



IRELAND FACING CHALLENGES

The Consul of Ireland to Hong Kong and Macau, Peter Ryan, was in town to talk about Brexit and its consequences

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MATCHMAKING COMPANY EXPANDS

Matchmaking company My Champagne has around 2,000 members in Hong Kong and 100 in Macau

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SPORTS BUREAU HINTS WTCC RACE CONFIRMED

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



SYRIA The Pentagon yesterday said it detected "active preparations" by Syria for a chemical weapons attack, giving weight to a White House statement hours earlier that the Syrian government would "pay a heavy price" if it carried out such an attack. President Bashar Assad's government and Russia dismissed the White House allegation.
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THE PHILIPPINES

has approved a bill decreeing that recitals of the country's national anthem "must be done with fervor." Violators of the new law can be issued with fines up to PHP100,000 (MOP16,000).

AP PHOTO



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

voters are going to the polls in elections dominated by corruption allegations hanging over their prime minister and the South Pacific island nation's deepening economic woes. Voting will continue until July 8 through a complex exercise safeguarded by police and soldiers, where allegations of corruption and violence often mar elections.

MONGOLIA

will hold its first runoff election for president next month after none of the candidates attained the necessary majority in Monday's voting. Democratic Party candidate and former wrestler Khaltmaa Battulga was the top finisher, with 38 percent of the vote.
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New Macau-Taipa link study by year-end . P2

AP PHOTO



Google hit with record USD2.7b fine by European Union . P7

Suspicious fire in industrial building

A fire that occurred yesterday at the Edifice Industrial Fat Lei was found to have been deliberately lit, according to the Fire Service Bureau (CB). The fire took place on the first floor of the building yesterday morning and triggered the fire alarm. People working at the scene extinguished the fire before the CB arrived. The CB found an area of about one square meter of paper and plastic boxes still on fire. A few cigarette butts were also found at the scene. CB has already forwarded the case to the Judiciary Police.

5pct of Chinese-Portuguese translators are non-local

Kou Peng Kuan, director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), said that non-local Chinese-Portuguese translators represent 5 percent of the total number of translators working in Macau. This disclosure follows allegations that a mainland student, who graduated from the Macau Polytechnic Institute, was hired by the MSAR government as a translator through a "special recruitment channel." Following this, the public have expressed their doubt concerning whether the MSAR government is providing enough opportunities for those who were locally trained to apply to become translators at public departments. Kou believes that all local graduates are capable of scoring favorably in the government's open exams. However, he pointed out that fresh Chinese-Portuguese translation graduates usually cannot meet the requirements imposed by governmental departments due to their lack of experience.

First Macau bank to operate in Shanghai

Tai Fung Bank has recently established a branch in Shanghai, thus becoming the first Macau bank to operate in the province. The launching took place during the ceremony of Tai Fung Bank's 75-year anniversary. The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, said in his speech at the ceremony that the bank will certainly enhance the financial and economic cooperation between Shanghai and Macau. After opening its representative office in Hengqin and its branch in Guangzhou, Macau Luso International Banking Limited became the first Macau-based bank to operate in both Hengqin and Guangzhou.

Gov't to launch study for fifth Macau-Taipa link

Julie Zhu

THE government has confirmed that it will announce, by the end of this year, the commencement of a project plan regarding a fifth link connecting the Macau Peninsula and Taipa.

The information was disclosed by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang after a Legislative Assembly (AL) Follow-up Committee on Land and Public Concession Affairs meeting in the presence of some government representatives, including the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário.

The government is considering building a fifth connection linking Macau New Urban Zone B, Zone C, and Zone D.

Previously, the government had envisaged building a tunnel to solve the cross-sea trans-

portation problems.

The aforementioned meeting focused on the construction progress of the five districts within the Macau New Urban Zone (newly reclaimed land).

According to Ho, zone A reclamation, which covers 138 hectares, will be completed within this year.

District C, which occupies 33 hectares, will also be completed in 2017.

Zone D's construction period will start also in this year with the zone covering 53 hectares.

Moreover, Ho revealed that public works departments are also conducting engineering projects to make the connection between the Macau Peninsula and the Macau port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB).

The government disclosed to the follow-up committee that



the objective is to synchronize the HKZMB's opening with the beginning of the connection between the Macau checkpoints of the HKZMB and the Macau peninsula.

A two-way channel comprising six lanes in total has been planned to connect the Oriental Pearl to the central area of New Urban Zone A, and later to

the HKZMB's Macau section.

It has been revealed that the government has planned 28,000 public houses units for Zone A. Furthermore, Ho noted that the authority is considering the possibility of initially building public houses in the northern area. Plans regarding this topic will be completed soon.

Judiciary departments, including Macau's courts, are planned to be relocated to in front of the MGM resort and near the Governador Nobre de Carvalho bridge. In Zone B, two gardens will be created close to the judiciary departments.

The Customs and marine authorities will be located in Zone E1 and they will have access to helicopter services.

According to Ho, the government has not disclosed the detailed number of public house units that it will build in the northern area of Zone A, but it made clear that only a part of the total 28,000 public house units will be built there.

Project management company hired for 4th bridge

Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited has been hired by the government for inspection, project management and pricing services related to the construction of the fourth sea bridge between the Macau peninsula and the island of Taipa, according to an order from the Chief Executive.

The order, published in the Official Gazette, authorizes the signing of the contract with the company in the amount of MOP188.375 million (USD23.5 million), which will be paid in installments of between 11 million and MOP53 million from 2017 to 2021.

Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited has been involved in several international projects, such as the Sydney Opera House, the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Water Cube in Beijing.

In September 2016, the Macau government awarded CCCC Highway Consultants the preliminary design of the fourth bridge for 75.19 million patacas (US\$9.4 million).

The Macau government has not yet publicly announced which company or consortium will build the fourth sea bridge between the Macau peninsula and the island of Taipa. **MDT/Macauhub**

TRANSPORT

DSAT confident vehicle growth rate below 3.5 percent



THE director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lam Hin San, believes that this year's vehicle increase rate can remain below 3.5 percent, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

Lam noted that registrations for more than 14,000 motor vehicles were canceled this year,

a number which equaled the total number of vehicle registrations canceled in 2016.

Since the beginning of this year, the vehicle growth rate registered a negative 2 percent change.

According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the total number of licensed

vehicles in Macau in January was 250,481. The number dropped continuously for three months in February, March and April until the figure stood at 244,094 in April.

Lam noted that parking meter fees had not changed for 30 years, and that DSAT has implemented new

fees in Freguesia da Sé; a process that occurred smoothly. Lam expressed the belief that the public will accept the new fares gradually.

He added that DSAT plans to implement new fares in other regions in October, and he believes that by next March all changes over parking meters will be completed.

Finally, Lam noted that the adjustments are helpful to increase the turnover in the usage of the parking spots and thus people can easily find a parking spot.

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BREXIT

Opportunities and challenges ahead for Ireland, consul says

Daniel Beitler

ECONOMIC opportunities and unprecedented challenges face Ireland in the near future as the United Kingdom continues down the path of its separation from the world's largest single market, the European Union.

This was the prediction made by the Consul General of Ireland to Hong Kong and Macau, Peter Ryan, at a talk held yesterday evening at the Rui Cunha Foundation.

At the heart of his prediction is the contentious issue of the 500-kilometer border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the latter a part of the United Kingdom.

The nature of this atypical border is dictated by the terms of a Common Travel Area agreement between the two countries, signed in 1923. However, Britain's withdrawal from the EU has raised questions over how the border, implemented six decades before the bloc's Schengen Agreement, will be managed if London abandons the principle of the free movement of labor.

"Today, we have open, passport-free [movement] between



Peter Ryan (right)

Ireland and Britain, and this [policy] is going to be very interesting heading in to Brexit," said Ryan during the talk. "We are absolutely determined that we can't go back to what we term a 'hard border' – we can't go back to [having] checkpoints."

The issue is one of four highlighted by the Irish government as key concerns in the coming years, together with a need to minimize the impact on trade

and the Irish economy, protect the Northern Ireland Peace Process and influence the future of the EU.

With concerns to the economy, Brexit may present a significant opportunity in its potential to siphon foreign investment away from the U.K. and toward the Emerald Isle.

Speaking to the Times ahead of yesterday's talk, Ryan highlighted Ireland's strengths in attracting foreign investment, namely

its membership of the European Union, comparative low rates of corporate taxation and the young and highly-educated workforce, native in the English language.

Asked how Ireland can compete against Portugal in attracting foreign investment from Macau, Ryan pointed to his country's reputation for housing some of the largest investment projects in Europe. In any case, he said, "we see European [Union]

member states complementing each other, rather than competing with each other."

The consul general also said that, despite the inherent difficulties, the Irish government is "delighted with the situation that Ireland now finds itself in; having a border with Britain that will become the frontier of the European Union."

The contemporary relationship between Ireland and Britain is linked to the interwoven history of the two peoples, which has been fraught with conflict and tension for hundreds of years. However, the 21st century has seen the bilateral exchange reach new heights, with Ryan claiming that the London-Dublin route has become the second busiest travel connection in the world.

"Irish people know all about different parts of British life and culture," said Ryan, attributing this to the prevalence of British media in Ireland. "British people will be less familiar with Ireland – and that's natural between a small neighbor and a big neighbor."

The disparity between the number of people in Ireland (5 million) and Britain (65 million) is comparable to the ratio between the respective populations of Macau (650,000) and Hong Kong (7 million).

The talk yesterday, hosted by the Rui Cunha Foundation, with the support of the European Union Academic Program in Macau and the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association, was well attended by the public.

Matchmaking company expands to Macau

Julie Zhu

Aone to one high-end dating company established its mainland China branch in Shanghai recently. Based in Hong Kong, the matchmaking company, My Champagne, now has around 2,000 members in Hong Kong and approximately 100 members in Macau.

The manager of the company, Eunice Sim, told the Times that My Champagne is one of the few matchmaking companies in Hong Kong that specializes in "dating programs for professionals, and it is also the first dating company in the two SARs which has a professional lawyer to notarize the number of successful matchmaking cases made through My Champagne."

As explained by Sim, the matchmaking agency initially focused on advertising itself in many

places, with the group mainly looking for members through acquaintances and friends. "After the initial advertisement, [...] the first customers started to introduce other customers," said Sim, when talking about how My Champagne has chosen to publicize its business. Regarding how the company chooses its members, Sim said that new members who have been introduced by old members offer the company a better selection margin.

In terms of successful matches, Sim indicated that more than half of My Champagne's customers found their ideal dating partner through the company.

"More than 55 percent of our cases have closed files, when accounting for the period between May of 2012 and September of 2016," informed Sim.

The boutique dating ser-

I think the advantage of apps lies in their convenience: simple, free, and low cost.

EUNICE SIM

vice, she said, specializes in matching professionals.

"Most of our members are professionals, such as accountants and doctors, [...] the percentage of professionals is probably around 70 to 80 percent of the total," said Sim.

Currently, a big proportion of My Champagne's customers are aged between 20 to 30 years old, irrespective of gender.

"The youngest man and



The manager of the company, Eunice Sim

woman are in their twenties, the oldest woman is probably somewhere around 50 years old, although there are not too many, and the oldest man is in his sixties," said Sim. Nowadays, people can easily find online dating applications if they are looking for a partner.

When asked about the competition between the online dating services

and offline dating services, Sim shared with the Times her personal opinion.

"I think the advantage of apps lies in their convenience: simple, free, and low cost," she said.

Eunice Sim said that her company "saves time for the customers, arranges one to one matching, and looks for targets according to the custo-

mers' requests."

In addition, Sim said that people who go to offline agencies to seek out partners are normally those who plan on getting married in the near future, meaning that they constitute a different demographic to those engaging in online dating.

According to Sim, there are only a few other companies in Hong Kong running matchmaking businesses.

In the niche of matchmaking businesses that target their services directly to the market of single professionals, My Champagne has less than ten competitors.

Most of the other companies charge a "five digit" starting fee, whereas My Champagne charges a "four digit" starting fee.

Sim also disclosed to the Times that My Champagne has already registered their branch in Shanghai, with the company looking forward to officially opening their business in Shanghai within two to three months.

ESPORTS

Local group seeking to host tournament

Daniel Beittler

MACAU based electronic sports association, Grow uP eSports, is rebounding from a “disastrous” performance in a regional tournament over the weekend with a pledge to try to bring a similar competition to the MSAR next year.

Eight Macau-based players, using the “uP” preface to their gaming aliases to indicate their allegiance, competed in the Capcom Pro Tour Online 2017 Asia Event 2 tournament against more than 160 elite players from the region in the game Street Fighter V. Capcom Pro Tour (CPT) is a series of international tournaments, specifically for the fighting genre of online gaming, that is sponsored by video developer Capcom.

All eight Macau based players were bested in the tournament’s first round, leading Frederico Santos Rosário, the



Frederico Santos Rosário

chairman of Grow uP eSports, to describe the competition as a “disaster”.

Nevertheless, he says that some of the players are at “Diamond-level or above,”

meaning that they are ranked in the top-200 worldwide out of more than 500,000 accounts. He added that their knockout is testament to the skill of their opponents, many of whom are professional gamers that hail from more developed eSports jurisdictions like South Korea, Japan and Taiwan.

“None of the Macau [participants] managed to win [in the first round],” said Santos Rosário, who also competed under the gaming alias, “HugoMachine”.

“Although it was kind of a disaster for us, the opportunity to experience high-level fights from top Asian players is quite rare. It was the best chance for us to gauge our current skill level under real tournament pressure,” he added. “The culture in Asia is that only the best or confident ones sign up to the tournament.”

Speaking to the Times, the association chairman said that he wants to bring a simi-

lar CPT tournament to Macau in 2018, as part of Grow uP eSports’ mission to put Macau gaming on the map.

“My passion is to make Macau a CPT [hub],” said Santos Rosário. “I am in talks with the right people now and I see a possibility to bring a CPT offline tournament to Macau next year. I’m doing this with the help of Grow uP eSports

purely for passion and this is why all of the participants from Macau don’t mind adding “uP” in front of their names to help grow [the association].”

The next CPT tournament is due to be held in Hong Kong in August, where Santos Rosário says they “will fight harder and continue to gain experience.”

ALL-FEMALE MACAU/HK TEAM ANNOUNCED

GROW UP eSports this week announced the latest addition to the association’s line-up of competitive teams – an all-female League of Legends team. Formerly known as MissRippers, the team comprises seven members who are all based in Macau and Hong Kong. Lam Hoi Yan, who will now use the gaming alias uP Pudding, is the only team member from Macau. According to a statement released by Grow uP eSports, the team ranked first in a tournament at the Hong Kong Poly-

technic University. Its members say that they want to shed more light on women in the video gaming community. They also aspire to be the first women’s team from the region to compete in a League of Legends tournament in an international eSports Championship Series. League of Legends is one of the most popular online games worldwide, having recorded an average of 27 million daily players in 2014. The multiplayer, cooperative team game is a regular feature at eSports tournaments.

MACAU GRAND PRIX

Sports Bureau hints WTCC race confirmed

Renato Marques

THE inclusion of the World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) in the 64th edition of the Macau Grand Prix is “almost confirmed.”

Following doubts regarding the inclusion of the WTCC race in the Macau Grand Prix, the Sports Bureau (ID) told Radio Macau that conversations between the two parties were “advancing”.

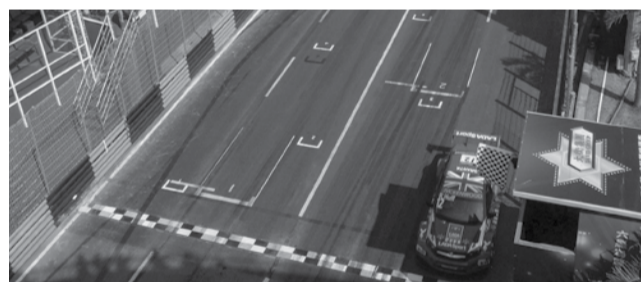
Questioned by the Times on the current status of the

negotiations between the Macau organizing committee and the event promoter, the ID hinted that an agreement should be reached soon. According to the ID, the details will be announced next month “when final agreement and procedures are settled between both parties.”

In their reply to the Times the ID acknowledged that “the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee and the WTCC have been in communication,” noting that such communication

“[is] currently making progress towards the race program of the 64th Macau Grand Prix.”

The information opens the door to the clarification of an issue raised by the president of the ID, Pun Weng Kun. During the first press conference to introduce the event a month ago, Pun said that the WTCC event “was not confirmed” and that it was “just one of the many races that want to be included [in the local event].” Pun’s statement was received



with surprise since the event was included on the Automobile International Federation (FIA) calendar at the time – and it still is. The WTCC website states: “After two years away, the world’s fastest interna-

tional touring car series returns to the Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, restoring the famous Guia Race to its former glory in the process.”

In light of the new in-

formation, all seems to be well underway to the fulfillment of that statement on what will be the penultimate year of the championship under the current regulations. It is expected that the 2019 edition will follow the Class One regulations based on the current DTM (German Touring Car Championship) and [Japanese] Super GT regulations.

Also questioned by the Times, a driver who is taking part in this year’s WTCC Championship and did not wish to be identified said the teams do not yet have a “clear confirmation” of the Macau rounds and that they, “are counting on it and we are preparing it as if it was [confirmed].”

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Jury pick starts in UN-bribery trial of Chinese billionaire

JURY selection began Monday in the New York criminal trial of a Chinese billionaire charged with trying to bribe United Nations diplomats to ease approval of a U.N. conference center.

Ng Lap Seng, 69, has pleaded not guilty to six charges, including conspiracy, since his arrest in September 2015 during a visit to the United States.

More than 100 prospective jurors were part of the selection process in Manhattan federal court that was to continue Tuesday (US time). It was unclear when opening statements might occur.

U.S. District Judge Vernon S. Broderick told prospective jurors that the trial was likely to last four to six weeks.

He said he was hopeful he could find "fair and impartial" jurors willing to decide the case solely on evidence or lack of evidence.

Ng is confined to a luxury



Ng Lap Seng (center)

Manhattan apartment with 24-hour armed guards while free on USD50 million bail.

Prosecutors say he contributed a portion of over \$1 million in bribes that reached a former U.N. General Assembly president.

A key witness in the trial is expected to be Francis Lorenzo, a suspended di-

Ng's lawyers have cast him as the victim of a politically driven prosecution

plomat from the Dominican Republic who pleaded guilty to charges and agreed to testify against Ng.

Ng's lawyers have cast him as the victim of a politically driven prosecution aimed at preventing construction of the conference center in Macau and slowing the progress of Chinese influence over developing nations. **AP**

Unemployment rate remains stable at 2pct

The unemployment rate from March to May this year stood stable at 2 percent, the same as that of the previous period (February-April). The unemployment rate of MSAR residents was 2.6 percent, a similar rate to the previous period. Meanwhile, the underemployment rate was 0.4 percent, down by 0.1 percentage points, the Statistics and Census Service indicated. The region's total labor force reached 389,400 and the labor force participation rate stood at 71.1 percent. The total employment was 381,800 and employed residents totaled 280,400, up by 300 and 400 respectively from the previous period. Looking at industry by industry analysis, employment in Hotels and Gaming & Junket Activities registered an increase, while employment in Construction and Restaurants & Similar Activities saw a decrease. The number of unemployed locals was 7,600, down by 100 from the previous period. Individuals waiting to enter the labor force for the first time accounted for 8.5 percent of total unemployment.

IC considers extending libraries' open hours

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is currently considering whether they will slightly extend the operation schedule of more libraries. This was announced by the Chief of the Department of Management of Public Libraries, Tang Mei Li, during a TDM talk show that took place yesterday. Last year, the Red Market Library extended its opening hours to 24-hour operation. It is said that the library started receiving more visitors per month after the operation hours were extended. According to Tang, the IC may not extend the operation of other libraries to 24-hours. She also believes that the planned New Central Library will run for more than eight hours per day because it will be big and will provide many different services.



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Shenyang hosts China-PSC exchange event

A large business-matching conference for entrepreneurs from China and Portuguese-speaking countries began yesterday in Shenyang, the capital of China's northeast Liaoning Province. Many of the attendees from Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC) were reportedly looking for Chinese businessmen to help bring their products and services to the mainland market. The week-long event is supported by Macau's Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), which is involved in cultivating the MSAR as a platform for bilateral exchange between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. The executive director of IPIM, Gloria Batalha Ung, who was in attendance at the conference yesterday, told TDM that Macau could help small companies on both sides of the exchange. "Due to language barriers and cultural differences, unlike the state-owned enterprises that are more financially powerful and have greater manpower, most SMEs [small- and medium-sized business] find it difficult to get involved [in the economic exchange]," she said. "Therefore Macau is a desired platform for them."

Securities investment grows

The investment of Macau residents (including individuals, the government and other legal entities, but excluding Macau's foreign exchange reserves) in securities issued by unrelated non-residents reached MOP484.7 billion at current market value by year end, an increase of 9.4 percent from June 30, 2016, and 10.5 percent year-on-year. According to the statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau, among various instruments of portfolio investment, equity securities (including mutual funds and investment trust units), long-term debt securities, and short-term debt securities, were valued at MOP183.9 billion, MOP285.9 billion and MOP 14.9b respectively. As compared with end-2015, equity securities and long-term debt securities rose by 8.2 percent and 15.6 percent respectively, while short-term debt securities dropped by 30.4 percent.

EDUCATION

New basic skills for secondary level education established

THE listing of the new basic skills for secondary level education was published in the Official Gazette. The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) issued a statement yesterday to explain that the listings cover all of the competencies and basic skills students enrolled in the public education system will be mandatorily required to learn. The skills list will work as a guideline to the school curriculum.

According to the statement, the new academic skills will be "gradually implemented from the next academic year."

The cycle of reforms concerning non-tertiary education in Macau began in 2006 with the introduction of the Organic Law for the Non-Tertiary Education System.

The implementation of the 10-year education development plan began during the 2014-2015 academic

year and included a similar listing of skills correlative to the primary education levels of the last years of secondary schooling.

Mimicking the process occurring at the primary education level, the new skills for the secondary levels will be incorporated into the secondary curriculum gradually, year level by year level. The youngest class of each education level will be the first to follow the adapted curriculum (in 2017/2018) and progressively the curriculum will be extended upwards as the students progress to the second and third year. Full implementation is expected to be achieved in the academic year of 2019/2020.

The DSEJ also noted in their statement that the newly-published skills result from the work of "specialists and academics from curriculum and subject areas, as well as by Macau secondary school teachers,"



remarking that they will be specially focusing on the "broadening of students' basic knowledge, improving communication skills, coordination and practical studies, strengthening of civic awareness and the training of the continuous learning capacity necessary for the pursuit of further studies or entry into the work market." The DSEJ expanded on their statement, saying the reform aims to "provide students with diverse learning experiences, including experiences of social practices, through a diversified curriculum that allows students more choice opportunities."

The bureau also mentioned that through this

reform, and the inclusion of new materials (such as Moral and Civic Education and Macau Geography), teachers could also improve their teaching skills and master the techniques required to introduce the new skills in their classes.

The DSEJ also stated that, in order to "improve the schools' curriculum and to improve the overall quality of the teaching," more changes will come into effect in the near future. They will continue to work towards a teacher exchange program involving teachers from the mainland and Macau and they will also continue to provide "curriculum instructions." **RM**

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Google fined USD2.7b as EU threatens search monopoly

Aoife White

GOOGLE lost its biggest regulatory battle yet, getting a record 2.4 billion-euro (USD2.7 billion) fine from European Union enforcers who say the search-engine giant skewed results to thwart smaller shopping search services.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google has 90 days to "stop its illegal conduct" and give equal treatment to rival price-comparison services, according to a binding order from the European Commission yesterday. It's up to Google to choose how it does this and inform the EU of its plans within 60 days. Failure to comply brings a risk of fines of up to 5 percent of its daily revenue.

"The more consumers click on comparison shopping results, the more money Google makes," said Margrethe Vestager, the EU's antitrust chief. "This decision requires Google to change the way it operates and to face the consequence of its actions."

Shares of Mountain View, California-based Google fell 1.5 percent in pre-market trading in New York. They've risen 23 percent so far this year.

Vestager's decision marks the end of a seven-year probe fueled by complaints from small shopping websites as well as bigger names, including News Corp., Axel Springer SE and Microsoft Corp. European politicians have called on the EU to sanction Google or even break it up while U.S. critics claim regulators are targeting successful American firms.

Google's lawyer Kent Walker said the company respectfully



European Union Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager

disagrees with the EU's conclusions and will consider a court appeal, according to a blog post.

"When you shop online, you want to find the products you're looking for quickly and easily," Walker said. "And advertisers want to promote those same products. That's why Google shows shopping ads, connecting our users with thousands of advertisers, large and small, in ways that are useful for both. We think our current shopping results are useful and are a much-improved version of the text-only ads we showed a decade ago."

Vestager said the case is likely to stay on her desk "for quite some time" as regulators monitor how Google deals with the order "for a number of years." Regulators haven't talked to Google about how it might meet the EU's expectations. Vestager said "it is very important for Google to find their way of complying" with the EU order.

Google has been pushing its own comparison-shopping service since 2008, systematically giving it prominent placement when people search for an item, the EU said. Rival comparison sites usually only appear on page four of search results, effectively denying them a massive audience as the first page attracts 95 percent of all clicks.

"As a result of Google's illegal practices, traffic to Google's comparison-shopping service increased significantly, whilst rivals have suffered very substantial losses of traffic on a lasting basis," the EU said, citing figures of a 45 percent increase in traffic for Google's service.

Yesterday's fines could just be the first in a series of EU antitrust penalties for Google, which is fighting on at least two other fronts, including its Android mobile-phone software and the AdSense online advertising service. The decision follows Russia's \$7.8 million

antitrust fine and penalties from Italian, German and French privacy authorities. Europe has proved a tough jurisdiction for Google, which fell foul of the region's top court, losing a high-profile right-to-be-forgotten case three years ago.

"Vestager is proving she means business," said Thomas Vinje, a lawyer who represents FairSearch, a group of companies that complained to the EU. "This decision will mean that consumers receive comparison-shopping results that offer genuinely the best purchasing options."

While the penalty is a record, it will do little to faze a company whose parent has more than \$90 billion in cash. Of graver concern is the way regulators called on Google to change the way it handles online shopping searches, one of its biggest sources of sales growth and strongest weapons against rivals Facebook Inc. and Amazon.com Inc.

The EU says that Google doesn't subject its own service to its algorithm, which ranks search results on quality and relevance to the user. It said it gathered huge amounts of data, including 5.2 terabytes of search results from Google, based on 1.7 billion search queries. "It would take 17,000 years to read them all out to you," Vestager told reporters.

The EU's allegations strike at the heart of a type of online advertising known as product listing ads, or PLAs, that is growing at almost three times the rate of traditional text-based search ads, according to digital marketing firm Merkle Inc. The format lets a marketer

place an ad for an item with large images and price information in the prime digital real estate at the top of search results.

Vestager doesn't fear big numbers when trying to convince companies to step back in line.

She has ordered Apple Inc. to repay some 13 billion euros in tax advantages and hit truck makers with a record cartel fine of nearly 3 billion euros. The Google fine tops a 1.06 billion-euro penalty eight years ago for Intel Corp., which is still waiting for the final outcome of a court appeal.

We think our current shopping results are useful and are a much-improved version of the text-only ads we showed a decade ago.

KENT WALKER
GOOGLE'S LAWYER

Her move against Google risks attracting further criticism that she's unfairly singled out U.S. companies. While she's said American firms are "under no specific fire because of their nationality," transatlantic tensions are already on the rise after President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris climate accord, adding to concerns over global trade.

Even so, any backlash against the Google decision from American industry is likely to be reduced. U.S. companies played a big part in lobbying the EU to take action after U.S. regulators ended their investigation into Google search. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

TOP HONORS FOR WYNN AT HURUN PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS



Wynn Palace Cotai and Wynn Macau received several awards at the 2017 Hurun Presidential Awards in Shanghai. Wynn Palace was awarded several titles,

including "Best Banquet Venue," "Best Executive Suite" and "Best Spa," while Wynn Macau won the awards "Best Presidential Suite" and "Best Restaurant" for its Michelin-

starred restaurant "Golden Flower."

According to a press release from Wynn Macau, the gaming operator was the only one in Macau to be awarded at the Hurun Presidential Awards.

The Hurun Presidential Awards are organized by the Hurun Report, a leading luxury media authority in China. Since 2009, the report has been presenting the awards to recognize outstanding hotel properties in China each year.

In addition to the Hurun Presidential Awards, Wynn Macau is the only one in the world to receive eight Forbes Five-Star Awards for its restaurants and spas. The two-Michelin-starred restaurant "Golden Flower" is on the Forbes Five-Star restaurant list.

BNU HOLDS AWARD CEREMONY FOR LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION



BNU held the award ceremony for its logo design competition on Monday, in conjunction with its 115th anniversary. BNU's jury panel selected one winner, also announcing three creative

awards and ten awards of merit. The competition commenced in April with the aim of promoting the development of the design and creative industry in Macau.

According to a press re-

lease issued by BNU, the competition received an overwhelming response with over 100 submissions. The winner, Mok Seng Un, adopted a sailboat-like design, symbolizing BNU's sailing between Macau and the Portuguese-speaking countries, and its journey with Macau for the past 115 years.

Pedro Cardoso, chief executive officer of BNU, said: "The judges are very pleased with the creativity and the levels of professionalism of the logos received. The competition also supports the Macau government's effort in promoting the cultural and creative industry."

The logo will appear in the promotional material connected to activities celebrating the 115th anniversary throughout this year.

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Honda Macau



Macau wants to show more Portuguese and Spanish products to China

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) wants more companies from Portugal and Spain to come to Macau to showcase their products, with the Chinese market as their ultimate goal, said the IPIM president, Jackson Chang.

Speaking at the official opening of the China and Portuguese-Spanish-Speaking Countries (FIN) International Business Fair, where he completed a mission that had begun a week earlier in Praia, Cape Verde, Chang invited the companies present to take part in the 22nd Macau International Fair (MIF), which will take place from October 19 to 21.

"I hope you will come to Macau to take part in our fair," said the president of IPIM, noting that this year, for the first time, the Exhibition of Products and Services of Portuguese Language Countries 2017 (2017 PLPEX) will be an autonomous event.

PLPEX, said Chang, will be "an ideal time for Portuguese and Spanish companies to exhibit



Jackson Chang

their products." FIN was the final event of this mission of IPIM, with the participation of more than 60 business people and managers from various Chinese provinces, which began on June 16 in Praia, Cape Verde, where the Meeting of Entrepreneurs for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries took place.

On arrival in Portugal, on June 21, and before heading to Matosinhos, in partnership with the

China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Portuguese Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade, IPIM organized a Business Opportunities Meeting between Portugal, China and Macau, which brought together about 200 business people and official entities from the two countries.

At the event, China's ambassador, Cai Run, said that the recent Forum on the Belt and Road initiative was to "define directions and identify projects to be im-

plemented" and, since Portugal was responsible for the "the great maritime era," it is an "important partner" in the initiative.

I hope you will come to Macau to take part in our fair.

JACKSON CHANG

The Portuguese secretary of state for internationalization, Jorge Costa Oliveira, said there is "high potential in terms of tripartite business cooperation, especially in other geographies," including Europe, Latin America and Africa, where Portugal has important political relationships.

This triangulation, the Portuguese official said, gives Chinese companies "improved access to markets where they have no tradition of entry," and to the Portuguese offers "greater robustness, greater

scale and access to financing."

Macau, the president of IPIM said, is "actively working on the implementation of various supports," such as the financial services platform and the renminbi clearing center for Portuguese-speaking countries, highlighting its role as a platform.

Both in Praia and in Lisbon, the participating business people expressed their satisfaction with the opportunities opened up by the Belt and Road initiative, as well as with the installation in Macau of the headquarters of the Fund for Development Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, which was represented by the director-general of the management company, Jin Guangze.

With a number of business people interested in making applications to the Fund for their projects, Guangze pointed out that there are three selection criteria: strategic nature, financial viability - "reasonable" return for shareholders in 4-5 years - and rational investment.

MDT/Macauhub

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Questions raised about Liu Xiaobo's prison medical treatment

Didi Tang & Mark Schiefelbein, Shenyang

As recently as February, Liu Xiaobo's brother dismissed reports that the imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace laureate might be ill. Then came the bombshell on Monday that Liu has been diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer and transferred to a hospital on medical parole.

A brief video has also emerged of Liu's wife tearfully telling a friend that no treatment — surgery, radiation or chemotherapy — would work for Liu at this point.

The news has shocked and angered Liu's supporters and human rights advocates, who are questioning if China's best-known political prisoner received adequate care while incarcerated, or whether the authoritarian government deliberately allowed the 61-year-old to wither in prison.

Chinese prisons are notorious for their poor health care, lack of nutritious food and abusive conditions, and it's highly common for prisoners to re-emerge in a deeply weakened state. That may be especially true for the prison in a small northeastern city where Liu has been serving an 11-year sentence for inciting subversion of state power.

A serious illness like liver cancer could be easily missed at the prison despite checkups, although it's equally possible that Beijing has neglected care for Liu on purpose, said political dissident Hu Jia, who has served time in jail with liver issues.

"Given his influence and his massive following, it's possible that Beijing does not want him to return to society healthy, physically capable and energetic," said Hu. "Beijing considers him to be a political rival."

AP PHOTO



A statue of late paramount leader Mao Zedong looks over the complex of the Medical University No. 1 Affiliated Hospital where Liu Xiaobo is believed to have been transferred to

Hu is calling on Beijing to be open and transparent about Liu's medical care. Liu is in a hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang and has not communicated directly with the outside.

The local prison management bureau could not be reached for comment. Police cars were seen yesterday parked outside the China Medical University No. 1 Affiliated Hospital in Shenyang, where Liu reportedly was being treated. An Associated Press journalist could not locate Liu in the sprawling facility, and nurses on likely floors for cancer patients said they had not had a patient by the name of Liu Xiaobo.

Liu, a literary critic and essayist, was already in less than robust health when he was detained and later sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009, recalled Liu's former lawyer Mo Shaoping. The defense team had argued for Liu to be released while awaiting trial on the basis of poor health, but was turned down, he said.

Still, Mo said he was unaware of Liu's cancer diagnosis until it was revealed on Monday.

"We would think there must be symptoms for earlier detection and that a responsible prison would not have discovered liver cancer only in the very late stage," he said.

Other than general concerns for Liu's health, there had not been alarming news until this week. In February, responding to rumors that Liu underwent computerized tomography scans for possible illnesses, Washington-based Radio Free Asia reported that Liu's brother had dismissed the rumors.

Chinese authorities have

a troubling record when it comes to the treatment of political prisoners.

Untold numbers died in China's vast system of labor camps following the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. The crushing of the 1989 Tiananmen pro-democracy movement led to new rounds of repression.

The Chinese have a troubling record when it comes to the treatment of political prisoners

More recently, Cao Shunli died in a Beijing hospital in 2014 after being detained for her human rights activism. It is widely believed she died of illness after authorities denied her medical attention.

The next year, Tibetan lama Tenzin Delek Rinpoche died in a Chinese prison while serving a life sentence. He had been denied medical parole a year earlier, and his family was refused permission to view his remains, death certificate or medical records.

When prominent rights lawyers Gao Zhisheng left prison in 2014, he could barely walk or speak a full, intelligible sentence. He has since recovered, but is

still under house arrest.

In a rare interview in 2015, Gao celebrated that he's still living. "Every time we emerge from prison alive, it is a defeat for our opponents," he told The Associated Press.

Sophie Richardson, China director at New York-based Human Rights Watch, said Beijing should be held to account for letting a peaceful critic like Liu fall gravely ill.

"From those who ordered Liu's prosecution to those who denied him adequate treatment in detention ... there are many people to be held accountable for their role in this cruel travesty," Richardson said in a statement.

Supporters have called for Liu to be allowed to seek treatment overseas, although President Xi Jinping's administration has taken a hard line on refusing permission for dissidents to travel.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Mary Beth Polley called for Liu's release as well as that of his wife, Liu Xia, who lives under house arrest.

China should "provide them the protections and freedoms such as freedom of movement and access to medical care of his choosing, to which they're entitled under China's constitution and medical system and international commitments," Polley said.

China's foreign ministry did not directly address questions about whether Liu would be allowed to leave the country for treatment. Spokesman Lu Kang said any Chinese citizen's exit from and entry into the country is "ruled by law."

He warned that Liu's case is a domestic affair and demanded that China's judicial independence be respected. "No country shall interfere with China's internal affairs through any individual case," Lu said.

Hu, the dissident, said that for now, it's imperative that the government make public the names of the eight oncologists in charge of Liu's cancer treatment in Shenyang and that Liu is brought as soon as possible to Beijing, which has the country's best medical professionals and is his home.

"We cannot take the government's word. We must be able to judge if these eight people are truly qualified," Hu said. "We want to make sure Liu Xiaobo is seeing the best doctors in the best hospital with the best equipment possible." AP

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Premier Li says economy to meet growth goals, vows free trade support

PREMIER Li Keqiang said China remains on track to meet its main economic goals for this year while warning of rising geopolitical risk and threats to the global upswing.

Anti-globalization voices are emerging and world geopolitical risks are increasing, Li told officials and business leaders yesterday at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions gathering in China's northeastern port city Dalian.

Li's speech was a robust defense of globalization and a thinly veiled rebuttal of the narrative adopted by U.S. President Donald Trump, who has accused trading partners, including China, of unfair trading practices. It also had echoes of President Xi Jinping who also used the WEF's Davos event in January to champion globalization. China also used a Group of 20 meeting in Germany in March to push back, unsuccessfully, against U.S. efforts to water down language of resisting protectionism.

Without the current rules-based world trading system, China's economic opening up to the world would have been "unimaginable," Li said. "Economic globalization has greatly facilitated the flow of goods, capital and personnel."

Li also said the government will relax market access to the services and manufacturing sectors - addressing a key complaint of foreign businesses operating in China - and pledged to do more to entice investment and cut red



Li Keqiang at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Dalian

tape for foreign companies. The country will treat domestic and foreign businesses in an equal way, he said.

With executives of foreign companies such as International Business Machines Corp. and McKinsey & Co. in the audience, Li addressed the concern that stricter capital controls the nation implemented to keep its currency steady will restrict companies to move their profits out of the border. Foreign direct investment declined in both May and April from a year earlier.

"There will be no restrictions on the flow of your profits," Li said.

Acknowledging that the benefits of globalization haven't

been felt by everyone, Li said the answer was to strengthen global trade rules and institutions, take account of problems being felt by trading partners and avoid a blame game.

"Just like when we sprain our ankle when walking down the road, we shouldn't blame the road and stop walking," he said. "We need to adapt."

The world's second-largest economy is forecast to slow from the first quarter, when it posted the first back-to-back quarterly acceleration in seven years, though it is still on track to remain above the leadership's growth target of at least 6.5 percent. Communist Party officials are working this

year to balance preserving the expansion with tightening regulation to reduce risk as they prepare for a twice-a-decade leadership transition expected to take place this fall.

Li said the economy maintained steady growth in the second quarter, and China will be able to keep the expansion in a reasonable range. The surveyed jobless rate fell to 4.9 percent in May, the lowest reading "in years," he said.

More than 2,000 representatives from politics, business, civil society, academia and the arts are attending the June 27-29 conference, also known as Summer Davos, to discuss topi-

cs from inclusive growth to the "new industrial revolution," according to a report from China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Li said the government will relax market access to the services and manufacturing sectors

Li Daokui, a former adviser to China's central bank, said on a panel discussion that yuan depreciation pressure will remain moderate in the next few years as long as there's no major upheaval caused by the Trump administration. It's a good time to further open China's capital account and domestic companies won't be afraid of opening the financial sector to foreign companies, said Li, a professor at Beijing's Tsinghua University.

State Grid Corp. of China Chairman Shu Yinbiao said at a press briefing that thousands of new-energy power plants will create new jobs, with opportunities being created during construction and for operators and maintenance personnel.

"We will have more opportunities for jobs," Shu said. "The transformation of energy will not impact employment, it will create opportunities." AP

STATE DEP'T REPORT TODAY

Beijing hits back at US on human trafficking downgrade

CHINA has pre-emptively hit back at the United States for speaking "irresponsibly" ahead of an expected Trump administration move to name China among the world's worst human trafficking offenders.

Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday that China strongly opposes the U.S. using its domestic laws to attack another country's record, and maintained that the results of China's anti-human trafficking efforts are "obvious for everyone to see."

The U.S. State Department was expected to

unveil today [Macau time] a 2017 human trafficking report that downgrades China to the lowest "Tier 3" category, which includes North Korea, Zimbabwe and Syria. The report is the first major U.S. reprimand of China's human rights record under the Trump administration, which has generally played down the promotion of rights in its foreign policy, including with China.

Tier 3 countries can be penalized with sanctions or barred from participating in U.S. cultural exchange programs, although the U.S. president has the authority to

waive sanctions.

It wasn't immediately clear what led the administration to downgrade China, but previous editions of the annual human trafficking report have cited China as a "source, destination and transit country" for forced labor and sex trafficking.

"As we have said repeatedly, no country has the right to speak irresponsibly on China's domestic affairs," Lu said at a daily briefing in Beijing.

"China's government's commitment to fighting human trafficking has been resolute and our results have been obvious for everyone to see," he

said, adding that China is willing to work with other countries "on the basis of mutual respect" to combat global human trafficking.

Separately yesterday, Lu warned foreign countries against "interfering with China's internal affairs" after the U.S. Embassy in Beijing called for the release of Liu Xiaobo, a democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate who was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer after eight years in prison.

Since his inauguration, President Donald Trump has generally taken a conciliatory tone toward Beijing on



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

a range of issues including trade and currency while courting President Xi Jinping's cooperation in exerting pressure against Nor-

th Korea's nuclear program. But the president tweeted this week that Xi and China's efforts to help with North Korea have "not worked out." AP



Democratic Party candidate and former wrestler Khaltmaa Battulga was the top finisher with 38 percent of the vote

MONGOLIA

With no election winner, gov't sets runoff for July 9

MONGOLIA will hold its first runoff election for president next month after none of the candidates attained the necessary majority in this

week's voting. Democratic Party candidate and former wrestler Khaltmaa Battulga was the top finisher, with 38 percent of the vote, and

will face the Mongolian People's Party's Miyegombo Enkhbold in the July 9 election.

Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party candidate Sainkhuu

Ganbaatar was eliminated by the narrowest of margins — 30.19 percent to Enkhbold's 30.3 percent — prompting some complaints about possible vote tampering.

Battulga campaigned on a 'Mongolia First' policy, borrowing the language of Donald Trump

Total turnout stood at 68.27 percent, the national election commission said yesterday.

While the nation of 3 million had been an oasis of democratic stability, its politics have grown increasingly fractious amid an economic crisis and graft accusations.

A huge drop in foreign investment and decline in commodities prices have particularly strained the economy, a situation not helped by a long dispute with mining giant Rio Tinto over its operations in the country.

The winner next month will become Mongolia's fifth president since 1990 following the end of communism.

The outcome in the second round is uncertain because although the MPP and MPRP have a historical affiliation, voters appear to hold them responsible for the economic pain they are feeling, Citi Research said in an analysis.

That could mean that at least some MPRP voters break for Battulga, the report said. "Overall, we expect policy continuity," it said.

Along with a pending trade deal with China, one key issue will be a USD500 million bond repayment due in January 2018, part of a \$5.5 billion International Monetary Fund-led bailout to stem its financial crisis.

Enkhbold's party pledges to continue the IMF's program, including higher taxes and spending cuts, while Ganbaatar has criticized the IMF.

Battulga campaigned on a "Mongolia First" policy, borrowing the language of President Donald Trump. He promised to be "a patriotic president" seeking "equal cooperation" with neighbors like China, which he has criticized in the past.

Battulga is a former government minister and president of the Mongolian Judo Association. He also owns Genco, one of Mongolia's largest companies, whose businesses include hotels, media, banking, alcohol, horse meat and a Genghis Khan-themed complex. AP

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JAPAN

US Navy holds memorial service for seven sailors killed in crash



Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

THE U.S. Navy paid tribute yesterday to seven sailors who were killed when their destroyer collided with a merchant ship off Japan.

The Japan-based 7th Fleet said more than 2,000 sailors and their families attended the ceremony in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo. They lined the streets waving flags in memory of the victims.

The USS Fitzgerald, carrying nearly 300 crewmembers, and Philippine-flagged container ship ACX Crystal collided in waters off Yokosuka in the pre-dawn hours of June 17. Severe damage to the right side and bottom of the guided-missile destroyer flooded the berths of 116 sailors. Navy divers found the bodies of the seven in the ship after it returned to Yokosuka.

The container ship has left Yokohama, where it was investigated by Japanese authorities, for repairs of its damaged bow at an unspecified shipyard in Japan, its owner, Dainichi-Invest Corp., said. It said the ship's captain and several other crewmem-

bers stayed behind for further questioning by the Japanese coast guard.

The 7th Fleet said its theater was filled to capacity for the ceremony honoring the sailors.

Adm. Scott Swift, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, surveyed the ship's damage and praised its crew for saving it from sinking, it said.

"It's stunning, absolutely stunning, while we mourn the loss of the seven sailors, that more were not lost," Swift said in a statement. "There was no understanding of what had happened at the moment of impact [...] but there was complete understanding of what needed to be done."

The collision occurred in an accident-prone area known for congestion with ships trying to reach Tokyo by daybreak.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation. Japanese coast guard officials say they are eyeing possible professional negligence, but so far their interviews of the container ship's captain and crewmembers — all Filipinos — have been on a voluntary basis.

The U.S. Navy is investigating what happened aboard the warship, while Japanese authorities are investigating the container ship and its crew.

Ordinarily, Japan has the right to investigate maritime collisions in its territorial waters, but in the case of U.S. warships, the U.S. Navy has the primary right to do so under a bilateral Status of Forces Agreement, making it uncertain whether Japan will have access to the U.S. probe. **AP**

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Press secretary Sean Spicer speaks during a daily briefing at the White House in Washington

MIDDLE EAST

Syria denies Washington allegations of coming chemical attack

Philip Issa & Jill Colvin, Beirut

THE Syrian government yesterday dismissed White House allegations that it was preparing a new chemical weapons attack, as activists reported an airstrike on an Islamic State-run jail in eastern Syria that they said killed more than 40 prisoners.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 15 militants were also killed in the airstrike that happened on Monday in the Deir El-Zour province. The activist-run Deir Ezzor 24 media outlet said at least 60 civilians were killed.

The two groups said the U.S.-led coalition was behind the strike. Russia and Syria also carry out airstrikes in Deir el-Zour, and it was not clear how the activists identified the aircraft responsible. The coalition could not immediately be reached for comment.

Ali Haidar, the Syrian minister for national reconciliation, meanwhile dismissed a White House statement Monday that warned Syrian President Bashar Assad's government against carrying out another chemical attack. Haidar told The Associated Press the charges foreshadowed

a new diplomatic campaign against Syria at the U.N.

The Kremlin also dismissed the White House statement, which had warned that Assad and his military would "pay a heavy price" if it goes ahead with the attack. Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "such threats to Syria's legitimate leaders are unacceptable."

Russia is Assad's key backer

and sided with him when he denied responsibility for a chemical weapons attack that killed dozens of people in Idlib province on April 4. Days later, President Donald Trump ordered a retaliatory cruise missile strike on a Syrian air base.

Peskov criticized the Trump administration for using the phrase "another chemical weapons attack," arguing that an independent investiga-

tion into the April attack was never conducted despite Russia's calls for one.

The statement by White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said the U.S. had "identified potential preparations for another chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime that would likely result in the mass murder of civilians, including innocent children."

He said the activities were similar to preparations taken before the attack in April, but provided no evidence or further explanation.

Several State Department officials typically involved in coordinating such announcements said they were caught completely off guard by the warning, which didn't appear to have been discussed in advance with other national security agencies. Typically, the State Department, the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies would all be consulted before the White House issued a declaration sure to ricochet across foreign capitals.

The officials weren't authorized to discuss national security planning publicly and requested anonymity.

A non-governmental source with close ties to the White House said the administration had received intelligence that the Syrians were mixing precursor chemicals for a possible sarin gas attack in either the east or south of the country, where government troops and allied forces have faced recent setbacks.

A senior Russian lawmaker dismissed the U.S. warning as "provocation."

Frants Klintsevich, first deputy chairman of the defense and security committee in the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, accused the United States of "preparing a new attack on the positions of Syrian forces."

The U.S. strike in April was the first direct American assault on the Syrian government and Trump's most dramatic military order since becoming president.

Trump said at the time that the chemical attack crossed "many, many lines," and called on "all

civilized nations" to join the U.S. in seeking an end to the carnage in Syria.

Syria denied using chemical weapons. Russia's Defense Ministry said the toxic agents were released when a Syrian airstrike hit a rebel chemical weapons arsenal and munitions factory.

The U.S. attack on a Syrian air base came after years of heated debate and deliberation in Washington over intervention in the bloody civil war. Chemical weapons have killed hundreds of people since the start of the conflict.

The U.S. is providing air support and arms to Kurdish-led Syrian forces who are fighting to drive the Islamic State group from Raqqa, the extremists' self-styled capital.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said yesterday that Washington would continue to provide weapons after the Raqqa battle is over. His comments were likely to anger Turkey, which views the Kurdish fighters as an extension of the insurgency raging in its southeast.

Trump had dinner with Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster and other top officials as he hosted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House.

Tillerson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov talked earlier about the need to secure a cease-fire in Syria, fight extremist groups and prevent the use of chemical weapons, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, followed up Spicer's statement with a Twitter warning: "Any further attacks done to the people of Syria will be blamed on Assad, but also on Russia & Iran who support him killing his own people."

Less than an hour after Spicer issued the statement, Trump was back to tweeting about the 2016 campaign, denouncing investigations into potential collusion between Moscow and his campaign aides as a "Witch Hunt!" **AP**

US travel ban violates nuke deal

A prominent Iranian lawmaker has denounced the Supreme Court's partial reinstatement of President Donald Trump's travel ban, claiming that it's an "obvious breach" of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, including the United States.

Hossein Naghavi Hosseini, spokesman of the parliament's committee on national security and foreign policy, says the ban's reinstatement is "a new restriction in the post-nuclear-deal era that is considered an obvious breach of the deal."

Hosseini claimed that under the nuclear deal, countries that signed it are prohibited from imposing new restrictions or sanctions on Iranians. But he did not explain how that is connected or relevant to the travel ban.

His remarks were carried by the official

IRNA news agency yesterday. Iran is one of the six mostly Muslim countries that are included in the travel ban.

Iranians at Tehran's international airport said yesterday they don't expect to encounter any difficulties traveling to the United States despite the Supreme Court's partial reinstatement of Trump's travel ban.

Hassan, a 25-year-old who was accepted to the University of Virginia and was heading to Cyprus for a visa interview, said he sees "no reason to be worried" since the ban would not apply to students.

Fereidoun and Hayedeh, who were bound for Los Angeles to visit their daughter and her husband, said they had visited the U.S. every two to three years for the last decade. They said there was "no big change" in the visa process when they applied at the U.S.



Consulate in Armenia.

All three spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing repercussions that could negatively affect their entry process.

Iranians apply for U.S. visas in neighboring countries because Washington and Tehran have had no diplomatic relations since the 1979 revolution. **AP**

INDIA-US

Modi meets Trump with his usual greeting - bear hugs

Katy Daigle, New Delhi

PRESIDENT Donald Trump should have been ready as he met with India's prime minister, an unabashed hugger.

Smiling widely at a news conference yesterday [Macau time] during a visit to Washington, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the president's outstretched arm not as an invitation for a handshake, but as a pull toward an embrace. Then he did it again in the White House Rose Garden. Then once more before leaving.

Trump appeared stiff and uncomfortable with the first hug, smiling thinly and patting Modi on the back a couple of times. But it was the same folksy, effusive greeting Modi has used with Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, and a host of foreign dignitaries and celebrities, from former French President Francois Hollande, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Hollywood's Hugh Jackman.

"Modi doesn't hug just anyone," said political scientist Sreeram Chaulia, dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs in New Delhi. "If you look at the list of people he's hugged, these are people who matter for India's interest."

Leaders and celebrities should be prepared for Modi's embrace by now, but they often aren't — sometimes nearly getting knocked off balance. Much



Indian Prime Minister hugs President Donald Trump as Modi departs the White House in Washington

like Trump's own see-saw style of shaking hands, analysts said the Modi hug has become a signature move, and is meant to be physical.

"Modi believes that trust can only be built through personal rapport and friendship, which includes positive body language and physical closeness with his counterparts," Chaulia said. "He may have been trying to maintain the bromance that he had with Obama."

There also may have been an element of relief in Modi's hugs of Trump, launched at the end of a two-day visit described as "cordial" by Indian aides.

"Some people were worried about the outcome [...] in view of an unpredictable Trump," retired Indian diplomat Rajeev Dogra said. "But he has gone out of his way to reach out to India."

The fact that first lady Melan-

ia Trump was on hand, even though Modi was traveling without his wife, "was an important signal for India," Dogra said.

Modi's chummy overtures mark a stark change from years of being shunned by American officials because of religious violence in his home state of Gujarat. He had been denied a U.S. visa in 2005 over suspicions about his possible role in religious riots that killed more than 1,000 Muslims when he was Gujarat's top official.

Since he became prime minister in 2014, he has visited the U.S. four times. But allegations of intolerance against Muslims and foreign-funded activists have dogged his Hindu nationalist party and government, which has been criticized for not speaking out against deadly attacks.

Indian strategic affairs experts hailed Modi's latest visit as a success, but cautioned that much

would depend on how words were translated into action on trade and even terrorism that India says is emanating from Pakistani soil.

■ Trump appeared stiff and uncomfortable with the first hug, smiling thinly and patting Modi on the back

"To all appearances, the chemistry seems to have been quite good between Trump and Modi," said Rana Banerji, a retired intelligence officer in New Delhi. "At least President Trump did not do anything very unpredictable or seemingly unpalatable to the Indian side, though one doesn't know what subsequently would emerge."

India's foreign ministry hailed the U.S. State Department's move to list Pakistan-based Syed Salahuddin as a global terrorist for leading the Hizbul Mujahideen rebel group, which is fighting against Indian control in the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir.

The two countries also pledged to work together to try to end glo-

bal terrorism, which India saw as a firm U.S. commitment to increase its involvement in the region.

There were clear signs of division, though: There was no mention of climate change, an issue of extreme concern in India, where many of the country's 1.3 billion people are poor and vulnerable to extreme heat, drought and storm surges.

Trump also said little about the Asia-Pacific, though Modi made clear India's intent to increase cooperation in the region as a check against China's rising power.

It was only on the second day of Modi's trip that he swooped in for his bear hugs. As the two gave a joint statement in the White House Rose Garden, Modi wrapped his arms around Trump's midsection. The much shorter Modi, after giving his own remarks, hugged Trump a second time, placing his head close to the president's shoulder in video that quickly spread on social media.

Trump treated Modi to dinner at the White House and shared a laugh when he pointed to their social media dominance. Trump's @realDonaldTrump Twitter handle has 32.8 million followers, while Modi's Twitter game draws more than 31 million.

Trump also announced that daughter Ivanka Trump had accepted an invitation to visit India this fall. The president has business partners in India, where he has more than a dozen active deals, including a Trump-branded luxury apartment complex being built in the western city of Pune, near Mumbai.

Modi offered yet a third, public embrace as he departed the White House, resting his head first near Trump's left shoulder, then near his right. By then Trump appeared to be ready, and welcomed the parting gesture by patting Modi kindly on the back. **AP**

US

Utah wildfire grows as two powerful California blazes spread

THE nation's largest wildfire has forced more than 1,500 people from their homes and cabins in a southern Utah mountain area home to a ski town and popular fishing lake.

Firefighters battled high winds as they fought a fire that has grown to 72 square miles 184 square kilometers and burned 13 homes — larger than any other fire in the country now, state emergency managers said.

Some flames reached 100 feet high, while fire crews faced dry, windy condi-

tions yesterday and a "high potential" for extreme fire behavior, officials said.

The estimated firefighting costs now top USD7 million for a fire started June 17 near the Brian Head Resort by someone using a torch tool to burn weeds, they said. Investigators said they know who the culprit is, but they haven't yet released the person's identity or what charges will be leveled.

Crews in California, meanwhile, had to deal with two new powerful and fast-growing fires, and Arizona firefighters had to

ground aircraft because of unauthorized drones over a fire near Flagstaff.

The Utah fire began near the ski resort town of Brian Head, generally known for weekend getaway homes for Las Vegas residents. It has spread several miles east to an area around Panguitch Lake, a popular spot for fishing.

Authorities ordered more evacuations Monday in a sparsely populated area as stronger winds and lower humidity develop that could push fire growth north after calmer weather kept its growth in

check over the weekend. The fire is about 10 percent contained.

About 175 people have been briefly allowed back to their homes near Panguitch Lake since Sunday under escort, said Denise Dastrup with the Garfield County Sheriff's Office.

Randi Powell said her grandfather is hoping to get up to see his cabin on Tuesday. Powell said it has been an "emotional roller coaster" for her and her grandparents, who live part of the year at a cabin near the fire. Powell said she and her sister helped



grab family heirlooms, pictures and important documents last Thursday when her grandparents had to evacuate on short notice.

Powell is relying on social media updates from friends and others who live or have homes in the area. So far, it appears her grandparents' 5-bedroom

cabin, built about 60 years ago, is still intact, she said. But that hasn't stopped them from worrying.

"There will be uncertainty until you get up there and walk through it," said Powell, 32, who lives about one hour away in Cedar City. "Until it's totally out, you won't know if you'll be OK." **AP**

what's ON



A GLIMPSE OF MACAU - BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON LEI
 TIME: 2pm - 7pm
 UNTIL: July 22, 2017
 VENUE: Creative Macau (G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building)
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

DEBRIS - WORKS BY ALEXANDRE FARTO AKA VHILS
 TIME: 10am-7pm
 UNTIL: November 5, 2017
 VENUE: Navy Yard No. 1
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

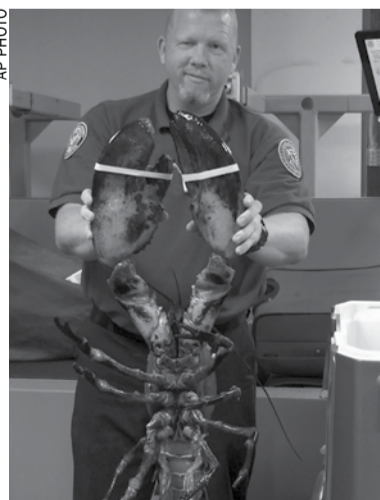
NOCTURNE - SOLO EXHIBITION BY FILIPE DORES
 TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
 UNTIL: July 9, 2017
 VENUE: Albergue SCM
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 1601

MORE THAN JUST TEXT - EXHIBITION OF BOOK LAYOUT AND DESIGN WORKS BY JOAQUIM CHEONG AND STUDENTS
 TIME: 9am-10pm
 UNTIL: June 30, 2017
 VENUE: Gallery at team building, IFT, Colina de Mong ha
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

BRAND STORY - POP-UP SHOP
 TIME: 10am-8pm
 UNTIL: October 1, 2017
 VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
 TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
 UNTIL: September 17, 2017
 VENUE: Macau Art Museum
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

20-POUND LIVE LOBSTER FOUND IN LUGGAGE AT BOSTON AIRPORT

The Transportation Security Administration says a 20-pound (9-kilogram) live lobster has been spotted in a passenger's luggage at Boston's Logan International Airport.

TSA spokesman Michael McCarthy says the lobster found Sunday in the passenger's checked luggage at the airport's Terminal C is the "largest" he's ever seen.

McCarthy says the TSA doesn't prohibit transporting lobsters. The TSA website says a

live lobster is allowed through security but must be transported in a "clear, plastic, spill-proof container."

McCarthy says the lobster was in a cooler and "cooperated quite nicely with the screening process."

He shared a picture of a TSA agent holding up the crustacean on social media.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:40	Revenge Sr 2
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Now Generation
22:20	TDM News
22:55	Miscellaneous
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:20	Miscellaneous
03:45	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

22-29 JUN

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min



RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA

ROOM 2

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

Director: Takahiro Nozue

Starring: Orion Acaba, Erin Cahill, Darin De Paul

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 93min



A FAMILY MAN

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Mark Williams

Starring: Alison Brie, Gerard Butler, Willem Dafoe

Language: English

Duration: 118min

MACAU TOWER

22 JUN - 5 JUL



TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min

this day in history



U.S. administrator Paul Bremer hands over sovereignty to Iraqi Interim Government in Baghdad

2004 US TRANSFERS POWER BACK TO IRAQ

The United States has handed power back to the Iraqi people at a low-key ceremony in Baghdad.

US administrator Paul Bremer transferred sovereignty to an Iraqi judge at a handover brought forward two days in an attempt to prevent the occasion being marked by bloodshed.

Mr Bremer flew out of the country shortly after. His departure ends 15 months of US control in Iraq.

Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who attended the handover in the city's heavily-guarded "Green Zone", said it was an "historic day" for Iraq.

Mr Allawi's cabinet were sworn in at a later ceremony, also held in secret.

The new prime minister made a televised address after formally taking office.

He told Iraqis: "I call on our people to stand united to expel the foreign terrorists who are killing our children and destroying our country."

Although power is back in Iraqi hands, US President George Bush said American troops would remain in the country as long as they were needed.

The president added that US presence would also be at the request of the newly-formed interim government.

Mr Bremer defended his country's reasons for being in Iraq, referring to recently discovered graves where thousands of victims of Saddam Hussein's regime are believed to be buried.

The former Coalition Provisional Authority administrator said: "Anybody who has any doubt about whether Iraq is a better place today than it was 14 months ago should go down and see the mass graves in Hilla.

"Anybody who has seen those things that I have will know that Iraq is a much better place."

The power handover was welcomed by world leaders. The European Union and Nato alliance both pledged their support for Mr Allawi's government.

Mr Bush and Mr Blair were apparently the only leaders at the current Nato summit who knew the transfer of sovereignty would take place early.

The news was revealed by Iraqi foreign minister Hoshiyar Zebari, speaking after talks with the UK prime minister.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bringing the handover forward and holding it in secret meant the transfer of power was not marked by attacks by insurgents.

But frequent attacks on US and UK forces as well as on Iraqi civilians have continued to take place in the country.

Neither the US nor Britain have yet committed to a date when troops will be removed.

Iraq held its first multi-party elections in 50 years in January 2005. An interim democratically elected government was sworn in on 3 May 2005 with Shia Ibrahim Jaafari as prime minister.

But finding an acceptable balance of power in the government between Iraq's national groups has proved difficult.

In December 2005 Iraqis voted for the first full-term government since the American-led invasion.

In January 2006 the Shia-led United Iraqi Alliance emerged as winners of the elections but without an absolute majority.

After four months of deadlock, President Talabani asked Shia compromise candidate Jawad al-Maliki to form a new government.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A certain higher-up has been on your case pretty hard lately...

Taurus April 20-May 20 It doesn't matter who delivers the offer or how reputable they seem to be...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 This is the perfect astrological weather for being you. And you know just how to celebrate...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The stars are in charge of your emotions right now, and they're currently persuading you to hibernate...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 In the mood for some last-minute change? Well, when aren't you? Your fiery, impulsive personality...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The pace of your life has picked up considerably -- and there's no end in sight. Fortunately, it's exactly the kind of change you've been hoping for...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Suddenly in the mood to see a distant shore or faraway lands? Not having any luck finding someone who's brave enough just to drop everything and go along with you? Then go alone.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you're having financial problems, there may be one solution you hadn't yet thought of yet. What about consulting with a family member? At least one person is out there you've bailed out in the past.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The good news is that what you come up with over the next few days will border on genius. Don't go anywhere without paper and pencil -- and no matter how outrageous the idea seems, jot it down.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've really been itching for a change for a long time. So if a higher-up comes to you with what seems like a totally unexpected schedule shift, think for a second. Weren't you really begging for this?

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Long-distance friends and lovers will be on your mind and in your heart, and you may even be moved to get dressed and hit the road. That goes double if you have something to celebrate just a few days away!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're in the mood to sit and talk, to break bread with dear ones and have some serious fun. That's a good thing because they'll be in a similar frame of mind.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

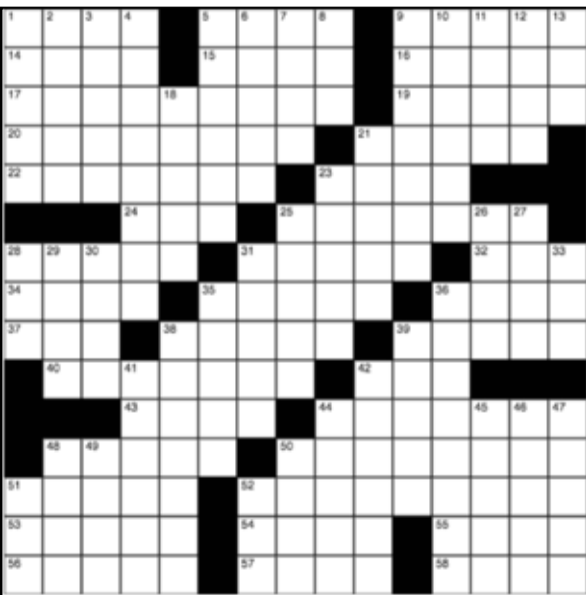
Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Energy units; 5- Neighbor of Sask.; 9- Class of Indian society; 14- Half-moon tide; 15- Name of Isaac's eldest son in the Bible; 16- Potpourris; 17- Morse messages; 19- Suckle; 20- Leave empty; 21- High points; 22- Withstands; 23- Let's go!



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

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Real estate listings for various properties including Mandarin Residences, Nam Hong Studio Apartment, St Pauls Ruins, Cattleya Court, Macau, One Central, Riveira H Unit, Camellia Court, and Soi Cheung, Taipa Village.

JML property logo and text: 卓雅物業 since 1994



FUNDRAISING FOR VICTIMS PORTUGAL FIRE SICHUAN LANDSLIDE LONDON FIRE

Saturday, July 1 @ 6pm (till late)



ROCK FOR RELIEF

Donation Box
Auction
Lucky Draw

Local Bands performances

(25% of revenues & all proceeds)



"Rock your out..."

Thursday, 2:00am
Portugal v Chile
H 2.5, D 3.3, A 3.2

FOOTBALL | CONFEDERATIONS CUP

Transfer talk makes Sanchez better, Chile hopes

CHILE thinks transfer speculation around Alexis Sanchez will drive him to play even better against Portugal in the Confederations Cup semifinals.

Sanchez has been linked with a move away from Arsenal and, far from distracting him, Chile teammate Marcelo Diaz said "he will be able to keep developing during this summer and I think that his personal situation will help him grow."

Coach Juan Antonio Pizzi suggested the demand for Sanchez is a boost to his self-esteem, saying "we suppose he is very happy because he is going through a very special situation and I think everybody would like to be in this situation because the best clubs in the world want to have him in their squads."

Diaz suggested Cristiano Ronaldo has single-handedly propelled Portugal into the semifinals, and shutting him down will be Chile's top defensive priority.

"He played an amazing season in Spain and I think he is playing here with the same strength. That's the reason why they are also in the semifinal tomorrow," he said. "We'll try to stop him and reduce the space he has to move in [...] try to avoid that he gets the ball and scores."

Ronaldo remains the central threat for his team after scoring

twice in the tournament, but Portugal have a wealth of creative talent available to support him.

Amitai Winehouse of the MailOnline reported burgeoning talent Bernardo Silva missed training ahead of the last-four game after picking up a knock.

Silva has impressed for the Portuguese during their time in Russia, and it is clear he could develop into major star for Manchester City after signing for the Premier League side from Monaco.

Chile appeared quiet against the Socceroos in their final group match, but they produced a solid second-half performance to qualify.

The form of Sanchez will be key against the Portuguese unit, and his ability to penetrate the defence could decide the outcome.

Per Winehouse, Portugal midfielder Pizzi is wary of the explosive capabilities of their opponents.

"Chile are one of the favorites," Pizzi said. "They've players of great quality playing in big clubs worldwide, but our goal is to play the final."

The two sides are evenly mat-



Chile's Alexis Sanchez

ched ahead of the semi-final in Kazan, but the individual contributions of Ronaldo and Sanchez will likely be telling at the final whistle.

Today's semifinal in Kazan brings together two teams playing better than ever. Nei-

ther had won a major trophy until 2015 — but Chile now has two Copa Americas, while Portugal became European champion last year.

It also reunites Pizzi with Portugal coach Fernando Santos, 17 years after he was a forward

for Santos' Porto side.

"He deserves our utmost respect, his experience is incredible and I think everybody who knows football respects him," Pizzi said of Santos. "He is great for Portuguese football."

MDT/Agencies / Oddschecker.com

BOXING | THE BATTLE OF BRISBANE

Pacquiao going big, or going bust

FREDDIE Roach is ready to narrow down Manny Pacquiao's options following the WBO welterweight championship fight against Jeff Horn: Think about another shot at Floyd Mayweather, or think about retirement.

The 11-time world champion is putting his WBO belt on the line Sunday against the 29-year-old Australian, a school teacher who is in the biggest bout of his professional career.

"Manny is in a must-win situation. He wants a rematch with Mayweather," Roach said yesterday at a gym next door to the Suncorp Stadium, where a 50,000-plus crowd is expected for the "Battle of Brisbane."

"With Mayweather you have to look good against an opponent, you have to be impressive."



Manny Pacquiao

Roach has been a long-time trainer for the multiple world champion, and reckons the 38-year-old Pacquiao should have a few more big wins in

him. "If he struggles in this fight, it could be over," Roach said.

Asked specifically what the fallout would be if

Horn (16-0-1, 11 knockouts) somehow won, Roach said "depending on how he lost, I would probably encourage him to retire."

Not that he's expecting Pacquiao (59-6-2, 38 knockouts) to struggle. Roach said training has consisted of 50 rounds on some days and the preparation — after a slow start — has been very intense.

"I expect Manny's best in this fight. I am looking for a big win here," Roach said. "We want to go on to bigger and better things."

Pacquiao lost the 2015 mega fight to Mayweather but has rebounded to beat Tim Bradley and Jessie Vargas on points since then. He wants another shot at Mayweather.

"If there's a chance, why not? I'm willing," Pacquiao said of a potential rematch with Mayweather, who has visited Roach's gym a couple of times — though not to discuss business. "But let's focus first for this fight. We don't want to underestimate [...] Horn, thinking about another fight. This fight is not done yet."

"I know my body. I'm ready. I'm not underes-

timating [Horn]. I'm not taking him lightly. I'm working hard."

Horn turned pro in 2013, the year after reaching the Olympic quarterfinals in London, and has faced 10 top-15 rated boxers in his 17 professional bouts. He hasn't faced anyone of the caliber of Pacquiao, though.

The Pacquiao camp is expecting Horn to come out aggressively in front of his home crowd, and so the preparation has been tailored to that.

A world champion in eight divisions, and now a senator in the Philippines, Pacquiao can still remember the feelings he had ahead of his first big-time bout and is trading carefully because of that.

"That's why we did a lot for this training camp," Pacquiao said. "I know what he's feeling — being there, being the underdog."

It won't mean he'll take it any easier in the ring.

"All I can say is, it's good he's a teacher," Pacquiao said. "I'm a teacher in the ring." AP

opinion

Asia Views

Shelly Banjo, Bloomberg

HIGH RETURNS DON'T RUN IN THE FAMILY FOR ASIA'S EMPIRES

Three of Asia's wealthiest tycoons are stepping down from the empires they built, and investors shouldn't assume their scions will carry the torch as effectively.

Gaming magnate Stanley Ho retired as chairman of Shun Tak Holdings Ltd. on Monday, ending a lifelong mission to build what was once Asia's largest casino operator. Billionaire Shin Kyuk-ho stepped down from Lotte Group, the chewing gum maker he transformed into one of South Korea's top conglomerates. And Li Ka-shing stirred the region after the Wall Street Journal said Hong Kong's richest man would retire as chairman of flagship CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd. by next year.

Children of all three founders are set to take over the family businesses.

The story of Asia's ascent can't be told without tycoons like Li, Ho and Shin, who built skyscrapers, ports and manufacturing hubs, often from scratch. First-mover advantage and strong political connections helped them consolidate power and build wealth in tandem with the region's rising economic fortunes. Many investors, including institutions, have been loyal to these companies out of patriotism or sentimentality.

Yet, there's little evidence the second generation can keep their parents' businesses flourishing.

One study of more than 200 family-owned businesses in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan found that, on average, a shareholder who invested USD100 in a Chinese firm five years before the founder's departure would be left with an average \$44 at the succession, according to Joseph Fan, co-director of the Institute of Economics and Finance at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Following the succession, that lost value is rarely recovered.

Perhaps the biggest factor in value erosion can't be analyzed from balance sheets.

Intangible assets, such as political connections and tightly intertwined networks, can disappear among a progeny that's typically Western-educated and less used to traditional ways. And the challenge of defending dominance in an increasingly competitive global environment is very different from building something out of nothing.

Take Stanley Ho, who formed his Macau-based gambling empire with the help of a four-decade government monopoly in 1962. The island was closed to foreign gaming companies until 2002. His successor, daughter Pansy Ho, won't enjoy the same monopolistic perks.

As markets in Hong Kong and China matured, Li Ka-shing, too, shifted much of his business elsewhere. His American-educated son and successor, Victor Li, is more adept at striking deals and managing assets in developed markets, where his Stanford University degree can serve him better.

In a study of 70 M&A transactions led by the younger Li between 2003 and 2013, another study by Fan found that shares in Li Ka-shing's flagship businesses rose 1 percent to 3 percent following deals announced by Victor in developed markets like the U.K. or Canada. By contrast, they fell by 1 percent to 2 percent following deals in emerging markets including China and India.

Finally, the asset-heavy businesses like shipping and telecom that shaped the fortunes of the old guard are falling out of favor with investors drawn to the so-called new economy: technology, biotech and renewable energy. And entrepreneurial flair isn't hereditary.

THE BUZZ MERKEL ALLY BECOMES GOVERNOR OF MOST POPULOUS GERMAN STATE

A senior member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party has been elected governor of Germany's most populous state following an election last month that produced an unexpected center-right majority.

Armin Laschet, a liberal-minded deputy leader of Merkel's Christian Democrats, succeeds Hannelore Kraft of the center-left Social Democrats as governor of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The state legislature in Duesseldorf elected Laschet yesterday. The new governor's coalition with the pro-business Free Democrats has a one-seat majority.

North Rhine-Westphalia is a traditional center-left stronghold. Last month's result raised hopes among some conservatives of a center-right comeback in a national election Sept. 24, in which Merkel is seeking a fourth term.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA Prime Minister Narendra Modi has met his Dutch counterpart during a brief stop in the Netherlands, pledging to discuss closer links between the two countries. More on p15

IRAN's president Hassan Rouhani has told the Qatari Emir that the "siege of Qatar is not acceptable for us," according to the office of the presidency's website.

TURKEY's military says 10 Kurdish militants have been killed in aerial operation in southeast Turkey. Three soldiers meanwhile, died in an attack by suspected Kurdish insurgents.

ROMANIA Border police have found 91 migrants from Iraq and Syria hidden in a truck transporting auto parts. They told police they were trying to reach the visa-free Schengen travel zone. The driver told Romanian authorities he did not know about the migrants.

GERMANY A group of Berlin police officers helping with security ahead of next week's Group of 20 summit in Hamburg has been sent home after some reportedly partied excessively at the barracks where they were staying.



BRAZIL In a scathing 64-page indictment, Brazil's top prosecutor described a scheming, arrogant and corrupt President Michel Temer who lined his pockets with illegal money while showing little regard for the office he represented.

Netflix's 'BoJack Horseman' pulled off China site after two days

DAYS after Netflix Inc. made its China debut via a content licensing deal with the country's biggest streaming service iQiyi, one of its original comedy series was removed from the site.

All three episodes of the animated comedy "BoJack Horseman," which debuted on June 19, were taken off the streaming site, iQiyi said in an emailed response to Bloomberg queries yesterday. "Adjustments need to be made to the content," iQiyi said, without elaborating. Netflix couldn't immediately be reached for comment outside of regular business hours.

Last week's removal of "BoJack Horseman" - a popular dark comedy centering on a washed up half-man, half-horse sitcom actor - is a setback to Netflix's entry into China, one of the few countries it had yet to penetrate.

China's media regulator censors content broadcast on the Internet and has previously ordered streaming sites to take down some imported shows. In 2014, several TV dramas including Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.'s "The



Video still shot taken from Macau's Netflix broadcast

Big Bang Theory," were taken off the air.

Netflix's deal with iQiyi also covers television dramas, documentaries and variety shows. The documentary "Making a Murderer" and "Chef's Table" series, both of which were released this month, were available on iQiyi as of yesterday. Netflix and iQiyi also said they aim to release "Mindhunter" and the second season of "Stranger Things" simultaneously, according to a separate iQiyi statement.

Last week, China's State Administration of Press, Publication Radio, Film and Television ordered services including Weibo,

China's Twitter, to stop broadcasting what it said was negative commentary in violation of government regulations.

Yang Xianghua, senior vice president of iQiyi, said in an interview in Shanghai last week, before "BoJack Horseman" was pulled, that in order to get content released concurrently in China, Netflix would need to leave enough lead time for Chinese authorities to censor the shows.

"The approval process is a bit long in China, takes at least a month," said Yang, who headed iQiyi's licensing negotiations with Netflix. **Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Lan Hongguang



Xi Jinping (center), accompanied by the current Hong Kong chief executive CY Leung (right, front) and the next HKSAR chief executive Carrie Lam (left) visits an exhibition profiling the achievements made since the 1997 handover on Monday in Beijing.