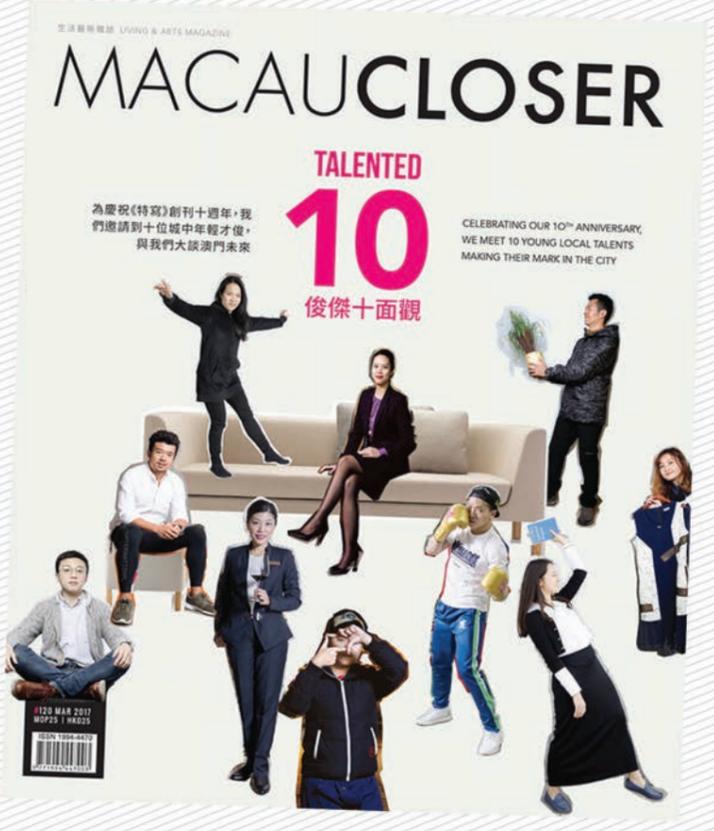
Paolo Duterte acknowledged he has a tattoo during questionings by

Trillanes but refused to show it, citing his right to privacy.

Trillanes also said he has information that the two have separate bank accounts with huge cash deposits. The two refused to sign waivers for Trillanes to investigate the alleged bank accounts. **AP**

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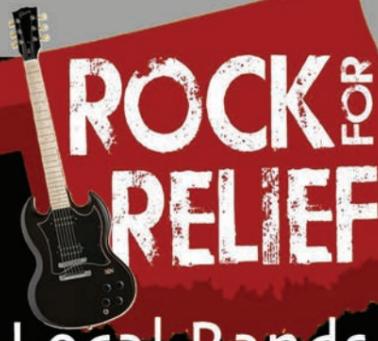
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AP PHOTO



Xi Jinping and Narendra Modi met recently in Xiamen, on the sidelines of the BRICS summit

ted Doklam Plateau high in the Himalayas, where Chinese troops had started constructing a road. The 10-week stand-off was the two nations' most protracted in decades, and added to their longstanding strategic rivalry.

“We have to be prepared. In our context, warfare lies within the realm of reality.”

GEN. BIPIN RAWAT

India's army chief sees war threats from China, Pakistan

INDIA'S army chief said this week that the country should be prepared for a potential two-front war with China flexing its muscles and with little hope for reconciliation with long-time rival Pakistan.

Gen. Bipin Rawat referred to a recent 10-week standoff with the Chinese army in the Himalayas that ended last week. He said

the situation could gradually snowball into a larger conflict on India's northern border.

Rawat said Pakistan on the western front could take advantage of such a situation.

The Press Trust of India news agency quoted Rawat's remarks at a seminar organized by the Center for Land Warfare Studies, a New Delhi-

based think tank.

India fought a war with China in 1962 and three wars with Pakistan, two of them over control of Kashmir, since the two countries won independence from Britain in 1947. All three countries are nuclear powers.

Rawat said that credible deterrence did not take away the

threat of a war.

“Nuclear weapons are weapons of deterrence. Yes, they are. But to say that they can deter war or they will not allow nations to go to war, in our context that may also not be true,” PTI quoted him as saying.

India last week agreed to pull back troops from the dispu-

“We have to be prepared. In our context, therefore, warfare lies within the realm of reality,” Rawat said.

His comments came a day after India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on a “forward-looking” approach to Sino-India ties, putting behind the Doklam standoff.

Xi and Modi met on the sidelines of a summit of the BRICS emerging economies in the southeastern Chinese port city of Xiamen. The BRICS nations are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. **AP**

AD

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Danica Coto & Anika Kentish,
Puerto Rico

NORTHERN CARIBBEAN

Hurricane Irma toll hits 10, increasing threat for Florida

FEARSOME Hurricane Irma cut a path of devastation across the northern Caribbean, leaving at least 10 dead and thousands homeless after destroying buildings and uprooting trees on a track that could lead to a catastrophic strike on Florida.

The most potent Atlantic Ocean hurricane ever, Irma weakened only slightly yesterday and remained a powerful Category 5 storm with winds of 285 kph, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

The storm was increasingly likely to rip into heavily populated South Florida early Sunday, prompting the governor to declare an emergency and officials to impose mandatory evacuation orders for parts of the Miami metro area and the Florida Keys. Forecasters said it could punish the entire Atlantic coast of Florida and rage on into Georgia and South Carolina.

"This could easily be the most costly storm in U.S. history, which is saying a lot considering what just happened two weeks ago," said Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami, alluding to the damage caused by Hurricane Harvey.

French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb told France Info radio that eight had died and 23 injured in the country's Caribbean island territories, and he said the toll on Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthelemy could be higher because rescue teams have yet to finish their inspection of the islands.

"The reconnaissance will really start at daybreak," Collomb said.

At a news conference, Collomb also said 100,000 food rations have been sent to the islands, the equivalent of four days of supplies.

"It's a tragedy, we'll need to rebuild both islands," he said. "Most of the schools have been destroyed."

French President Emmanuel Macron's office said he will go to the islands as soon as weather conditions permit.

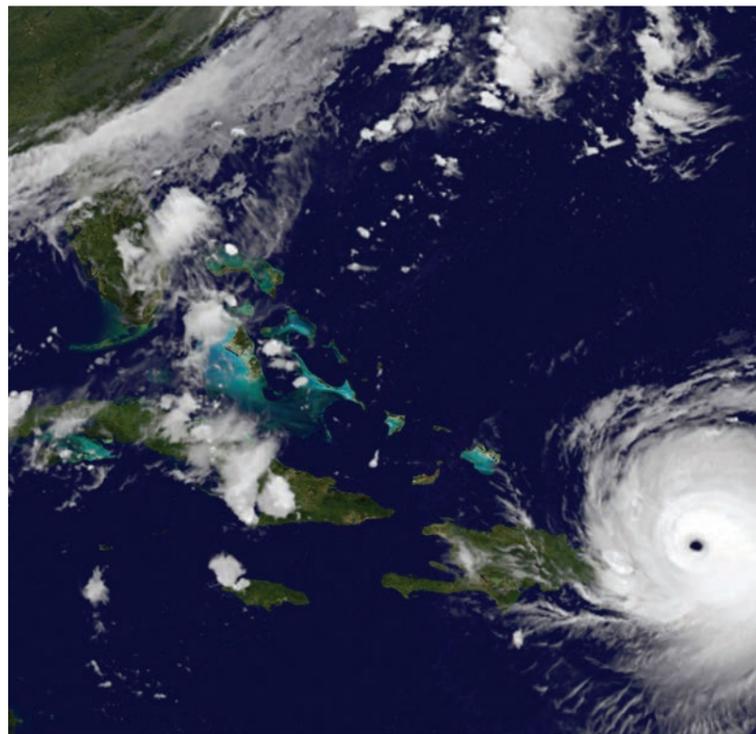
In the United Kingdom, the government said Irma inflicted "severe and in places critical" damage to the British overseas territory of Anguilla. Foreign Office Minister Alan Duncan said the Caribbean island took the full force of the hurricane. He told lawmakers on Thursday that the British Virgin islands have also suffered "severe damage."

Irma blacked out much of Puerto Rico, raking the U.S. territory with heavy wind and rain while staying just out to sea, and it headed early Thursday toward the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

To the east, authorities struggled to get aid to small Caribbean islands devastated by the storm's record 185 mph (298 kph) winds. Communications



High winds and rain sweep through the streets of the Matelnillo community during the passage of hurricane Irma, in Fajardo, Puerto Rico



In this satellite image released by NASA/NOAA GOES Project, Hurricane Irma reaches Puerto Rico

were difficult with areas hit by Irma, and information on damage trickled out.

Nearly every building on Barbuda was damaged when the hurricane's core crossed almost directly over the island early Wednesday and about 60 percent of its roughly 1,400 residents were left homeless, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne told The Associated Press.

"It is just really a horrendous situation," Browne said after returning to Antigua from a plane trip to the neighboring island.

He said roads and telecommunications systems were wrecked and recovery would take months, if not years. A 2-year-old child was killed as a family tried to escape a damaged home during the storm, Browne told the AP.

One death also was reported in the nearby island of Anguilla, where officials reported extensive damage to the airport, hospitals, shelters and school and said 90 percent of roads are impassible, according to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency.

The agency also reported "major damage" to houses and commercial buildings in the British Virgin Islands.

On St. Thomas in the nearby U.S. Virgin Islands, Laura Strickling spent 12 hours hunkered down with her husband and 1-year-old daughter in a boarded-up basement apartment with no power as the storm raged outside. They emerged to find the lush island in tatters. Many

of their neighbors' homes were damaged and once-dense vegetation was largely gone.

"There are no leaves. It is crazy. One of the things we loved about St. Thomas is that it was so green. And it's gone," Strickling said. "It will take years for this community to get back on its feet."

This could easily be the most costly storm in U.S. history.

BRIAN McNOLDY
HURRICANE RESEARCHER

Significant damage was also reported on St. Martin, an island split between French and Dutch control. Photos and video circulating on social media showed major damage to the airport in Philipsburg and the coastal village of Marigot heavily flooded. France sent emergency food and water there and to the French island of St. Bart's, where Irma ripped off roofs and knocked out electricity.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said yesterday the storm "caused widescale destruction of infrastructure, houses and businesses."

"There is no power, no gasoline, no running water. Houses are under water, cars are floating through the streets, inhabitants are sitting in the dark, in ruined

houses and are cut off from the outside world," he said.

Yesterday, the center of the storm was about 180 kilometers north of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and was moving west-northwest near 28 kph.

More than half the island of Puerto Rico was without power, leaving 900,000 in the dark and nearly 50,000 without water, the U.S. territory's emergency management agency said in the midst of the storm. Fourteen hospitals were using generators after losing power, and trees and light poles were strewn across roads.

Puerto Rico's public power company warned before the storm hit that some areas could be left without power from four to six months because its staff has been reduced and its infrastructure weakened by the island's decade-long economic slump.

President Donald Trump approved an emergency declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other agencies

to remove debris and give other services that will largely be paid for by the U.S. government.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center predicted Irma would remain at Category 4 or 5 for the next day or two as passes just to the north of the Dominican Republic and Haiti today [Macau time], nears the Turks & Caicos and parts of the Bahamas by tomorrow and skirts Cuba over the weekend.

It will then likely head north toward Florida, where people were rushing to board up homes, fill cars with gasoline and find a route to safety.

Gov. Rick Scott, who has mobilized parts of the state's National Guard, declared a state of emergency and asked the governors of Alabama and Georgia to waive trucking regulations so gasoline tankers can get fuel into Florida quickly to ease shortages.

An estimated 25,000 people or more left the Florida Keys after all visitors were ordered to clear out, causing bumper-to-bumper traffic on the single highway that links the chain of low-lying islands to the mainland. **AP**

UPCOMING STORMS

HURRICANE KATIA hovered in the southern Gulf of Mexico, threatening to hit the vulnerable Mexican coast as a Category 2 or 3 hurricane, possibly on Saturday. It had winds of 130 kph and was located about 335 kilometers east of Tampico, Mexico. And a third hurricane, Jose, was growing far out in the Atlantic.

It was no immediate threat to land, though the forecast track showed it could affect the Irma-blasted Leeward Islands over the weekend. Hurricane Jose had winds of about 150 kph. It was centered about 1,310 kilometers east of the Lesser Antilles and moving west-northwest at 30 kph.

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

12:50	AL elections campaign
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	AL elections campaign
15:00	RTPi Live
19:40	Soap Opera
20:25	Camilo Pessanha 150 years
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	AL elections campaign
21:10	Portuguese Serie
22:10	As Cariocas
22:50	AL elections campaign
23:00	TDM News
01:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:25	Comedy
11:35	Chefs
12:50	AL elections campaign
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
14:50	AL elections campaign
16:50	Soap Opera (PT)
20:25	Camilo Pessanha 150 years
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	AL elections campaign
21:10	Drama (PT)
22:50	AL elections campaign
23:00	TDM News
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	The Last Treasure
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:50	AL elections campaign
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	AL elections campaign
15:00	Zig Zag
16:45	Pop Lusa
17:40	Brainstorm
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	AL elections campaign
22:00	Documentary Serie
22:50	AL elections campaign
23:00	TDM News
23:30	European League 2017/2018 - Highlights
01:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:50	RTPi Live

Offbeat

POLICE OFFICER DELIVERS SON IN HOTEL PARKING LOT



Police Officer James Nachampassack poses with his girlfriend Phenh Thammavong and their baby Leo at SwedishAmerican Hospital in Rockford, Illinois

An Illinois police officer has delivered his son in a hotel parking lot. The Rockford Register Star reports (bit.ly/2j16aTg) Rockford officer James Nachampassack was on duty early Sunday morning when his girlfriend called to say she was going to give birth. Nachampassack rushed home to find Phenh Thammavong screaming. He says her water had broken and she was going into labor.

During the 20-minute drive to the hospital, Nachampassack says Thammavong told him the baby wouldn't wait. He pulled into a hotel parking lot and told police dispatch he needed an ambulance. Nachampassack delivered the baby moments before a group of fellow officers showed up. An ambulance arrived soon after.

While he wasn't trained to deliver babies, Nachampassack says police have to perform under pressure.

The couple named the healthy 3.5-kilogram boy Leo.

cinema



CINETEATRO

7 SEP - 13 SEP



OBERDRIVE

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30pm

ROOM 2

7:30pm

Director: Antonio Negret

Starring: Scott Eastwood, Freddie Thorp, Ana de Armas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 93min



WOLF WARRIOR II

ROOM 1

7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Jason Wu

Starring: Jason Wu, Qian Yu, Nan Yu

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 126min



IT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Andres Muschietti

Starring: Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher, Finn Wolfhard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



DANGAL

ROOM 3

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

Director: Nitesh Tiwari

Starring: Aamir Khan, Sakshi Tanwar, Fatima Sana Shaikh

Language: Hindi (Chinese & English)

Duration: 164min

this day in history



1943 ITALY'S SURRENDER ANNOUNCED

Italy has signed an unconditional armistice with the Allies, General Dwight D Eisenhower has announced.

The surrender was signed five days ago in secret by a representative of Marshal Pietro Badoglio, Italy's prime minister since the downfall of Benito Mussolini in July.

General Eisenhower - the commander in chief of Allied forces in the Mediterranean - said the Italian Government had agreed to end all hostilities with the United Nations.

In a broadcast on Algiers radio at 1730 local time, he said: "All Italians who now act to help eject the German aggressor from Italian soil will have the assistance and support of the United Nations."

Afterwards, in a personal message to the Italian people, Marshal Badoglio confirmed the surrender and even hinted his people should turn against their former allies, the Germans.

"The Italian forces will cease all acts of hostilities against the Anglo-American forces, wherever they may be. They will, however, oppose attacks of any other forces."

The Italian Government first suggested an armistice in August, three weeks after the fall of Mussolini during a meeting on neutral territory - probably Portugal.

When the surrender was finally signed on 3 September in Sicily, it was agreed to keep it secret until the Allied invasion of Italy was well under way.

German radio has broadcast a furious attack of Marshal Badoglio for asking for an armistice, calling it "open treason".

Marshal Badoglio and the Italian King Victor Emmanuel had insisted to the Germans that there had been no surrender, but now the truth was out.

"With this," said the German broadcaster, "a veil has been torn from a treacherous intrigue which for weeks had been enacted by an Italian clique, serfs to Jews and alien to their own people."

The surrender indicates the Axis and the Tripartite Pact is now in tatters.

But US President Franklin D Roosevelt has said it is too early to assume this is the end of war in the Mediterranean.

In a broadcast from Washington he said: "The great news you have heard from General Eisenhower does not give you licence to settle back in your rocking chair and say 'Well, that does it. We've got 'em on the run. Now we start celebrating.' The time has not yet come for celebration." planes lost.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Italy, under Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, had allied itself with Adolf Hitler from 1936 and joined World War II in June 1940.

But military defeats in the Balkans and North Africa severely dented confidence in Mussolini as a leader and he was ousted in July 1943 by a group of senior military and politicians with King's approval.

His successor, Marshal Badoglio, had resigned as chief of the Supreme General Staff after opposing the invasion of Greece in October 1940.

After negotiating the armistice with the Allies he left Rome just before it was occupied by the Germans and set up Italy's new government, first in Brindisi and then Salerno.

On 12 September, four days after the surrender was announced, German special forces rescued Mussolini from detention in the Abruzzi mountains and set him up as leader of a puppet state in northern Italy.

The Germans reacted so swiftly when Italy surrendered that the Allies were able to gain little advantage from their surprise invasion of the mainland.

Germans disarmed Italian troops and they were treated harshly if they fought against their former allies.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You usually run your financial show on a tight budget, even if you don't need to.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You were taken a bit off guard by a dear one's behavior yesterday, but that's nothing compared to what a family member is about to pull off today.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It's a given that whenever you open your mouth, the truth will reveal itself.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're still not in the mood to do anything. Not one single thing - especially if it involves anything more energetic than choosing a video from a list of three.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Well, first off, if anyone can, it's definitely imaginative little you. It's also going to be a lot easier and a lot more fun to pull off if you're smiling innocently at your sweetheart while you phone in your reservation for that limo.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Money can't buy happiness - or so they say. To most of us, however, it certainly can buy a rather pleasant evening, especially if we're trying to spoil a dear one who's been nothing but good to us.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Whether it's been a day, a week or a year, and whether they're a few miles away or on a different coast, you need to do something to close the gap between you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 One of several scenarios is about to unfold, so prepare yourself. You may receive a call from someone you haven't heard from in forever, who'll beg you to just jump on a plane and visit.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Don't give up on finding some excitement just yet. You have a brand-new day ahead of you - a day can make quite a difference.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Feeling excessive? Impractical? Like if it's not worth a risk, it's not worth anything at all? It's not as if you've never, ever felt this way before, but right now you have it bad.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're still not even considering what it might be like to be mellow - and you've been up late for the past couple of nights.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Well, get ready for action, because you have enough enthusiasm to spare and enough drive to get cracking on all your projects.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Jacob's twin; 5- Freelancer's encl.; 9- Temple; 13- Maryland athlete, for short; 14- Pomme or manzana; 16- AAA suggestions; 17- Not a dup.; 18- Pandemonium; 19- Breaks bread; 20- At hand; 21- God, biblically; 22- Deadly fly; 24- Elderly, matured; 26- Undesirable plant; 27- A trainee in a profession; 29- American Indian; 33- Donnybrook; 34- Gift tag word; 35- Kind of ticket; 36- Summer drink; 37- Russian range; 38- Bordeaux buddy; 39- Guns; 41- Hawaiian goose; 42- Palm fruits; 44- Toothless; 46- Squeeze; 47- Blows it; 48- Sweet sandwich; 49- Low bow; 52- Black cuckoo; 53- PBS science series; 57- Actor Estrada; 58- Consumed; 60- Cry from a hacker; 61- Emit coherent light; 62- Column type; 63- Work without ___; 64- Chemical used on trees; 65- Welles role; 66- TV's "Nick at ___";

DOWN: 1- Collar type; 2- Shrivelled, without moisture; 3- Type of song, to be sung solo; 4- Improvement; 5- Potpourri bag; 6- Plant pest; 7- Junk e-mail; 8- "Evil Woman" band; 9- Liberty; 10- Rat-___; 11- Profits; 12- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 15- Values highly; 23- Sun. talk; 25- Golly; 26- Entire; 27- Yielded; 28- Advil rival; 29- Stretch the neck; 30- "Endymion" poet; 31- Chair designer Charles; 32- Yalies; 33- Stable mate; 34- Worries; 37- Without weapons; 40- Athletic shoe; 42- Dr. of rap; 43- Eternal; 45- Singing syllable; 46- Son of the sovereign; 48- ___ a million; 49- Actress Ward; 50- Shrinking Asian sea; 51- One of the Simpsons; 52- Gillette product; 54- Prefix with present; 55- ___ Cong; 56- Initial stake; 59- Just fine;



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Steve Douglas, Manchester

FOOTBALL

Premier League stars face awkward returns to clubs

ALLEX Oxlade-Chamberlain was greeted with a high five and a warm hug from Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp ahead of the midfielder's first training session at his new club this week.

For some of the other high-profile players returning to their Premier League teams following the international break, the reception might be a little frostier.

Unlike Oxlade-Chamberlain, who managed to secure a transfer from Arsenal, three stars of the league — Alexis Sanchez, Philippe Coutinho and Riyad Mahrez — failed to get the moves they wanted on the final day of Europe's transfer window last week.

They have since been training and playing for their countries, but the time has come to go back to their clubs. And it could be an awkward situation for all concerned.

Mahrez so wanted to quit Leicester that the winger left the Algerian national team's training camp in Sidi Moussa on deadline day and returned to England, so that he would be in a better position to complete the formalities of a transfer if a club made a late bid. Unfortunately, a transfer didn't materialize.

Now Mahrez must put that disappointment behind him and get ready for Leicester's home match against champion Chelsea on Saturday.

It could be even more un-



Brazil's Philippe Coutinho (center) runs with the ball as Ecuador's Juan Caceres (left) looks on during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Porto Alegre last month

comfortable for Coutinho. The Brazil playmaker hasn't played for Liverpool this season while being the subject of three huge offers from Barcelona, and even lodged a transfer request in early August in an attempt to force through a move to the Spanish side.

Officially, Coutinho was ab-

sent for Liverpool's first three league games because of a back injury, yet he trained as normal when he was on international duty and made two appearances as a substitute in World Cup qualifiers against Ecuador and Colombia.

Liverpool visits Manchester City on Saturday in the stan-

dout match of the fourth round of league games, and it remains to be seen if Coutinho is in the right state of mind to be in contention. Oxlade-Chamberlain could make his debut for Liverpool, but would likely have to displace one of Emre Can and Georginio Wijnaldum — two of the Reds' best players in their 4-0 win over Arsenal in the last game before the international break.

Sanchez is still an Arsenal player after a prospective transfer to Manchester City was aborted hours before the window closed, because Arsenal could not find a replacement at such a late stage.

The forward had a tough time on international duty with Chile — the team lost both of its games and no longer occupies an automatic qualification spot in the South American zone for next year's World Cup in Russia — and he made his frustration clear by saying on Instagram that he was "fed up" with the criticism he was receiving.

Arsenal, which accepted a bid from Man City for Sanchez last week, is at home to Bournemouth on Saturday and is looking to avoid a third straight loss.

Another player who might need to be reintegrated at a Premier League team now the transfer window is closed is Virgil van Dijk, who hasn't trained with Southampton's first-team squad since the end of last season after handing in a transfer request amid interest from Liverpool.

Van Dijk is unlikely to feature for Southampton in its home game against Watford on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Manchester United is the only team to have won all of its games, and goes for a fourth straight victory in its trip to Stoke. United has already beaten West Ham, Swansea and Leicester, scoring 10 goals in total without conceding.

West Ham is in last place after losing its first three games, all of which have been played away while the team's home ground at the London Stadium is re-configured following the world athletics championships.

Its first home game is against promoted team Huddersfield, which has two wins and a draw.

Bournemouth and Crystal Palace are the other teams without a point so far and they take on Arsenal and Burnley away, respectively. **AP**

BASEBALL

Red Sox star Pedroia says why such a fuss over sign stealing

IT was 4:30 p.m. when Red Sox manager John Farrell walked into his pregame meeting with the media yesterday [Macau time], a little later than usual because of the 19-inning game the night before.

"Good morning," a reporter greeted him, prompting Farrell to look at his wrist to check the time.

"It's not an Apple Watch," he said.

If the Red Sox are concerned about a Major League Baseball investigation into using the high-tech timepieces to steal pitch signs from the New York Yankees, they aren't showing it. A day after The New York Times reported that the Yankees had filed a complaint about the practice, the AL East

leaders expressed little concern about possible punishment.

"It's part of the game," said Boston second baseman Dustin Pedroia, one of the players implicated in the sign-stealing scheme. "Our adjustment to that stuff is: go out to the mound and change the signs. [...] It's been around a long, long time. We were doing that at Douglas Junior High School, where I played. So I don't think this should be news to anybody."

According to the newspaper, the Red Sox admitted to Major League Baseball that they used an Apple Watch to relay signals to Boston players. Sign-stealing has a long tradition in baseball and is not prohibited, but the use of technology to do it

is against the rules.

Farrell has said he knew his players were trying to steal signs but was not aware they were using the watch to do it. Pedroia

■ Sign-stealing has a long tradition in baseball and is not prohibited, but the use of technology is against the rules

said he didn't know where the line is drawn.

"I don't really know what the rule book says on that," he said. "I know we have iPads in the dugout. [...] Are we not supposed to have iPads in there? I don't know."

The Red Sox filed a counter-complaint that the Yankees used TV cameras to help them steal signs. Commissioner Rob Manfred, who was in Boston for a previously scheduled event, said he was not surprised that two of the sport's oldest rivals were sniping at each other while competing for the AL East title.

"I do believe that this is a charged situation from a competitive perspective, when you have the kind of rivalry that the Yankees and the Red Sox have,"



Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia

he said. "I guess it's not shocking you could have charges and counter-charges like this."

But Pedroia seemed irked that Yankees management had complained.

"I know the players, on both sides, I'm sure are probably [...] I don't think it's from them," he said. "We already played them 19 times. What did they beat us, 11? They beat us. I'm not going to cry to anybody about it. It's ba-

seball."

And if the Yankees were trying to gain a psychological edge, Pedroia said that won't work, either.

"Playing in this environment, we're going to have a thick skin and turn the page on whatever's being said. A lot of it is just talk. That's it. You just go play," he said. "We have a 3 1/2-game lead in our division. Other than that, nobody [cares]. We're trying to win baseball games." **AP**

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



OPPORTUNISM IN HATO

It is the perfect storm. Pressure is building from multiple fronts.

There's a newly found strength in our community. Since the incredible show of people-force buoyed by the need to clear up our streets and support the elderly and vulnerable in the aftermath of Hato and in preparation for Pakhar, we have evidence that we can band together to fight a common foe or work for mutual benefit. To a point.

Alongside the all hands to work approach to the event, blame was squarely pointed at the government for breaking the social contract - their duty of care - with the resident community. Weaknesses in emergency systems, inadequate preparation and fundamental failure of basic services have put pressures on the government, causing heads to roll and the PLA to rumble across the bridge to assist. Regardless of whether it was imposed by Beijing or an act of self-determination, the additional help on the ground relieved us physically and emotionally, but heightened doubts in our administration's ability to manage this little Macau.

The government deserves to remain uneasy, but discomfort is a good thing, it prompts action. The question is the nature of the action that shall be taken.

On top of an awakened community and an increasing lack of faith in authority to protect us, there is constant bombardment of news of natural tragedies elsewhere. Still reeling from our own trauma, the world has become a less secure place and so we clamber for a response, a sign that there is deliverance. After times of crisis, we look and find fault everywhere, just as Galaxy's staff did over the pool-cleaning incident.

Yet, amongst our recent losses and nerve-jarring insecurities seeking avenues to lay blame, we witnessed yet another increase in gaming revenue (the industry performs even in this destructive month of the Hato). Similar demands to those raised last Tuesday by the New Macau Gaming Professional Association in the protest against Galaxy for better pay and conditions will likely continue on industry players in this climate: A welcome diversion for a government that might apply its own kind of pressure on the industry.

In this neck of the woods, compensation is a commonplace demand - especially with an election coming up. It is something immediate, something tangible, something that solves the cognitive dissonance of wrongs felt without being righted. We relax and forget but only once we get.

Calling for compensation when harm has been done is a simple and simple-minded fix. Pay-up and we shut up and the wrongdoer is alleviated from further responsibility - until the next time. It is typical of a lack of integrated systems thinking. A short-sightedness of the sort that saw Macau struggling through Hato. We all applauded the community for coming out and clearing the streets during those dreadful days, as so we should. But the immediacy, the nature of the task, although dirty and dangerous, was relatively straight forward and finite, even uplifting. In contrast, the vision, knowledge and long-term planning to protect Macau against the incessant flooding in the Inner Harbour, to ensure that we no longer see infrastructure project budget and time overruns, remove labour power imbalances, to pull all Macau residents out of poverty and build quality housing, among many of our social, institutional and infrastructure problems is painstaking and incessant. None of this will be fixed if we relieve authority figures of immediate concrete action. Compensation to individuals and demanding accountability via sackings and resignations are feel-good measures. Such responses merely remove the urgency to plan and implement concerted and effective change.

Unless dependent upon assistance for survival, don't be bought out. Maintain the unease that will get the right things done.

THE CORRUPTION FUELS IVORY TRADE IN CENTRAL AFRICA, STUDY SAYS

A new study says the illegal sale of ivory in open markets in Central Africa has been disappearing or going underground. But it warns that corruption and weak governance are undermining efforts to curb regional trafficking.

Wildlife trade monitoring group TRAFFIC says in an analysis released yesterday that while law enforcement operations put pressure on open ivory markets, criminal syndicates are exploiting "official collusion, confusion and cor-

ruption" to benefit from elephant poaching.

The survey was conducted over the last decade, most recently in 2015. TRAFFIC investigators visited cities across Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Republic of Congo and Gabon.

China, the world's largest ivory consumer, says it plans to shut down its ivory trade by the end of this year in an effort to curb the slaughter of African elephants.

White House says black colleges summit is on despite reports

Darlene Superville, Washington

A mid-September conference on historically black colleges and universities remains on track, the White House said, despite reports that it has been postponed.

Omarosa Manigault Newman, an assistant to President Donald Trump and communications director for the White House Office of Public Liaison, said the summit has been moved to the White House campus from a hotel in the Virginia suburbs of Washington.

The conference is planned for Sept. 17-19, with the bulk of the work scheduled for Sept. 18, she said.

Some organizations and lawmakers had called on the White House to scrap the conference after Trump blamed "both sides" for violence between white supremacists and their opponents during clashes last month in Charlottesville, Virginia, where one woman was killed.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said late last month that conference registration was at capacity and the White House had no intention of canceling.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund cast doubt on the gathering when it released a statement last week saying it supported a decision



Omarosa Manigault-Newman, political aide and communications director for the Office of Public Liaison at the White House

by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to postpone the National HBCU Week Conference. Published reports described the conference as having been postponed. DeVos' statement mentioned modifying the conference, not postponing it. Manigault Newman told The Associated Press in a telephone interview yesterday [Macau time] that the conference has just been scaled back, not eliminated. She said the White House plans to announce an executive director for its initiative on black colleges on Sept. 18.

Trump signed an executive order in February that established a White House initiative to promote excellence and innovation at these schools, which were founded at a time when predominantly white institutions of higher learning would not allow blacks to enroll.

Trump's directive moved the Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities from the Education Department to the White House.

It directs the initiative to work with the private sector to strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs, make infrastructure improvements, provide job opportunities for students, collaborate with secondary schools to create a college pipeline and increase access and opportunity for federal grants and contracts. It does not specify how much federal money the colleges should receive.

Black college presidents are seeking billions in federal funding for infrastructure, college readiness, financial aid and other priorities. Under President Barack Obama, historically black colleges and universities received USD4 billion over seven years. AP

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

WORLD BRIEFS

VIETNAM Authorities have seized more than a ton of smuggled ivory at a Vietnamese port where some 6 tons were seized last year. A customs official said the ivory seized in Cat Lai port had been packed with sawdust and layers of plasters and asphalt to hide it.



AUSTRALIA's highest court cleared the way yesterday for the government to conduct a public survey on whether gay marriage should be legalized. Opinion polls show that most Australians want same-sex marriage legalized.

ISRAEL-SYRIA Israeli warplanes struck a military position near the Mediterranean coast in western Syria yesterday, killing two soldiers and causing material damage, the Syrian army said.



EGYPT An international rights group says Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has given a "green light" to systematic torture inside detention facilities, allowing officers to act with "almost total impunity."

RUSSIA-UKRAINE The United States cautiously welcomed a Russian proposal to send U.N. peacekeepers into eastern Ukraine, but insisted the force should be deployed throughout embattled eastern Ukraine and not just on the line of conflict.

COLOMBIA Pope Francis urged Colombians yesterday to come together to heal the divisions spawned by five decades of armed conflict and address the entrenched inequality that sparked Latin America's longest-running armed rebellion.

times square by rodrigo

