



GOING TO THE MOVIES REMAINS POPULAR

P4 MACAU



FORBIDDEN WEAPONS FOUND IN TOURISTS' BAGS

Two tourists were caught in possession of forbidden weapons in their luggage before boarding flights

P7 CRIME



TRUMP URGES UNITED NATIONS TO REFORM

President Trump made his debut at the United Nations yesterday, urging the organization to reduce bureaucracy

P15

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AD

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Apply mosquito repellents to the exposed parts of the body

MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

BORDER GATE

Underground bus terminal reopens in '19

P5



AP PHOTO

Society divisions responsible for surprise legislative election results

P2-3 ANALYSIS

WORLD BRIEFS



RUSSIA President Vladimir Putin yesterday attended the weeklong war games with Belarus that have demonstrated the Russian military's resurgent might and made neighboring countries nervous. Russia and Belarus say 5,500 Russian and 7,200 Belarusian troops are participating, but some NATO countries have estimated that up to 100,000 troops could be involved. Nervous NATO members, including the Baltic states and Poland, have questioned Moscow's intentions.

VIETNAM The death toll from Typhoon Doksuri has risen to at least nine, with four people still missing since the storm hit Vietnam last week. The disaster management authority said some 31,000 soldiers and police were mobilized to help residents in three hard-hit provinces.

More on backpage

Sound bytes

“We must once again rethink our position and extend our service to other groups, including all Macau residents, instead of just our members in the Macau Jiangmen Communal Society.”

Zheng Anting

“Previously I was an indirectly elected lawmaker and I will do a better job in the upcoming four years. The core work of my campaign has been to allow residents to have a happy life. I hope to help building a better living environment for the next generation.”

Ella Lei

“The number of votes I got indicates that the voters care about his work in the AL. The votes will encourage me to serve the public even harder.”

Au Kam San

“I hope that Chui won't underestimate the power of young people.”

Sulu Sou

“We have a dream that one day, the majority of AL are directly elected and only one seat, according to the Basic Law, will remain indirectly elected.”

Pereira Coutinho

“I feel good that I gained more votes but, at the same time, I feel the responsibility because, to be honest, I promised a lot. I need to work very hard.”

Agnes Lam

“I never thought this would happen, but I respect the decision of the Macau citizens.”

Melinda Chan

“We are going to study the loss of votes and which candidates our potential votes have gone to. [...] Whatever the result, we both [Song Pek Kei and Si Ka Lon] have to take the baton passed by Chan [Meng Kam].”

Song Pek Kei

“If the city does not even vote for so few directly elected lawmakers, then nothing will change.”

Voter

AL ELECTION – ANALYSIS

Society divisions responsible for



Daniel Beitler

MACAU elections tend to have few surprises, but Sunday's produced many.

A somewhat dramatic redistribution of power among the 14 directly elected lawmakers, underpinned by the nuances of Macau's electoral system, has elevated certain associations to play a pivotal role in

the upcoming four years.

On Sunday, a two-percentage-point rise in voter turnout brought three newcomers into the legislature and forced two incumbents out. Chan Meng Kam, one of Macau's most influential politicians, stood this one out, and consequently watched his association relinquish a seat.

Four political associations, the Macau United Citizens Association (ACUM), the Macau-

Guangdong Union (UMG), the Union for Development (UPD) and the New Macau Association (ANM), are now left with more than one seat each, compared with five such organizations in the previous assembly. The nine last seats to be awarded this year were determined by a matter of about 3,000 votes, while that same number covered only the last seven in 2013.

“The votes in this election were distributed quite evenly,” political commentator Larry So told the Times yesterday. “For a team to return three members of the AL is now very unlikely. [ACUM] was right to adopt a new strategy with the dual lists, but it didn't work out for them. [...] I think, in the future, lists should aim to elect just a single lawmaker as it is becoming quite tough to elect a second.”

The somewhat surprising ouster of Melinda Chan – and to a much lesser extent, Leong Veng Chai – was not only due to the unexpected closeness of the election, but to several systemic factors.

According to political scientist Eric Sautedé, the redistribution of power is a “natural consequence of the electoral system” itself, which encourages list-splitting to circumvent the disproportionate

number of votes needed for more than two seats.

But the results are also reflective of deep divisions in Macau society that went unnoticed prior to the election: Generational divisions; democrat-establishment divisions; and differences in opinion over how the government handled the aftermath of Typhoon Hato, the deadliest natural disaster to strike Macau in recorded history.

In the future, lists should aim to elect just a single lawmaker as it is becoming quite tough to elect a second.

LARRY SO

Pointing to a generational divide that has emerged between the older voters in the territory and the approximately 30,000 new registered voters, some analysts say that youth voters – often the first generation of their family to

THE AFTERMATH

Return of the pan-democrats

THE consolidation of the democrat faction in the Legislative Assembly (AL) is the single most important electoral shift to come out of Sunday's election.

With the final numbers now showing that the election of newcomers Sulu Sou and Agnes Lam seemingly had no impact on incumbents Au Kam San, Ng Kuok Cheong and Pereira Coutinho, the pan-democrat title mi-

ght once again be fit for use in the city.

Veteran democrat lawmakers Au and Ng coasted through the election on separate lists, backed by 11,380 votes (6.59 percent) and 10,079 votes (5.84 percent) respectively. Au was the sixth elected lawmaker this year, while Ng managed ninth.

The fielding of 26-year-old Sou by the ‘youth wing’ of the New Macau Association brou-

ght with it concerns of a dampening effect on the veterans' campaigns, siphoning away crucial votes.

This concern was ex-

pressed during the election when, on several occasions, Ng and Au expressed doubt over their chances of re-election. The young

Sou, who earned his seat on Sunday to become the city's youngest ever lawmaker, remarked yesterday morning that his election did not represent a “zero-sum game” of winners and losers within the democrat faction.

Indeed, Sou's electoral victory does not

PRO-DEMOCRAT VOTE SHARE IN THE 2013 AND 2017 AL ELECTIONS

Candidate	2013		2017		% Change
	Votes	%	Votes	%	
Au Kam San	8,826	6.03	11,380	6.59	+0.56
Ng Kuok Cheong	10,986	7.50	10,079	5.84	-1.66
Sulu Sou*	3,227	2.20	9,212	5.34	+3.14
Pereira Coutinho	13,118	8.96	14,383	8.33	-0.63
Agnes Lam	5,524	3.57	9,590	5.56	+1.99

*Jason Chao's list in 2013

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surprise election results



The popularity of the Macau-Guangdong Union is linked to the government's promotion of integration in the Pearl River Delta region.

ERIC SAUTEDÉ

Analysts say that youth voters are beginning to reject the 'birthplace preferences' of their elders and opt for issue-orientated candidates

be born in the MSAR - are beginning to reject the tribal, 'birthplace preferences' of their elders and instead opt for issue-orientated candidates.

"To a certain extent, this represents a shift toward the younger members of society, who are coming to power for the first time and are dissatisfied with the [status quo]," said So, but added that the change may also be due to the specific course of recent cur-

rent events.

"I would like to believe that this shift is occurring," said Sautedé, "but the youth are also supporting lawmakers such as Mak Soi Kun."

In Sunday's election, Kun stood as list-leader for UMG - a traditional birth-place group calling for greater ties and integration between Macau and Guangdong Province. Putting forward a single list, UMG was backed by 17,207 votes, more than any other

competitor list.

The reason, according to Sautedé, is that UMG has an appeal beyond birth-place tribalism. Youth voters are being attracted to the political associations because of policies that the group is putting forward.

"The popularity of the Macau-Guangdong Union is linked to the government's promotion of integration in the Pearl River Delta region," he argued, which is creating

lucrative business opportunities and tax incentives for young people in Macau.

Typhoon Hato might have also played a role boosting the popularity of some associations and dampening that of others.

"I suspect that Hato played a role," said Sautedé. "I believe that people were a little fed up and ready for change. [...] Hato was perhaps a trigger or reminder of the shortcomings of the government."

Larry So is in agreement. He told the Times that dissatisfaction over the government's handling of the typhoon played straight into the democrats' hands.

"Housing and transportation issues have created dissatisfaction with the government for a long time, but the typhoon triggered more dissatisfaction [by exposing] that

the government was not doing what it should do," he said.

Again, it was down to the youth generation to make that dissatisfaction felt.

"If they are dissatisfied, the young generation will not vote for the pan-establishment lawmakers that [support] the government; they will turn to the pan-democrats," he added.

The democrats outperformed expectations on Sunday and, with the exception of Leong Veng Chai, successfully defended their legislative seats. Newcomers Sulu Sou and Agnes Lam now threaten to alter the balance of power within the Legislative Assembly.

"Having a 26-year-old [in Sulu Sou], who might not play by the rules of the game, could really change things," said Sautedé.

2017 MACAU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

List	Votes	Q*	Seats
Macau-Guangdong Union	17,207	8604	2
Union for Development	16,694	8347	2
Macau United Citizen's Association	14,877	7439	1
New Hope	14,383	7192	1
Progress Promotion Union	12,333	6167	1
New Democratic Macau Association	11,380	5690	1
New Macau Development Union	10,447	5224	1
Macau Citizen's Development Association	10,099	5050	1
Democratic Prosperous Macau Association	10,079	5040	1
Civic Watch	9,590	4795	1
Good Home	9,494	4747	1
New Macau Progressives	9,212	4606	1
Alliance for Change	8,183	4092	0

*Q = Quotient.

appear to have detracted voters from Ng and Au, despite the young democrat nearly tripling the number of votes for the 'young radicals' list, compared with the 2013 campaign led by Jason Chao.

Lam's third attempt at the AL paid off this year after she rallied some 9,590 votes on Sunday. While not regarded as a true democrat, it is thought that many of her supporters are at least sympathetic to democratic ideals. Therefore, it is mildly surprising that despite rallying around 75 percent more voters than in 2013, incumbent lawmakers Ng, Au and New Hope's Coutinho seem to have been unaffected.

In the case of New Hope, list leader Coutinho was re-elected with ease on Sunday after his association gathered 14,383 votes; around 800 or so more than in



Pereira Coutinho (right) watches on as the election results unfold

2013, but with around 0.6 percent less of the vote share.

Second on the New Hope list, former lawmaker Leong Veng Chai, lost a seat he won by a marginal 32 votes in 2013, mostly as a result of the increased number of lists this year and the subsequently more even

distribution of voters.

In the 2013 Legislative Election, four electoral lists were able to take away at least two seats each, including Chan Meng Kam's Macau United Citizens Association that won an unprecedented three. In 2017, only two lists managed a second lawmaker.

Unequivocally then, the democrat side was strengthened in the course of the 2017 election, even if that did not necessarily translate into additional seats.

The same did not hold true for all incumbent pro-establishment lawmakers.

The more even distri-

tribution of votes this year stripped Chan Meng Kam of a third seat, irrespective of the fact that he ran two lists. Then, Leong Sun Iok, second-ranked on the Union for Development list, edged out long-standing pro-establishment lawmaker, Melinda Chan.

Newly-elected Sou might be right when he says that his victory does not represent a zero-sum game in regards to the other democrats. But for the 'macro-politics' of the city's legislature, the democrats' gain can only be accounted for by the establishment's loss. **DB**



26-year-old activist Sulu Sou (center) celebrates with his supporters



57 locals contest Asian Indoor and Martial Art Games

The fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games are currently being held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Macau sent a delegation of 57 members to Ashgabat to attend the 10-day long games, according to a statement released by the Sports Bureau. This is the fifth time Macau is participating in the competition. Local athletes will contest in eight competitions including bowling, swimming, and international chess. In total, there are 21 final competitions, including and 351 races. A total of 4,000 athletes from 65 countries are competing in the games.

Online registration for craft market open

Online registrations for the handicraft workshops in the Nam Van Lake Craft Market are open. The Nam Van Lake Craft Market is held on Saturdays and Sundays, from January 1 to December 31, 2017, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), a variety of themed workshops will be available for individuals and families, including "Glass Bottle Pendant with Colorful Sand," "Bedside Lamp with Preserved Flowers," "Make-up Bag with Hand-sewn Chinese Knots," "Workshop on Bear-themed Coin Purse" and "Family Workshop on Light Clay". Online registration is available until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26.

Going to the movies remains most popular activity

A total of 295,800 individuals have participated in cultural activities in Macau in the second quarter of 2017, resulting in a cultural activity participation rate at 54 percent, down by 0.9 percentage points year-on-year.

According to the Statistics and Census Service's (DSEC) survey on Participation of Residents in Cultural Activities, which was aimed at ages 16 and above, the number of local residents participating in cultural activities totaled to 261,100, with a participation rate of 59 percent down slightly by 0.2 percentage points.

Analyzed by the type of cultural activity, going to the cinema remained the most popular activity for local residents, with 173,400 participants, up by 2.1 percent year-on-year.

With the government organizing a number of film screenings to promote Macau film culture, there has been a continuous increment in the number



of local residents who had watched locally-produced films and videos, growing by 3.1 percent year-on-year to 36,200.

Local residents going to libraries increased by 13.2 percent year-on-year to 129,500; with the activity participation rate being 29.3 percent, up by 3 percentage points.

The survey showed that students had a participation rate of 79.4 percent compared to non-students which was at 24.4 percent.

In addition, local residents

visiting museums or World Heritage sites rose slightly by 1.4 percent year-on-year to 115,400.

Of these local residents, 87,900 visited world heritage sites and 77,600 visited museums, up by 6.6 percent and 3.4 percent respectively year-on-year.

Meanwhile, there were 79,500 local residents attending performances, down by 12.2 percent year-on-year.

The average attendance per participant rose by 0.3 to 2.6. Music/dance perfor-

mances were more popular among local residents, with 57,500 participants (72.4 percent), while theatre performances had 49,600 participants (62.4 percent).

There were 34,900 local residents attending art exhibitions, down by 8.9 percent year-on-year; 99.6 percent of these residents also participated in other types of cultural activities.

The proportion of those who took part in four or more types of activities rose by 12 percentage points to 63.6 percent.

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Julie Zhu

TRANSPORT

Border gate bus terminal to resume operations in 2019

THE underground border gate bus terminal will be partially reopened in the second quarter of 2019, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) announced yesterday during a press conference.

Before the reopening, the public departments will carry out renovation works at the terminal, which has been badly affected by Typhoon Hato.

Prior to the typhoon, the GDI had completed a new design for the bus terminal renovation. However, after the assessment of the damage, it has been decided that the design plans for the terminal need to be changed.

The first phase of the construction will be carried out in the fourth quarter of 2017, which mainly includes repair works of the facilities that were damaged during Typhoon Hato.

The main construction will start in the third quarter of 2018.

According to Luís Madeira de Carvalho, chief of the architecture division of GDI, the initial repair works at the terminal involve electricity supplies, lighting and fire control systems.

Currently, there are eight ventilated lighting wells located on the ground floor of the border gate plaza.

When these repair works are completed, the construction will



Lo Seng Chi (left), Lam Hin San, Chau Vai Man and Luís Madeira de Carvalho

focus on the expansion of the lighting wells on the ground, and then the renovation of the parterre and pools on the plaza.

Lastly, the authority will dismantle part of the facilities located in the basement.

As introduced by Madeira de Carvalho, the construction project involves seven main parts of

renovation, including removing the electricity facilities to the ground, increasing the number of waiting lounges, changing the smoke extraction and ventilation systems, changing the bus and pedestrian lines, replacing the lighting system and using environmentally friendly LED lights, as well as renovating the bathrooms,

drivers' restroom, walls and the ceiling decorations.

The terminal is expected to be fully reopened in the fourth quarter of 2019.

The total cost of the project has not been disclosed as the authority is preparing to announce it after opening public tenders for the project.

Originally, there were 24 buses stopping at the terminal. That corresponds to more than 3,000 vehicles every day.

Post Typhoon Hato, all of the 24 buses were redirected to 10 different stations near the border gate bus terminal.

It will take somewhere around two years until the border bus terminal is eventually restored.

Chau Vai Man, GDI director, noted that the new design will result in the terminal being opened earlier than if the previous one had been used.

"The original design would imply two years just for the main construction," said Chau, adding that the new design will instead allow 14 months for the main construction.

DSAT's director Lam Hin San was asked whether the transport authority was prioritizing the gaming operators' interests over the convenience for residents, as the redirected buses were not arranged to use the parking lots at the areas where the casino shuttle buses are currently being parked.

"I don't quite agree with you. We put the public's interest first," said Lam, adding that the bureau has already said that the tourist bus' parking areas do not suit the public transport buses.

Earlier, Lam said that the parking lots in the tourist bus parking areas are poorly designed, which would unduly lengthen the time required for buses to park and therefore would have a significant impact on bus operations.

The Border Gate bus terminal occupies an area of 13,000 square meters.

On average, the bus routes to the Border Gate bus terminal or the Border Gate Plaza take nearly 300,000 passengers on a daily basis, representing 40 percent of total daily patronage.

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CRIME

Forbidden weapons found in tourists' bags at airport

Renato Marques

TWO tourists, one from Indonesia and one from Thailand, were found to possess in possession with forbidden weapons in their luggage while boarding international flights, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) informed at a press conference.

Both cases occurred on September 17 around 4.30 p.m. with just 10 minutes separating the incidents. In the first case, a security guard from the airport was processing luggage after check-in when a metal weapon known as a brass knuckle was detected. Brass knuckles are used to inflict damage when punching during a hand-to-hand fight.

The security called the PSP, that sought the luggage owner and took him to the police station for questioning.

During questioning the man, aged 40 and from Indonesia, told officers that he had bought the weapon in Hong Kong on September 9 for HKD75 and that he only had the intention to use it as a decorative item. He said he was unaware of Macau laws regarding such objects.

In a separate case, a man from Thailand in his 20s, who claimed to be a physician, was stopped by airport security after his backpack was flagged on the x-ray



Macau airport

machine as carrying a suspicious object.

Further investigation on the bag revealed a gun bullet inside. After being taken to the police station for questioning, the man said the backpack, which he borrowed for the trip to Macau, belonged to his father.

He claimed that his father was a hobbyist shooter and possessed a license for that activity in Thailand, saying that he was unaware that the bag had any ammunition inside.

The bullet was delivered to the PSP's Division of Guns and Ammunition and was confirmed to be perfectly operational.

The tourists were both

presented to the Public Prosecutions Office yesterday, where they were charged with the possession of forbidden weapons.

In separate cases reported by the Judiciary Police (PJ) at the same press conference, there were two unusual cases of theft.

The first occurred on September 15 at around 2.30 p.m., when a local man left his bicycle unlocked, placed on top of his own motorcycle, while taking one of the bicycle wheels to a shop to fix a punctured tire. When returning to the place where he had left it, the bicycle was gone.

The man claims to have recorded a loss of about

HKD33,000.

In the other theft case, a German tourist was reported to have had his luggage stolen while transferring by shuttle bus from Taipa Ferry Terminal to his hotel in Cotai.

The man said he placed the luggage as indicated by the staff in the bus luggage compartment when boarding the bus, but when he got off the luggage was gone. He said the luggage contained several of his possessions including an iPad worth HKD4,000 and some sunglasses also worth a similar amount.

Both cases are currently under investigation by the PJ.

Student attempts suicide

A female high-school student attempted to commit suicide on the campus premises, with possible reasons due to being under high levels of pressure coming from her family. The incident took place at the Colégio Santa Rosa De Lima, at 8 a.m. yesterday. The 18-year-old girl stood on the ledge of the sixth floor on one of the school's buildings, and threatened to commit suicide by jumping off the building. She returned to a safe zone before the Fire Services Bureau arrived at the school. The case is now being followed by the school's social workers.

50 attend National Judicial Exam in Macau

The National Judicial Exam was held last weekend in Macau, with 50 candidates attending all of the exams on September 16 and 17. Sixty-three people applied to take the exam, but 13 failed to be present for all the exams. The exam was held simultaneously in mainland China. In total, including candidates from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, 649,000 candidates registered for the exams, marking a historical peak in terms of the number of applicants. In Guangdong, 349 candidates from the two SARs and Taiwan registered to take the exam.

Swimming team wins 3 golds at National Student Sports Game

Two students from the University of Macau (UM) won three gold, two silver, and two bronze medals at the 13th National Student Sports Game. Chao Man Hou, a fourth-year student from the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Lei On Kei, a postgraduate student from the Faculty of Education, represented UM at this year's game. On the first day of the competition, Chao and Lei each won a gold medal in the men's and women's 100-metre breaststroke category respectively. Chao won a second gold medal in the men's 200-metre breaststroke category, and a silver medal in the men's 50-metre breaststroke category on the last day of the event. Lei also won a bronze medal in the women's 50-metre breaststroke category, and a silver and bronze medal.

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA CONTINUES ITS ASSISTANCE TO ASSOCIATIONS FOLLOWING HATO



A Sands China van provides transportation for Caritas Macau's Good Take Express. Paul Pun (left) is the secretary-general of Caritas Macau

In the aftermath of the recent typhoons, Sands China Ltd. is continuing its aid to local non-government organizations, by assisting Caritas Macau, Macau Special Olympics (MSO), and the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau.

The gaming operator has been providing the associations with transportation support by purchasing new vehicles to replace damaged ones, so as to help them maintain their essential operations.

Sands China is providing three 7-seater vans with drivers for Caritas Macau's Good Take Express, which provides accessible transport services for the elderly, for those suffering from

chronic illnesses, and to assist people with reduced-mobility with trips between home and hospital.

To assist Macau Special Olympics (MSO) students, the company is providing three buses with drivers and one van to transport MSO members to school.

The company will provide support to the association until their own damaged buses are repaired and services are fully resumed.

Two buses and drivers are also being provided for the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau, helping the association to continue to provide support and assistance to its members, allowing them to continue taking advantage of their learning opportuni-

ties by transporting them to class and day care.

According to a statement issued by Sands China, the group will continue these interim services as needed. Meanwhile, the company has also donated MOP250,000 to each of the organizations for their emergency use, such as for the repair of typhoon-damaged service vehicles. The company has also pledged to replace the organizations' damaged vehicles.

Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd., said: "We are a resilient community, and Sands China is happy to do its part to assist with relief efforts and help community organizations get back to providing essential services to their members."

Saudis said to mull phasing out gasoline subsidy by end-November

Wael Mahdi, Vivian Nereim

SAUDI Arabia is considering a plan to phase out subsidies for gasoline and jet fuel in November at the latest, as the world's biggest oil exporter pushes a program to curtail spending after a global slump in prices.

The government would boost gasoline to parity with varying international prices under the plan, according to a person with knowledge of the matter. At current levels, this could result in a hike of about 80 percent for octane-91 grade gasoline to about 1.35 riyals per liter (0.36 cents), the person said on condition of anonymity. The government plans to delay increases in other energy prices until early 2018, the person said.

Authorities are expected to make a final decision on the plan in September or October, the person said. The Saudi finance, economy and energy ministries didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Energy-subsidy reform is a key part of Saudi Arabia's plan to overhaul the economy, along with



the sale of stakes in state-owned entities, including the world's biggest crude exporter known as Saudi Aramco. The kingdom raised fuel prices in December 2015 and announced plans for further increases. Authorities have also announced plans for a cash transfer program that would start before further subsidy cuts to help Saudis cope with the impact as the economy struggles with the worst slowdown since the global financial crisis.

"It is important for the Saudi government to cut subsidies in order to ease pressures on budget deficit," Tariq Qaqish, managing director of the asset management division at Mena Corp. Financial Services LLC in Dubai, said by email. "Not only the transportation and logistics sectors will be affected significantly, any company that is involved in production and needs to transfer their end products to consumers will be affected."

The kingdom's benchmark Tadawul All Share Index climbed 0.3 percent at 12:57 a.m. in Riyadh on Monday. The transportation index fell 0.7 percent, the most in a month.

Removing energy subsidies is politically sensitive in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, where many nationals have grown accustomed to generous state benefits and handouts. The slump in revenue from oil exports have left governments with few options as they grapple with rising budget deficits.

Energy subsidy reform is a key part of Saudi Arabia's plan to overhaul the economy

Saudi Arabia's budget gap soared to more than 15 percent of economic output in 2015 before authorities unveiled a plan to

transform the economy and balance the budget by 2020.

The neighboring United Arab Emirates became the first country in the oil-rich region to remove subsidies on transport fuel when it began linking gasoline and diesel prices to global oil markets in August 2015.

Gasoline and jet fuel would undergo immediate, one-time increases under the Saudi plan, while the government would raise prices of other fuels gradually between 2018 and 2021, the person said.

The government may put a ceiling on increases in diesel and heavy fuel oil to limit any negative impact on the economy, as both fuels are used for power generation and industrial activities, the person said. Electricity rates would rise gradually as power providers passed on at least some of the increase in fuel prices, the person said.

Benchmark Brent crude has lost about 2 percent this year and was trading at USD55.63 a barrel yesterday at 11:22 a.m. in London.

"The government is taking its first step in removing subsidies for some fuel," said John Sfakianakis, director of economics research at Gulf Research Center. "And over the long term, the economy will become a more efficient user of energy in general, and gasoline in particular." **Bloomberg**

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Bhuma Shrivastava

MEDIA

Rolling Stone, iconic music magazine, puts itself up for sale

ROLLING Stone co-founder Jann Wenner is putting his majority stake up for sale, ready to relinquish control of the magazine that has stood for the bible of pop culture since the late 1960s.

The magazine, known for cutting edge music, political and cultural reporting, is the latest publication to give in after years of losing advertising and readership to nimbler online alternatives. Last month, the Village Voice, New York's alternative weekly, closed down its print edition.

When Wenner Media LLC sold a 49 percent stake in Rolling Stone to Singapore-based BandLab Technologies in September 2016, it was the first time Wenner had admitted an outside investor. The deal was an opportunity to take the brand into new and different markets, Gus Wenner, the company's digital chief, said at the time.

Wenner Media hired Methuselah Advisors to explore the sale, according to a statement Sunday. The company didn't say whether Wenner is in talks with any potential suitors. BandLab Technologies, a budding digital music company co-founded by Kuok Meng Ru, the scion of one of Asia's richest families, declined to comment on Wenner's latest statement.

Earlier this year, Wenner Media sold Men's Journal and Us Weekly to American Media Inc.

for undisclosed sums.

Rolling Stone made its mark in the 1970s and 80s with cutting-edge music and political coverage. Gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson wrote for Wenner for decades, including publishing first in its pages "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," which later became a book and movie. And it published in-depth exposés, including the 11,000-word, 1974 story of how heiress Patty Hearst went from a kidnapping victim to radicalized guerrilla. A 2010 profile of General Stanley McChrystal by the magazine that included remarks critical of the Obama administration led to the general's resignation.

At least one recent attempt to continue that tradition of hard-hitting exposés turned into a major stumble for the magazine. Rolling Stone was forced to retract a 2014 article about a gang rape at the University of Virginia after its reporting was discredited.

The publication says it reaches over 60 million people a month. In the past three years, it has grown its digital traffic by almost 50 percent and monthly video



Jann Wenner, founding editor and publisher of Rolling Stone Magazine

views by more than 700 percent, according to its statement.

Since Rolling Stone's deal with BandLab, the company has struck a partnership with Heritage Guitar owners and developer Plaza-Corp to turn a guitar-making site in Kalamazoo, Michigan, into a national music destination.

Kuok, the third son of Singapore-based agribusiness tycoon Kuok Khoon Hong, graduated from Cambridge University with a mathematics degree and launched BandLab in 2016 as a social

network for musicians and fans. The startup is funded by private investors, including Kuok's father and JamHub Corp., a maker of audio mixers.

BandLab, his flagship business, is a cloud-based online community that allows artists to create, collaborate and share their music. In 2012, Kuok acquired Swee Lee, a sleepy 71-year-old distributor of guitars in Singapore and turned the company into a modern enterprise, selling merchandise online and offering music lessons.

It's now the biggest distributor of instruments and audio equipment in Southeast Asia.

Rolling Stone made its mark in the 1970s and 80s with cutting-edge music and political coverage

Other acquisitions include Composr, a European iOS and web music-making service, and MONO Creators Inc., the San Francisco-based design studio that creates high-end instrument cases, straps and accessories for musicians.

BandLab most recently acquired Chew.tv, a London-based DJ streaming platform, underscoring the efforts of Kuok, 29, to build a global music empire. **Bloomberg**

Ryanair under pressure after messing up pilots' holidays

IRISH budget airline Ryanair was under pressure yesterday to provide more information to travelers after canceling up to 50 flights a day over the next six weeks because it "messed up" its pilots' holiday schedules.

Ryanair, Europe's biggest airline by passenger numbers, canceled the flights because it had "messed up

in the planning of pilot holidays," its chief marketing officer, Kenny Jacobs, said Saturday.

The company promised to publish a full list of the canceled flights by today, but as of yesterday there were only details on canceled flights through Wednesday.

Travelers with flights after Wednesday remained in a limbo and took to social

media to vent their anger.

"How the hell do you know if you can get back. Publish full list now!" Carole Schofield tweeted.

The company offered to refund travelers for their canceled flights, in accordance with EU law, or to allow them to change their flight for free.

Shares in the airline fell 1.9 percent to 16.76 euros

in Dublin in an otherwise higher market.

Analysts said Ryanair's scheduling problems stemmed from having to harmonize Irish rules with European Union rules on how many hours pilots can fly in a certain period of time.

"The impact in terms of adverse publicity and frustration to customers is large," said Loizos Hera-



cleous, professor of strategy at the Warwick Business School. He does not, however, expect it to have a durable financial impact

on the company, which is expanding and is adept at controlling costs and finding new sources of revenue. **AP**

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Race to make robots for China spurs manufacturer to double capacity

ABB Ltd. is accelerating expansion in China with a plan to double robot production capacity as part of a bid to become the biggest provider worldwide of the industrial-automation equipment, said Chief Executive Officer Ulrich Spiesshofer.

The blueprint includes doubling the number of robotics research employees in China, where a close rival Kuka AG - backed by Chinese appliances-maker Midea Group Co. - is seeking to unseat ABB's lead in the USD11 billion industry in the nation. ABB also plans to seize on a growing industry in China for electric vehicles by supplying more charging facilities, Spiesshofer said.

The push is part of ABB's broader ambition to surpass Fanuc Corp. of Japan as the top global provider in robotics and automation and also take the lead in e-mobility infrastructure in China, which this month unveiled a decision to phase out combustion-engine cars. The moves come as Spiesshofer prepares to wrap up a four-year restructuring plan under which the Swiss company regrouped operations and resisted investor pressure to break up its businesses to better realize shareholder value.

"ABB is ahead of Kuka globally, we are ahead of Kuka here in the market and our ambition is to stay so," Spiesshofer said in an interview in Shanghai Sept. 16. ABB leads Kuka and Fanuc in the Chinese market, while the Swiss company trails Fanuc in global sales of robotics equipment, according to an ABB presentation.

Zurich-based ABB also "absolutely" has the ability to be No. 1 in e-mobility infrastructure in China, said Spiesshofer, adding that he met with the mayor of Shanghai to discuss the company's plan to boost robot production. He didn't provide a timeline or figures for the increase in capacity and research employees. ABB currently employs more than 17,000 people in 139 Chinese cities.

China is installing more robots than any other nation as its vast manufacturing industry increases automation to move up the value chain. The country added about 90,000 robots last year, a third of the global total, and this will rise to 160,000 in 2019, figures from the International Federation of Robotics show. The government wants domestic robot makers to have half of the market by 2020, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

ABB is willing to provide technology and other forms of support to its local partners to help them become strong players in their own right, Spiesshofer said. More than 80 percent of the robots ABB sells in China are "developed, produced and shipped" in the nation, he said.

The recent decision by China, the world's biggest auto market, to determine a timetable to end sales of vehicles powered by fossil fuels in line with a global trend provides another growth opportunity. Spiesshofer said ABB is working with regional governments on pilot projects for charging facilities in places like public carparks, where it's more common for drivers in China to leave their cars than in private garages.

As many as 800,000 charging stations will be built this year alone, according to the official China Daily. ABB has the manufacturing capacity in place to support that pace, Spiesshofer said.

Charging stations are part of ABB's electrification products division, which contributed \$9.9 billion in revenue last year, or about 29 percent of the company's total. The robotics and motion business, which includes



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robots as well as motors and drives, accounted for \$7.9 billion, or about 23 percent.

These are among four new divisions, the other two being industrial automation and power grids. ABB regrouped its businesses after Spiesshofer resisted a call - led by its second-largest shareholder, Swedish activist investor Cevian Capital AB - to break up the company. It also placed the power grids business under review and promised to cut costs to boost profitability.

"That page is turned and we are moving into the future," the CEO said. The shares rose 0.3 percent to 23.51 Swiss francs as of 12:51 p.m. in Zurich, valuing the company at 51 billion francs (\$53.2 billion).

He said organic growth would be the company's focus, with acquisitions a secondary possibility. In April, it paid \$2 billion for Aus-

trian company Bernecker & Rainer Industrie-Elektronik GmbH to help the company move away from its traditional hardware business and expand in higher-margin software.

China added about 90,000 robots last year, a third of the global total, and this will rise to 160,000 in 2019

Spiesshofer declined to comment on whether ABB is bidding for General Electric Co.'s industrial solutions business, which

the U.S. company is looking to unload amid a shift in its portfolio.

"Consolidation in the robotics and automation industry is ongoing," Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Jawahar Hingorani said, referring to ABB's potential interest in the GE business. "The U.S. is a strategically important market for ABB," and it "wouldn't be surprising" to see the company look to shore up market share there, he said.

Spiesshofer said ABB's restructuring efforts would be completed this year, after the company's unclear identity led it to move in a "convoluted" direction when he started as CEO four years ago.

"Today we have a crisp, clear identity. We know for what we stand," Spiesshofer said. "2018 will be the first year of what I call the new normal. It will be then steady-state sailing." **Bloomberg**

Trump's top trade negotiator calls China 'unprecedented' threat

CHINA'S economic model represents an "unprecedented" threat to the world trading system that can't be addressed under current global rules, President Donald Trump's top trade negotiator said.

"There is one challenge on the current scene that is substantially more difficult than those faced in the past, and that is China," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said last night in a speech in Washington. "The sheer scale of their coor-

ordinated effort to develop their economy, to subsidize, to create national champions, to force technology transfers and to distort markets in China and throughout the world is a threat to the world trading system that is unprecedented."

The World Trade Organization and the rules that underlie the international trade arbitrator weren't designed to deal with China's current approach to its economy, he said.

Lighthizer said he

doesn't want to jump to any conclusions from an ongoing investigation the USTR is leading on alleged intellectual property violations by China under Section 301 of the Trade Act. The provision allows the president to unilaterally impose tariffs and other restrictions to protect U.S. industries from unfair trade practices by outside nations.

Lighthizer said that he doesn't want to prejudge the investigation's outcome, but he gets "an awful lot of complaints,"

especially from American chief executives from major companies about having to create joint ventures to operate in China then hand over their technology.

It was the first major public speech by Lighthizer, 69, who was confirmed in May as USTR. He worked for decades as a trade lawyer, representing clients including U.S. Steel Corp. He served as a deputy USTR under Ronald Reagan, earning a reputation as a hard-nosed negotiator. He also



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Robert Lighthizer

has deep political experience from his time as a senior aide to former Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole.

Lighthizer's remarks come as the U.S. prepares for the third round of negotiations with Canada and Mexico on a revised North American

Free Trade Agreement from Sept. 23-27 in Ottawa. Lighthizer has said the U.S. is seeking a major overhaul of the deal that will benefit American workers.

"We're moving at warp speed, but we don't know if we'll get to a conclusion," he said. **Bloomberg**

HARD TO SPOT

Criminals find new ways to smuggle rhino horns to China, SE Asia

Christopher Torchia,
Johannesburg

International traffickers have tried many ways to smuggle African rhino horns to Asia, concealing them inside wooden Buddha statues, stashing horn pieces in lobster heads kept in a refrigerated container and disguising horn portions as the bases of painted statues.

Now, conservationists say, some criminal groups are processing rhino horns into powder and trinkets in South Africa before export, a trend that could reflect changing consumer tastes and make it harder for law enforcement to intercept the illegal cargo.

The development highlights the difficulty of countering criminal syndicates, some of which include Chinese nationals, which show versatility in the face of periodic anti-poaching successes by security officials, who have reported confiscations of intact rhino horns at the main international airport in Johannesburg in past months. South Africa, which has about 80 percent of the continent's rhinos, has experienced record levels of poaching in the past decade.

Recent investigations by South African police discovered small, home-based workshops where rhino horns were cut into small pieces, beads and bracelets, or packaged as powder, TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network, said in an analysis released Monday. The development will test overstretched law enforcement agencies if traffickers expand such operations, and growing evidence that swindlers are making fake rhino horn products out of cow horns adds to the challenge, the report said.



Smuggled ivory bracelets at the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department, inside a container shipped from Cape Town in 2015

"If someone walks through an airport wearing a necklace made of rhino horn, who's going to stop them?" said Julian Rademeyer, who co-wrote the report and is the author of "Killing for Profit," a book about the illegal rhino horn trade.

Rademeyer said he had been aware of the increasing phenomenon of locally manufactured rhino horn products destined for export since last year. Similarly, elephant ivory products have also been produced in Africa before shipment to illegal markets elsewhere.

The TRAFFIC report cites a June case in which police raided a house east of Johannesburg and found a workshop con-

taining large rhino horn beads, some of them polished, and horn pieces cut into cylindrical shapes. Two Chinese nationals and a

■ **The change highlights the difficulty of countering criminal syndicates, which include Chinese nationals**

Thai woman were arrested. In a 2016 case, the report said, police conducting a raid in a Johannesburg suburb with a large Chinese community seized a bag of rhino horn powder, a large number of ivory bangles and carvings, pangolin scales and other illegal items. Two suspects were detained.

Vietnam and China have the main illegal markets for rhino horn, which is viewed by consumers as a treatment for cancer, hangovers and other ailments, even though it is made from the same substance has human fingernails and there is no evidence that it has medicinal value. Wealthy consumers perceive a horn as a status symbol and there is also

a growing market for rhino horn jewelry and other trinkets of the kind being produced in South Africa before export.

A researcher in South Africa who was not involved in the TRAFFIC study said the local manufacture of rhino horn products was a "fairly new" development because horn processing usually occurred in Asia.

"This obviously creates a different problem for us to detect it and to stop the trade," said Melville Saayman, a professor in tourism management and economics at South Africa's North-West University who led a survey of rhino horn consumers in Vietnam.

"A large number of people prefer the powder, but there are those who use it for lucky charms. So they would like a piece of the horn," Saayman said. He added that Asian distributors and sellers traditionally prefer to receive intact horns from Africa because then they can chop them into whatever form to meet consumer needs.

TRAFFIC's China team have noted rhino horn beads and bracelets for sale on the internet, indicating that rhino horn is "morphing into a luxury product trade" in addition to its use in traditional medicine, said Tom Milliken, a rhino expert at the wildlife trade monitoring network.

"Also, no one along the trade chain from Africa to Asia is really looking for rhino horn products, the law enforcement focus is completely on horns or pieces of horns," Milliken said. "Thus, the production in Africa probably achieves a dual purpose: It's cheaper to produce the products and the products are more likely than horns to be smuggled with impunity." AP

CHINESE authorities have detained a software developer for selling computer services that allow internet users to evade China's "Great Firewall," which blocks access to thousands of websites, from Facebook to Twitter to some news outlets, a media report said.

The software developer, who is from the coastal province of Jiangsu, near Shanghai, was arrested in late August and held for three days for building a small business to sell virtual private networks, the Global Times newspaper

Beijing detains man for service to evade internet firewall

reported, citing the official Xinhua news agency. VPNs create encrypted links between computers and allow Chinese web users to see blocked sites by hiding the address from government filters.

Subscribers paid 10 yuan, or about USD1.50, for one month of the developer's service. Authorities also seized the developer's ear-

nings, which totaled 1,080 yuan, or about \$165.

Some internet businessmen have faced far harsher punishments: Earlier this year, a 26-year-old entrepreneur who sold VPN services in Dongguan, near Hong Kong, was sentenced to nine months in prison.

Beijing launched a campaign early this year to

stamp out the use of unlicensed VPNs, part of a broader crackdown over control of information ahead of October's twice-a-decade ruling party congress. China restricts how licensed VPNs are used, but has yet to disclose what those restrictions entail.

VPNs are part of daily life for many Chinese. A sur-

vey by GlobalWebIndex said 14 percent of Chinese internet users employ a VPN daily, meaning China may have as many as 100 million regular users.

Some 8.8 percent of people in the survey use VPNs to look at "restricted sites," according to GlobalWebIndex.

China has introduced a range of internet restric-

tions over the past year, including requiring every business with a website to obtain an Internet Content Provider license.

Wang Sixin, deputy dean of the School of Literature and Law at Communication University of China, told the Communist Party-owned Global Times that the new regulations are aimed at creating rule of law on the internet.

Web users "will be prone to harmful — even terrorist — information on the internet if it isn't appropriately regulated," Wang said. AP

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

THE U.S. military flew advanced bombers and stealth jets over the Korean Peninsula and near Japan in drills with South Korean and Japanese warplanes yesterday, three days after North Korea fired a missile over Japan.

The United States often sends powerful military aircraft in a show of force in times of heightened animosities with North Korea. The North launched its latest missile as it protested against tough new U.N. sanctions over its sixth nuclear test on Sept. 3.

Yesterday's flyovers over the Korean Peninsula involved two B-1Bs and four F-35Bs from the U.S. military and four F-15K fighter jets from South Korea, according to the South Korean and U.S. militaries. The U.S. and South Korean planes practiced attacks by releasing live weapons at a firing range in South Korea, the U.S. Pacific Command said in a statement.

The U.S. warplanes also conducted formation training with Japanese fighter jets over waters near the southern island of Kyushu, according to the Pacific Command.

Since Kim Jong Un took power in North Korea in late 2011, his nation has tested weapons at a torrid pace. The country flight-tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July. Its nuclear test in September was its most powerful to date.

Many experts say it's only a matter of time until Kim achieves his stated objective of possessing reliable nuclear-tipped missiles capable of striking anywhere in the mainland U.S.

State media on Saturday quoted

US flies powerful warplanes amid tensions with North Korea

Kim as saying that North Korea's final goal "is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about military option" for the North.

Alarmed by North Korea's advancing weapons programs, many conservatives in South Korea have called for the reintroduction of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in the South. But the liberal-leaning government of President Moon Jae-in said it has no intention of requesting that the U.S. bring back such weapons.

The so-called 'China's responsibility theory' is essentially moral kidnapping.

PEOPLE'S DAILY

South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo told lawmakers yesterday that it is "not proper" to reintroduce U.S. nuclear weapons. He previously said the idea should be "deeply considered" by



In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, F-15K fighter jets drop bombs as they fly over the Korean Peninsula during joint drills with the U.S.

the allies, inflaming already-heated debate on the issue.

Meanwhile, China's Communist Party newspaper yesterday criticized the United States for demanding that Beijing put more pressure on North Korea to rein in its weapons programs.

"The so-called 'China's responsibility theory' is essentially moral kidnapping," the People's Daily said in a commentary. It also noted that sanctions should not harm "legitimate economic and trade exchanges between North Korea and the outside world" and the lives of everyday people.

China accounts for about 90 percent of North Korea's trade

and sends largely free crude oil shipments to the North. Beijing has been increasingly frustrated with North Korea's nuclear drive, but it still doesn't want the North to collapse and cause a wave of refugees to cross the border into China and American troops to move into North Korea.

China's foreign ministry said yesterday that military threats being made by North Korea and the U.S. were counterproductive.

"Some related parties keep sending threatening messages both in words and deeds that include warnings of military actions to each other," ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters at a

regular briefing. "But actually, these kinds of actions didn't help solving the problem but further complicate the situation, which do no good to the resolution of the peninsular issue."

Instead, he said, the international community should strictly implement the sanctions imposed on North Korea by the U.N. Security Council.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel also said in comments reported Monday by the Bild daily that the world should wait for the sanctions to bite, but that "visions and courageous steps" such as direct negotiations with North Korea are also needed. AP

NEW ZEALAND

Burst fuel pipe to disrupt flights through week

A rupture in the main pipeline carrying jet fuel to New Zealand's largest airport has disrupted the travel plans of thousands of people and is expected to cause further flight cancellations and delays into next week.

Auckland Airport spokeswoman Lisa Mulitalo said yesterday that 41 international and domestic flights have been canceled since Saturday due to low jet fuel supplies. She said other flights have been delayed or re-routed.

Mulitalo said the airport handles about 465 flights daily and most are still operating as normal. She said the airport is urging travelers to check their flight information online and get in contact with their airline if needed.

The pipeline also carries diesel and gasoline, al-



New Zealand Refinery staff work at the site of a jet fuel pipeline leak on a farm near Ruakaka in the North Island of New Zealand

though the shortages have been most acutely felt so far by airlines.

New Zealand's military has stepped in to help by offering a naval tanker and truck drivers to transport fuel and by cancelling a

planned military exercise with Singapore to help preserve fuel.

"It's been made very clear to all of those working on this that the government will commit whatever resources and effort are re-

quired to get this sorted out as quickly as possible with a minimum of disruption," said Minister of Energy and Resources Judith Collins in a statement.

Passenger Benjamin Sila told The New Zealand Herald newspaper he was traveling from Thailand to Samoa and was in transit in Auckland when he was saddened to discover his flight was cancelled.

"I just want to go home and see my daughter," he said. "I was really looking forward to it."

He said he now planned to travel home via Sydney.

Air New Zealand said jet fuel supplies at the airport are only about 30 percent of normal levels and 2,000 of its customers will be affected yesterday alone.

Some of its flights are being canceled while others to North America

and Asia are being redirected to refueling stops at airports in the Pacific or Australia, the airline said.

"Aviation is a critical transport industry and the lifeblood for tourism and we are naturally extremely disappointed with this infrastructure failure," Air New Zealand captain David Morgan said in a statement.

The underground pipeline runs about 170 kilometers from an oil refinery to Auckland.

Greg McNeill, a spokesman for pipeline owner Refining New Zealand, said a digger or other machinery appears to have damaged the pipe and then acidic soil had corroded it further until it failed Thursday.

He said his company should be able to fix the pipe and have it operating

again by Sept. 26 at the latest, although it would take another 30 hours after the jet fuel arrives in Auckland for it to settle and be recertified.

McNeill said operators first noticed a drop in pressure in the pipeline on Thursday afternoon, and teams flew overhead by helicopter to locate the leak.

He said about 60,000 liters of fuel spilled from the rupture. He said the leaked fuel was contained in the surrounding soil and in a culvert and had not seeped into waterways.

McNeill said installing a second pipeline, as some people are calling for in light of the leak and flight disruptions, would require a big commitment from the industry and cost about 300 million New Zealand dollars (USD220 million). AP

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MALAYSIA

Mahathir says in interview opposition can win vote

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

FORMER Malaysian strongman Mahathir Mohamad says the opposition alliance campaigning to topple the country's corruption-tainted leader can win the next general elections and pull Malaysia back from a slide into kleptocracy.

The energetic 92-year-old, Asia's longest-serving leader before stepping down in 2003, has made a high-profile return to politics in a bid to oust his protege, Prime Minister Najib Razak, who has clung to power despite an epic corruption scandal that involved hundreds of millions of dollars passing through his bank accounts.

Mahathir told The Associated Press in an interview that the disparate opposition coalition he has spearheaded to contest elections due by mid-2018 is tapping into anger at the corruption scandal and the rising cost of living.

"Lots of people feel that Najib has destroyed much that has been built for this country," he said.

"People are calling our leader a crook. That is not something I would like to see perpetuated. It must change back to the days when we were doing well."

Najib has sacked critics in his own government including an attorney-general and deputy prime

minister and muzzled the media since the corruption scandal erupted two years ago. The U.S. and several other countries are investigating allegations of cross-border embezzlement and money laundering at 1MDB, a state investment fund set up and previously led by Najib to promote economic development but which accumulated billions in debt.

The U.S. Justice Department says at least USD4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib, and it is working to seize \$1.7 billion taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S., potentially its largest asset seizure ever.

Its complaint filed with a U.S. District Court says more than \$700 million landed in the accounts of "Malaysian Official 1," which it did not name but through descriptions of that official's role in the fund and government, as well as other details, made clear was Najib. A statement in January 2016 from Malaysia's Attorney-General Mohamed Apandi Ali, who replaced Abdul Gani Patail following his sacking by Najib for pursuing an investigation, said the millions in Najib's accounts were a political donation from the Saudi royal family that was mostly returned. Najib has denied any wrongdoing.

Mahathir said he doesn't want to

be prime minister again and that his aim is simply to topple Najib and restore Malaysia's reputation. He keeps a hectic schedule, crisscrossing the country to speak at political rallies. He has undergone two heart bypass surgeries but shows no sign of slowing down.

Despite speculation that Najib may call elections this year, Mahathir said he believes polls will be held in 2018 because Najib wants time to strengthen his support in eastern Sabah and Sarawak states on the island of Borneo.

The two states, both strongholds of rural Malay support for the governing National Front coalition, jointly contribute about a quarter of parliamentary seats and helped Najib win the 2013 polls despite losing the national popular vote to the opposition for the first time.

"We will win support on the ground," Mahathir said. "We hope to win with a simple majority."

Yet gerrymandering will make it tough to win more seats than the ruling coalition. The Election Commission last year redrew electoral boundaries that critics said created more Malay-majority seats to ensure victory for Najib though opposition parties are contesting it in court.

A doctor by training, Mahathir is credited with transforming

Muslim-majority Malaysia from an economic backwater into a modern trading nation that has leapt past most of its Southeast Asian neighbors in living standards. But his rule was also clouded by authoritarianism and maverick outbursts on the international stage.

"Whatever may be the differences in the past, the problem that we face with Najib is far greater. If we don't get rid of him, we will achieve nothing," he said.

Mahathir said he once thought Najib would be admired like his father — Malaysia's second Prime Minister Abdul Razak Hussein — but Najib went "from bad to worse" with the 1MDB scandal.

It turned the former mentor into Najib's most strident critic. Mahathir often voices his criticism on his blog, Chedet.cc, taken from a childhood nickname given by his sisters, and attended a massive street rally in Kuala Lumpur last year that called for Najib's resignation.

Mahathir then formed the Bersatu party together with Najib's former deputy Muhyiddin Yassin, who was sacked last year for questioning the premier about the scandal.

Even more dramatically, Mahathir this year persuaded his former political nemesis, including

opposition icon Anwar Ibrahim who was imprisoned on Mahathir's watch, to accept Bersatu into Anwar's opposition coalition.

Anwar was Mahathir's deputy until he was sacked in a power struggle in 1998 and later imprisoned on charges of corruption and sodomy that Anwar said were trumped up. Anwar was freed in 2004 but in 2015 he returned to prison following a second sodomy conviction that critics said was a political conspiracy to break up the opposition.

Mahathir's comeback is a boost to the opposition that has been plagued by infighting. His popularity with ethnic Malays may also make the opposition more palatable to those voters, who are the bedrock of Najib's ruling coalition. Recently, the alliance announced they would contest elections under a single logo and have a common constitution.

Mahathir said there is a deep reservoir of anger among urban voters, and while the rural poor might not feel affected by the graft scandal, they are upset by a higher cost of living that partly stems from an unpopular goods and services tax.

Najib's meeting last week with President Donald Trump was aimed at seeking political legitimacy, Mahathir said, but it backfired after he pledged billions of dollars of investment for the U.S. economy while there are economic problems at home.

"This country has the capacity to become a fully developed country if the right policy and plans are carried out," he said. But under Najib, we "run the risk of becoming a bankrupt country, a failed country." AP

AP PHOTO

“Lots of people feel that Najib has destroyed much that has been built for this country.”

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

Matthew Lee & Jonathan Lemire,
New York

ON a sweltering Washington summer day, President Donald Trump's motorcade pulled up to the Pentagon for a meeting largely billed as a briefing on the Afghanistan conflict and the fight against the Islamic State group.

There, in the windowless meeting room known as "The Tank", Trump was to be briefed on the state of America's longest-running war as he and his top aides plotted ways ahead. But, according to current and former U.S. officials familiar with the meeting, it was, in reality, about much more.

Trump's national security team had become alarmed by the president's frequent questioning about the value of a robust American presence around the world. When briefed on the diplomatic, military and intelligence posts, the new president would often cast doubt on the need for all the resources. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson organized the July 20 session to lay out the case for maintaining far-flung outposts — and to present it, using charts and maps, in a way the businessman-turned-politician would appreciate.

The session was, in effect, American Power 101 and the student was the man working the levers. It was part of the ongoing education of a president who arrived at the White House with no experience in the military or government and brought with him advisers deeply skeptical of what they labeled the "globalist" worldview. In coordinated efforts and quiet conversations, some of Trump's aides have worked for months to counter that view, hoping the president can be persuaded to maintain — if not expand — the American footprint and influence abroad.

The result of the meeting and other similar entreaties may start to become clear this week, as Trump heads to New York for his first address to the United Nations General Assembly. The annual gathering of world leaders will open amid serious concerns about Trump's priorities, his support for the body he is addressing and a series of spiraling global crises.

Trump, who seized as his mantra "America First" and at times unnerved world leaders with his unpredictability, is expected to offer warmth to the United States' allies and warnings to its adversaries, particularly North Korea and Iran. The president's envoy to the global body suggested a presidential message that would focus on the basics on America's role in the world.

"I personally think he slaps the right people, he hugs the right people, and he comes out with the U.S. being very strong in the end," Ambassador Nikki Haley said.

In the weeks since the briefing in the Tank, Trump has split with top adviser Steve Bannon, the engine of many of his nationalist,



Trump (right) pats UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' arm before a meeting during the United Nations General Assembly

USA

How Trump's advisers schooled him on globalism

isolationist policies. He threatened war with North Korea and agreed to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan, abandoning his promise to withdraw quickly. Announcing the plan, Trump acknowledged the influence of his advisers.

"My original instinct was to pull out — and, historically, I like following my instincts," he said. "But all my life I've heard that decisions are much different when you sit behind the desk in the Oval Office; in other words, when you're President of the United States. So I studied Afghanistan in great detail and from every conceivable angle."

On July 20, Trump, Bannon, then-White House chief of staff Reince Priebus, senior adviser Jared Kushner and others stepped from the presidential motorcade and filed down a corridor adorned with formal portraits of former joint chiefs chairmen and into Room 2E924, identified by a small, unobtrusive plaque as "The Tank," to join Vice President Mike Pence, Mattis and Tillerson as well as a host of briefers.

Armed with charts, maps and diagrams, those briefers spent the next roughly 90 minutes explaining to Trump the critical importance of forward worldwide deployments of U.S. military, intelligence and diplomatic assets, according to two current officials and one former official familiar

with the meeting. While the war in Afghanistan and against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq were major topics, the stationing of U.S. personnel in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America were also covered, said the officials who were not authorized to discuss details of the highly classified briefing and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The officials said the purpose was to answer one of Trump's most persistent questions of his national security aides: Why does the U.S. government need "so many people" abroad? As such, it was a comprehensive look at military bases, embassies and consulates, CIA stations and other intelligence posts, presented by experts sitting around a large conference table and in chairs lining the walls.

To be successful, Mattis and Tillerson decided they should use talking points and commentary with which they believed Trump would be most familiar: the role that the military, intelligence officers and diplomats play in making the world safe for American businesses, like The Trump Organization, to operate and expand abroad. American troops provide stability, diplomats push rule of law and anti-corruption measures and the intelligence community provides context and analysis that drive the first two, the briefers explained, according

to the officials.

The implications of American retrenchment in an age of increasing international competition were also discussed, the officials said. One chart presented included two maps depicting the exponential growth of China's presence in Africa over the past two decades and its impact on U.S. national security and private foreign investment, according to the officials.

Trump emerged and declared it a "very good meeting."

As a student, Trump is known to be alternatively eager and easily distracted.

CIA chief Mike Pompeo has called Trump both an "avid" and "voracious" consumer of intelligence. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, speaking just a day after the Pentagon meeting, told an audience at the Aspen Se-

curity Forum that Trump interrupted briefings so often that he and his team frequently needed to circle back to their main points multiple times.

"What we found is someone who has not been in government, not been in the intelligence business, not having relationship to that, but is asking an awful lot of questions and a lot of them were good questions," he said.

White House aides have readied a crash course for Trump as he prepares for the General Assembly, in part necessitated because the president has delayed some of his preparations, choosing instead to focus on the federal government's response to a pair of massive hurricanes and, to a lesser extent in recent days, his dealings with Democrats on immigration issues, according to the officials and advisers. AP

TRUMP URGES UNITED NATIONS TO REFORM

PRESIDENT DONALD

Trump made his debut at the United Nations yesterday, using his first appearance to urge the 193-nation organization to reduce bureaucracy and costs while more clearly defining its mission around the world. But while Trump chastised the U.N. — an organization he sharply criticized as a candidate for president — he said the Unit-

ed States would "pledge to be partners in your work" in order to make the body "a more effective force" for peace across the globe. "In recent years, the United Nations has not reached its full potential due to bureaucracy and mismanagement," said Trump, who rebuked the U.N. for a ballooning budget. "We are not seeing the results in line with this investment."

what's ON



CERAMICS AND SEALS OF 108 HEROES OF SHUI HU LEGEND FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
 TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
 UNTIL: November 19, 2017
 VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MONKEY KING
 TIME: 4pm & 8pm Daily (Except on Thursdays)
 VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre
 ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP480, MOP680, MOP880, MOP1080
 COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818
 KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM
 TIME: 9am-5:30pm daily (Ticket sales is closed 30 minutes prior to closing, closed on public holidays)
 ADDRESS: No. 7, Estrada de D. Maria II
 ADMISSION: MOP10
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063; 2871 8570

WHATEVER YOU MAKE, MAKE IT YOURS - 14TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION
 TIME: 2pm-7pm
 UNTIL: September 23, 2017
 VENUE: Creative Macau (G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building)

Offbeat

KOALA SURVIVES 10-MILE AUSTRALIA TRIP IN WHEEL ARCH



For a stowaway who made a 16-kilometer journey squeezed in a wheel arch, a koala was lucky to escape with just scratches.

The driver of the four-wheel vehicle was unaware of the extra passenger until they arrived at their destination in the outskirts of Adelaide, Australia, and he heard some unusual cries.

After seeing the koala in the wheel arch, he immediately called animal rescuers, who removed the wheel and eventually extricated the frightened but very lucky animal.

"You think you've seen it all. No, I've never seen anything like that and it's absolutely incredible," said Fauna Rescue worker, Jane Brister.

The koala suffered superficial injuries and was covered in grease from under the car.

"She was crying a little bit, she was a little bit shaken, she was certainly in shock but I rushed her straight to the vet," Brister said.

The koala was dubbed Kelli, after one of the firefighters who rescued her.

"Kelli's one of our fine station officers and she led the rescue crew that day and she was quite excited to have such a good outcome," said Dave Juniper of the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.

After being cleaned up and monitored for a week, it was released back into the bush on Saturday. AP

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:30	NOS League: Boavista - Benfica
18:15	The Cariocas (Repeated)
18:45	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr. 1
22:10	The Cariocas
22:40	Seven Deadly Sins
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

14 SEP - 20 SEP



IT

ROOM 1

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

Director: Andres Muschietti

Starring: Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher, Finn Wolfhard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



WOLF WARRIOR II

ROOM 2

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

Director: Jason Wu

Starring: Jason Wu, Qian Yu, Nan Yu

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 126min



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



2003 WASHINGTON DC SWEEP BY HURRICANE

A massive hurricane has swept through the area around Washington DC, the capital of the United States.

At least two deaths have already been attributed to the storm, known as Hurricane Isabel, since it hit the east coast late yesterday, wreaking widespread havoc with winds gusting at up to 150 km/h (90mph).

By early today, most people in Washington had already taken shelter. The streets are largely empty, and much of the city has simply shut down, including federal buildings.

Uprooted trees are blocking several roads, and many streets are covered in leaves, branches and fallen power lines.

President George W Bush was among those who left the capital, going to his retreat at Camp David in Maryland, along with his guest, King Abdullah of Jordan.

One tree came down in the front garden of the White House, although workers said there was no damage to the building itself.

Flights in to the capital were cancelled or diverted, and all three airports in the Washington area have been shut down. Many train services have also stopped.

The storm was at one point rated a rare maximum Category Five. When it came ashore in North Carolina it was a Category Two hurricane - still strong enough to rip off roofs, knock down trees and snap power lines along the length of the coastline.

Lashing rain and high winds have left about one million homes are without power, and there is widespread flooding as sea levels have risen dramatically.

President Bush has declared parts of Virginia and North Carolina major disaster zones, a move which will release federal funds to aid recovery efforts.

In the beach resort of Kitty Hawk in North Carolina, Fred Gentry described how the hurricane tore down his house.

"The wall literally just split in half horizontally, it just caved in, taking the furniture with it," he told the AFP news agency.

Forecasters are warning that it could still do considerable damage, with the main danger from flooding as the hurricane dumps heavy rain on soil already saturated from a wetter than normal summer.

Meteorologists expect Isabel to peter out over Canada by Sunday.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

As predicted, Hurricane Isabel died away two days later.

At least 15 people were killed, mainly in vehicle accidents and by falling trees. Almost four million homes on the east coast were left without electricity.

Damage was put at half a billion dollars. Federal government offices, the public transport system, monuments and museums in Washington DC remained closed for two days.

The clean-up operation lasted weeks, and in some areas of North Carolina, where the storm first hit, it took until the following summer to recover.

Hurricane Isabel was the first major hurricane to threaten this section of the eastern seaboard since 1999 when Hurricane Floyd, also a Category Two hurricane, caused \$4.5 billion damage and 56 deaths.

Scientists have warned that North America and Canada are entering a new phase of major hurricane activity.

Since 1995, the average number of major hurricanes has more than doubled.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Just when you thought it was safe to come out, duty calls. That doesn't mean you'll have to abandon all thoughts of romance, however. If you play your cards right - and if anyone can, it's you.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Getting close to someone isn't safe for anyone. It definitely becomes more difficult when you're wise enough to know not just what closeness entails, but exactly what you're risking when you open up.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
When you love someone, your feelings tend to border on obsessive - and when they ask you to do something because 'if you loved them, you would,' it's not in your nature to hesitate.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
After days of putting absolutely all of your energy into guidance and caretaking, you're thinking that it's your turn for some TLC. A volunteer for that mission - someone you're quite fond of.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Here's something you were never expecting: the sneaking feeling that you may have been struck by love at first sight. No, it doesn't come along that often - and even less often in your case.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
First, though, your sweetheart or best friend (whichever the case may be) will need to stop being jealous or resentful of the time and energy you've been devoting to your family.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You have every right to smile that smile for as long as your facial muscles can stand it - especially if you happen to be in the vicinity of someone who's wearing a matching expression.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Put down the legal pad and relax that furrow in your brow. The 'new you' needs to do more than just make to-do lists. You need to do some shopping - for clothes.

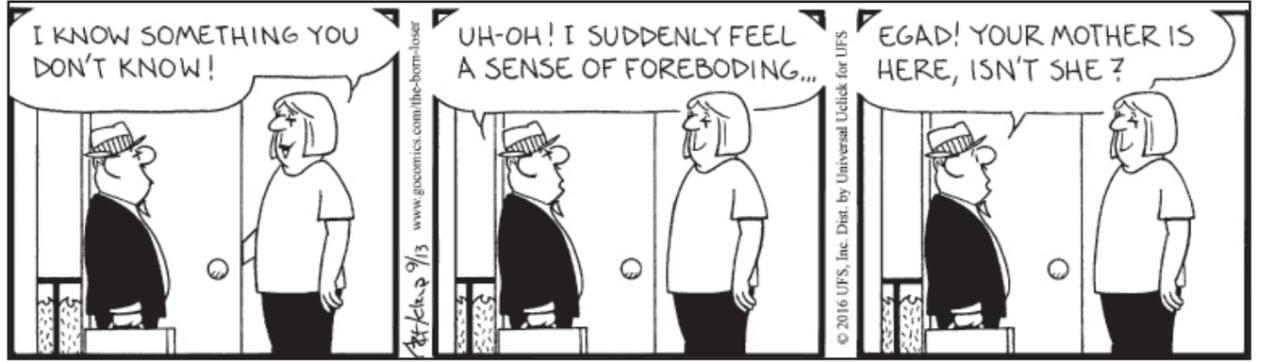
Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You've never been afraid to say what's on your mind, and you're quite good at saying it in a most entertaining fashion. What's in your heart is another matter. That's tougher for you to talk about.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Regardless of what your more serious friends have advised, you're in the mood to take a chance and let your intuition guide you - and that's an approach that's never failed to be your best bet.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You've always been proud of your friends. You handpick them with great care, and it takes time. Anyone who makes it to your inner circle gets there because they're intelligent, witty and entertaining.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Speaking of dreams, you're about to receive a very direct hint from the universe, telling you that you're headed down the right path. You're aimed directly at making one of your most cherished dreams a reality.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	17	29	clear
Harbin	11	21	cloudy/shower
Tianjin	19	29	clear
Urumqi	15	27	clear
Xi'an	20	25	cloudy/drizzle
Lhasa	12	22	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	20	27	drizzle
Chongqing	22	25	moderate rain
Kunming	17	25	cloudy
Nanjing	20	28	cloudy
Shanghai	23	30	cloudy/overcast
Wuhan	20	24	moderate rain
Hangzhou	22	32	clear/overcast
Taipei	25	33	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	35	clear
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy

WORLD

Moscow	13	22	cloudy/drizzle
Frankfurt	7	15	drizzle
Paris	7	15	drizzle
London	10	16	drizzle
New York	20	24	drizzle

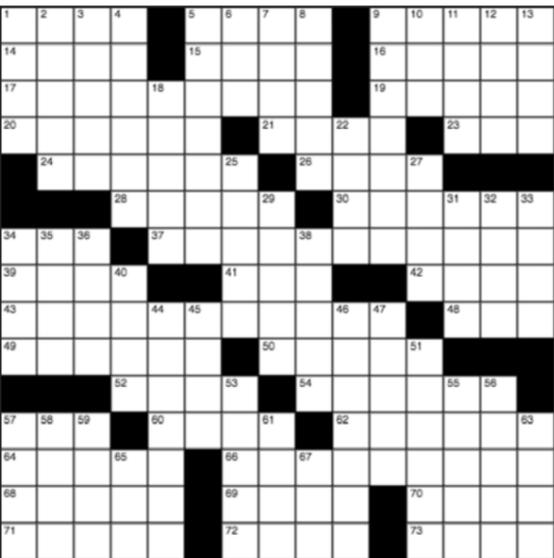
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Blend; 5- Mozart's "___ kleine Nachtmusik"; 9- Penned; 14- End in ___ (draw); 15- On the peak of; 16- Biblical king; 17- Check the graduation of; 19- Seeped; 20- Pollen producer; 21- Able was ___; 23- Barcelona bear; 24- Smelting residue; 26- Golf's Ballesteros; 28- Actress Berger; 30- Pertaining to the skin; 34- D-Day craft; 37- Powerful defoliant; 39- Like ___ of bricks; 41- Altar answer; 42- In a minute; 43- Formation of a zygote; 48- Palm Pilot, e.g.; 49- Every 52 weeks; 50- Beat it!; 52- Encounter; 54- Mediterranean arm; 57- Defunct airline; 60- Screws up; 62- Releases; 64- Free from; 66- Fair; 68- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 69- Boxer Spinks; 70- Put down; 71- Bit of wisdom; 72- Obscene; 73- Slaughter of baseball;

DOWN: 1- PC alternatives; 2- Les ___-Unis; 3- Light purple; 4- Moon of Mars; 5- Meriting; 6- Call ___ day; 7- Don't look at me!; 8- Fencing blades; 9- No matter who; 10- Rock's ___ Speedwagon; 11- Rice-shaped pasta; 12- Some digits; 13- Other name for taro; 18- Kentucky college; 22- Make over; 25- Had dinner at home; 27- Historical times; 29- Aconagua's range; 31- Queue before Q; 32- Yes, there is ___; 33- Tuneful Horne; 34- Slothful; 35- Eye sore; 36- Garment of ancient Rome; 38- Puccini classic; 40- "Cheers" regular; 44- Merry; 45- Watchful one; 46- Erin; 47- More wise; 51- Spunk; 53- Run of bird-song; 55- Continental identity of a Chinese person; 56- Marsh of mystery; 57- Pitfall; 58- Broad; 59- 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit; 61- Hook's helper; 63- Cutlass, e.g.; 65- ___ the ramparts we watched...; 67- Captive soldier;

Yesterday's solution

A	P	I	N	U	S	E	U	P	T	R	I	M	
C	O	N	E	L	A	T	T	E	R	I	T	A	
E	L	E	A	E	T	H	I	C	A	C	E	Y	
T	I	P	T	O	E	A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A
O	S	T	E	O	T	I	N	E	S	S	E		
S	P	E	C										
B	A	H	T	T	O	A	S	Y	S	T	E	M	
A	B	O		A	N	G	E	R		E	L	I	
D	A	M	S	E	L	D	R	A		A	S	E	
U	B	O	A	T		M	S	G	T				
P	A	A	N	G	A	A	L	D	E	R			
T	A	I	L	S	P	I	N	F	L	E	E	C	
A	N	D	I	N	E	A	T	O	A	L	L	S	
M	I	E	N		E	L	S	I	E	S	T	A	
S	L	A	G		A	S	H	E	S	T	A	T	



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Rob Harris

FOOTBALL

Lukaku compounds Everton's misery in Man United's 4-0 rout

WHEN Romelu Lukaku slotted the ball into the Everton net, the Manchester United striker had no intention of holding back on the celebrations.

Far from it. Especially after being jeered during last weekend Premier League game by the Everton fans who revered him before an off-season transfer across northern England. The Belgian, who cost 75 million pounds (then USD97 million), cupped his right ear to those supporters.

"The celebration was just a bit of banter," Lukaku said after scoring the third goal in a 4-0 drubbing of Everton. "I missed the free kick and they jeered me but I scored the rebound."

It compounded the miserable run for his former club. It's now four consecutive losses in all competitions, three in the league, with Everton conceding 12 goals without reply in the process.

So early in the season, it's looking bleak for Ronald Koeman's side which demonstrated such ambition in the summer when it spent 140 million pounds (\$190 million) on talent. That doesn't even take into account the free transfer of former United captain Wayne Rooney, who experienced a depressing return to Old Trafford on the pitch.

At least he received a warm reception, perhaps out of sympathy for the predicament he's facing at his new team. The poor run of form started with a 2-0 loss last month to Chelsea, which was held 0-0 by Arsenal in Sunday's other game.

Only alphabetical order is se-



Romelu Lukaku celebrates after scoring during the match between Manchester United and Everton at Old Trafford

parating Manchester United and neighbor City at the top of the standings. After five games they have identical records. It is 4 wins and a draw each. Both have scored 16 times and only conceded twice.

Yet it was only Antonio Valencia's half-volley in the fourth minute separating United and Everton until the 83rd minute when Henrikh Mkhitaryan slo-

tted in a second. Lukaku struck in the 89th minute and a handball by Morgan Schneiderlin allowed Anthony Martial to slot in a penalty in the second minute of stoppage time.

At the end of a week when fellow Dutchman Frank de Boer lost his job after only four games at Crystal Palace, Koeman is feeling the heat at Everton.

"We need to win, if you don't

win then it is better to stop," Koeman said. "Every manager in life has doubts. There is nobody who doesn't have doubts as a manager. And if you don't win you know you have a big number of players in your squad, and you have doubts about what system to play. This is normal. Of course I ask myself the question 'Why? Why?'"

It's time, though to be "rea-

listic," according to the former Southampton manager in his second season at Everton.

"Fans, press, we need time," Koeman said. "But it is difficult in football."

Not so for United, which has won its three home matches and scored 12 goals without conceding.

For the fifth time in eight matches, Chelsea had a player sent off. But David Luiz's dismissal in the 87th minute for a high, sliding challenge on Sead Kolasinac came too late for Arsenal to produce a winner.

Still, a draw against the champions gave Arsenal its first point at Stamford Bridge in six years and provided a psychological reset after losses to Stoke and Liverpool in its last two away games.

"There was a battle all over the pitch and we responded well in domains where we were questioned," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "I like it when the team shows that kind of response. So overall I feel it's a deserved point and with a bit more freedom and less inhibition I feel we could have won this game with one or two goals difference."

"Overall, first it was important at least not to lose today and you could feel that in the team. In the last 20 minutes we played with that in our minds." AP

RUGBY

Kaino recalled to All Blacks squad for Championship

FLANKER Jerome Kaino has been recalled to the All Blacks squad for Rugby Championship tests against Argentina and South Africa over the next two weeks.

Lock Patrick Tuipulotu and backrower Matt Todd have also been called up as New Zealand reverts to a split squad system for the tests against the Pumas at Buenos Aires and the Springboks in Cape Town.

Six leading players — locks Sam Whitelock and Brodie Retallick, backrowers Liam Squire and Sam Cane, flyhalf Beauden Barrett and center Ryan Crotty — will miss the Argentina



test and join the squad ahead of the clash with South Africa. At least six players will also leave the squad after the Argentina match.

Head coach Steve Hansen said it was

necessary to measure work loads to keep players fresh as New Zealand faces eight tests in nine weeks.

"We struggled at times last year," Hansen said. "This is the har-

dest time of the year for us so we are just trying to think outside the box and think of ways to keep players fresh. This also gives us a chance to build player depth and experience.

"It puts a lot of pressure on us going to Argentina because they are a good side and we'll need to play well to perform there. But we're confident that the group we are taking there will be able to do the job."

New Zealand beat Argentina 39-22 in New Plymouth two weeks ago and South Africa by a record margin of 57-0 in their first meeting last weekend.

Kaino missed those matches, taking leave

from the team to deal with personal issues. His return is unexpected as the 34-year-old veteran of 81 tests has been in poor form recently and seemed to have slipped in the selection pecking order behind Squire and Vaea Fifita.

Winger Israel Dagg has been left out of the 28-man squad because of a knee injury which may require surgery. Utility back Jordie Barrett and props Owen Franks and Joe Moody are also unavailable because of injuries. AP

NEW ZEALAND SQUAD TO TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA

FORWARDS: Wyatt Crockett, Kane Hames, Nepo Laulala, Jeffery Toomaga Allen, Ofa Tu'un-gafasi, Dane Coles, Codie Taylor, Nathan Harris, Scott Barrett, Luke Romano, Patrick Tuipulotu, Vaea Fifita, Jerome Kaino, Kieran Read (captain), Ar-

die Savea and Matt Todd. Backs: Tawera Kerr-Barlow, T.J. Perenara, Aaron Smith, Lima Sopoaga, Anton Lienert-Brown, Ngani Laumape, Sonny Bill Williams, Rieko Ioane, David Havili, Damian McKenzie, Nehe Milner-Skudder and Waisake Naholo.

opinion

World Views

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

SELLING A PIECE OF HONG KONG HISTORY

A piece of Hong Kong's history won't come cheap.

That's why Mandarin Oriental International Ltd.'s USD3.8 billion disposal of the Excelsior Hotel, featured in the Pink Panther movies and linked to the Noon Day Gun immortalized by Noel Coward, is smart.

By selling the only four-star hotel in its five-star portfolio, Mandarin takes advantage of record prices while reducing its reliance on the city's competitive market.

Unlike its parent Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd., the British trading house associated with Hong Kong's founding more than 150 years ago, Mandarin Oriental is a mainly local play. While Jardine profits from its ownership of Hongkong Land Holdings Ltd., the biggest landlord in the Central business district, it's also a major player in Southeast Asia. Mandarin Oriental has its name on luxury hotels and residences worldwide, yet it still makes 54 percent of Ebitda from Hong Kong and Macau.

That has been bad news. Fewer big-spending mainland tourists, the hotel group's bread and butter, are coming to Hong Kong - they now prefer London, Paris or Tokyo. Until it announced plans for a sale of Excelsior in June, Mandarin Oriental's Singapore-listed shares were underperforming those even of its parent.

The disposal of the 848-room property, with a gross total floor area of 684,000 square feet, turns a burden into a bonus. The hotel, built in 1973, is run down and would have needed an expensive refit. Easier to sell it for office redevelopment, for which permission has been granted, at the top of the market. Mandarin is tapping into the renewed buzz around Hong Kong office space since May, when Henderson Land Development Co. paid a record \$3 billion for a former car park in the city.

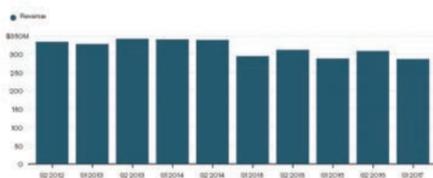
The one challenge Mandarin faces is a smaller pool of buyers, as capital controls prevent mainland investors from taking a lead role. Chinese investment in Hong Kong's office sector fell to 8 percent of total investment volumes in the first half, compared with 31 percent last year, according to JLL.

Interest in the site is testament to the Excelsior's location: It's in the retail paradise of Causeway Bay, three subway stops from Central, with sea views and history, as the first plot of land acquired by the British in 1841. The sale has attracted at least five bidders, according to reports, including a Chinese-backed consortium of Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. and Hysan Development Co. and a tie-up between Hong Kong's Chinese Estates Holdings Ltd. and longstanding mainland ally China Evergrande Group.

When it abandoned a Hong Kong listing for Singapore in the early 1990s, before the territory's 1997 handover to China, Jardine Matheson was accused of being short-sighted. With this deal, it's anything but.

Checking Out

Mandarin Oriental's revenue has been falling



Source: Bloomberg

THE BZZZ MARIA GROWS TO A CAT 3, NEARS ALREADY BATTERED CARIBBEAN

Hurricane Maria grew into a Category 3 storm yesterday as it barreled toward a potentially devastating collision with islands in the eastern Caribbean. Forecasters warned it was likely to grow even stronger.

The storm was on a path that would take it near many of the islands already wrecked by Hurricane Irma and then on toward

Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Maria could hit Puerto Rico on Wednesday as a Category 3 or 4 hurricane, said Ernest Morales with the U.S. National Weather Service in San Juan. "This storm promises to be catastrophic for our island," he said. "All of Puerto Rico will experience hurricane force winds."

Armani, Versace add Italian glitz to London Fashion Week

LONDON Fashion Week got an injection of Italian glamour yesterday [Macau time], with Donatella Versace's Versus and Emporio Armani joining Britain-based designers including Preen and Topshop on the show schedule.

The 83-year-old Italian design legend, who usually stages his shows in Milan, has returned to London Fashion Week for the first time in years with much fanfare.

To mark the reopening of an Emporio Armani flagship store in the British capital, the brand hosted a star-studded catwalk show and an after-party with free-flowing champagne, and it displayed a giant "Emporio Armani" light projection onto a Thames-side building.

The designer chose a vast former warehouse for his show Sunday, filling it with cheerful, rainbow-hued summer outfits that evoke carefree vacations in sunnier climes.

It's a larger collection than most, and while these may not be the most trend-setting clothes there is something here for everyone: Sporty summer macs and loose drawstring cargo pants; whimsical, childlike animal prints; girlish frilly summer dresses; neat cropped blazers with white slacks and casual flat sandals



A model wears a creation by fashion house Versus at their Spring/Summer 2018 runway show at London Fashion Week in London

or white sneakers. A few male models sporting the designer's signature suits were scattered throughout, striking a slightly odd chord in an otherwise casual collection.

Standout looks included trouser suits with candy stripes and oversized, multi-colored checks, and there was a large array of outfits in sheer pastel tones of lilac, mint and candy pink.

One Direction's Liam Payne and singer Ellie Goulding were among those spotted in the show's front row.

Versace presented designs with all the staples of her trademark rock chick sexiness - tight bell bottom trousers, mesh mini dresses, studded and silver-fringed cowboy boots, and lots of black, white

and red ensembles adorned with silver hardware.

Check prints featured heavily this season, appearing on men's and women's sleeveless long coats and trousers, as well as tiny bikini bottoms emblazoned with the brand name, worn with a matching cowboy jacket.

Brand name chokers, heavy black eyeliner and lots of attitude completed the looks.

Many of Versace's clothes seemed destined for the nightclub or looked like they would only suit the young and very fit. But there were a few softer looks: A buttoned-up dark denim shirt dress looked versatile, and a series of mint green printed numbers added a dose of freshness to an otherwise tough color palette. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

MDT/Renato Marques



Scotch tape. The overzealous CAEAL was after numbers big time. The number featuring on this voter's orange t-shirt refers to No.7 Tennessee distillery of the famous bourbon brand. But what if this smart young fellow was promoting in disguise list No.7 (Sulu Sou's)?!

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	70-100 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

NEPAL Tens of thousands of people voted peacefully yesterday in a previously troubled southern Nepal province where ethnic violence demanding constitution changes had led to dozens of deaths in recent years.



KOREA China's Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, has criticized the United States for demanding that Beijing put more pressure on North Korea to rein in its weapons programs. It made the remarks after the U.S. military flew powerful bombers and stealth jets over the Korean Peninsula in joint drills with South Korean warplanes.

More on p12

SOUTH AFRICA

Conservationists say some criminal groups are processing rhino horns into powder and trinkets in South Africa before export, a trend that could reflect changing consumer tastes and make it harder for law enforcement to intercept the illegal cargo. More on p11

IRELAND Budget airline

Ryanair was under pressure yesterday to provide more information to travelers after canceling up to 50 flights a day over the next six weeks because it mismanaged its pilots' holiday schedules. More on p9

PORTUGAL's stock market is surging and its government borrowing rates are falling after the country recovered its investment-grade rating from Standard & Poor's. The Lisbon stock exchange rose more than 1 percent yesterday.

PERU President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has appointed a former economy minister as his new prime minister, two days after a no-confidence vote by the opposition-led congress forced the entire Cabinet to resign.



MEXICO Authorities in the Mexican resort city of Cancun say gunmen have killed a married couple who were investigators for the state prosecutor's office, as well as a child who was with them.