



SECRETS OF A 'VERY UNIQUE' BRAND
Interview with Janice Wong, who won many accolades as a pastry chef and will open a restaurant in Macau
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Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



VENEZUELA A police helicopter fired on Venezuela's Supreme Court and Interior Ministry in what President Nicolas Maduro said was a thwarted terrorist attack aimed at ousting him from power. The confusing incident, which may ratchet up tensions in a country already paralyzed by months of deadly anti-government protests, took place as Maduro was speaking live on state television.

SOUTH CHINA SEA China's increasingly powerful navy launched its most advanced domestically produced destroyer yesterday, at a time of rising competition with other naval powers such as the United States, Japan and India. *More on p12*

PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte assured troops yesterday that he would protect them from any legal action if they accidentally kill civilians while battling militants who have besieged a southern city.



CAMBODIA Wildlife researchers in Cambodia say they've found a clutch of eggs from one of the world's most endangered crocodiles, raising hopes of its continuing survival in the wild. *More on p13*

MYANMAR Three Myanmar journalists who reported on a drug burning ceremony by ethnic rebels have been charged with violating a law that provides up to three years' imprisonment for people who abet illegal groups.

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Eco-conscious TrailHiker 2017 expects record-high participation

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Julie Zhu

JANICE Wong is a native Singaporean who was voted Asia's Best Pastry Chef in 2013 and 2014 at the prestigious San Pellegrino Asia Top 50, as well as Pastry Chef of the Year in 2011, 2013 and 2015 by the World Gourmet Summit. She additionally studied economics and finance in Melbourne, Australia, and Singapore.

Impressed by Melbourne's culinary offerings during her time studying there, Wong had a change of heart and enrolled in pastry program at Le Cordon Bleu, Paris. In 2007, she opened "2am: dessertbar," in Singapore. In November 2014, when she was back in Singapore, she launched her eponymous sweet concept, Janice Wong.

Recently, Wong shared with the Times some of her pastry ideas, as well as elements of her new restaurant called Janice Wong MGM, which will open soon in MGM Cotai. The restaurant is a modern pastry shop offering a full sweet experience in terms of cakes, eclairs, mochas, tarts, ice creams, crepes, chocolates and confectioneries, and plated desserts.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What attracted you to Macau?

Janice Wong (JW): I think for me was really the idea that in Macau there are a lot of new openings for hotels. They always incorporate a sweet shop inside each of these hotels, but not really focusing on all the architecture, design, fashion, everything in one place. [...]

MDT - Tell us something about the Janice Wong brand.

JW - The Janice Wong brand is something very unique; you

Q&A JANICE WONG
CHEF

'The Janice Wong brand is something very unique'



Janice Wong

do not really experience it unless you go there. [...] Marrying four disciplines, which is art, pastry, fashion and design... if you marry all of that, you will see a new Janice Wong brand, which was launched in 2014. I think this is what Macau kind of lacks in a way.

MDT - What would you like your customers to

remember about Janice Wong's food?

JW - I never focus so much on the aesthetics. It's always the flavor or the experience, because that's what you remember most. I think if you remember it being very pretty, but you taste it and it's bad then the experience is very different. I think, for us, it's very important to actually focus on both flavor and also the experience.

MDT - What are your expectations for Janice Wong MGM?

JW - I think in the beginning it's going to be extremely crowded and great and a lot of bustle and energy, but you know the main thing is I also want that to be an inspiration for the rest of the world. This is really the first in the world; you would never see a concept store

built in with an 8-meter chocolate fountain, or 7.3-meter chocolate fountain [...] All in all, for me it's really impressive to really keep moving.

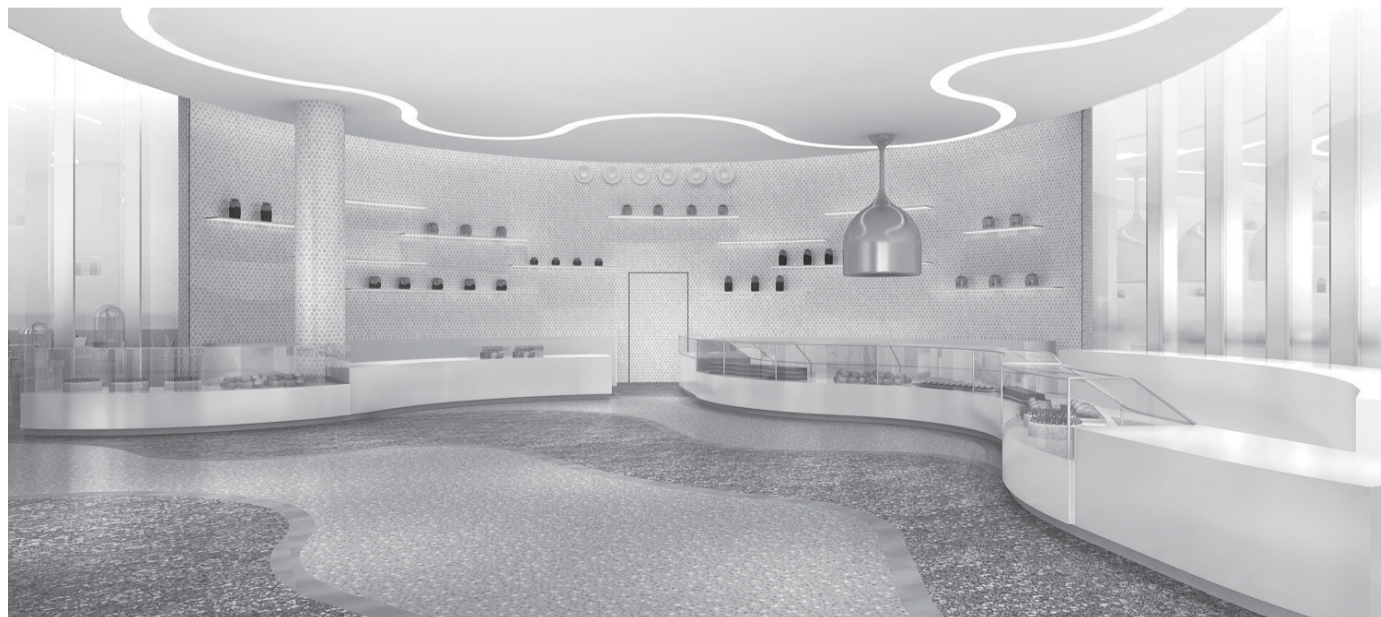
MDT - You studied economics and finance in Australia. What made you turn to pastries?

JW - I think again, experiences. I think it was really the love of cooking for other people - but giving people the experience of just having a really nice dessert and wine, so it's not just only sweets. I think when you eat it, there is a story to hear [...] then it becomes like a whole new thing. [...] I thought I could make a change in the world, so I wanted to inspire pastry shops, in the past, in the future, to say: 'Oh, it's not just about cakes and macron, it's so much more than that.'

I never focus so much on the aesthetics.

MDT - Why did you choose MGM?

JW - I think the vision has a lot of good synergy. MGM has always been a very forward thinker. You can see when it opens with the new design everything is going to be digital. It's just a beautiful space, it hasn't got a lot of stuff going on, like in other places. It's quite minimalist, and we are very forward thinking, so the synergy has to be right to have a similar experience. I think the space they have designed for the Janice Wong brand is just breathtaking, really, really beautiful. [...] You can't have that experience anywhere, even the Singapore market is not really ready for that yet.



Restaurant rendering



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Eco-conscious TrailHiker 2017 expects record-high participation

Renato Marques

THIS year's edition of the Eco TrailHiker was presented yesterday in a press conference by the organizers at the MGM Macau Ballroom.

This year's edition, to be held on November 4, will have a new title sponsor (MGM) with an added number of participants (a growth of 10 percent for a total of 2,200 is expected). More eco-conscious measures in order to reduce waste will be discussed, the director of Macau TrailHiker Ltd. Robert Kirby announced during his opening speech.

"Our ongoing eco-commitment to reduce our carbon footprint of this event will continue and this year we will be issuing electronic certificates to all finishing teams instead of hard copies," Kirby said, adding, "in the efforts to reduce the use of plastic, the IACM [Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau] kindly agreed to allow us to place temporary signs along the course thereby reducing the need for the use of plastic to mark the course."

Another topic highlighted by Kirby was the acknowledgment that the start and finishing points of the race will be changed, placed at the new MGM Cotai property. "We have been able to preserve the integrity of both the 10k [Km] and 30k courses, which will remain the same as in 2016 with the only change to be the start and finish venue," he said.

Remarking on the increased

number of participants, Kirby said, "the interest has been increasingly high and we are sure we are going to fill all the 550 team slots very quickly," recalling, "last year we sold-out in 18 hours."

Our ongoing eco-commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of this event will continue.

ROBERT KIRBY
TRAILHIKER DIRECTOR

The CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, Grant Bowie, welcomed the participants to the "first (of many) MGM Eco TrailHiker," expressing the commitment of the company to continue to support the event. He also expressed hopes of a "long and successful relationship with TrailHiker," noting that MGM wants to "expand and develop new activities that we all as a community [can benefit from and] to not only participate but to try to create a community spirit over many days of the year."

As Bowie mentioned, "The TrailHiker is a community event that has become more than purely athletics," acknowledging that this event offers the chance

to explore places where people in Macau rarely go and also come into contact with nature.

Bowie also praised the IACM, noting that from his participation in the previous seven editions of the event, he noticed the effort from the government bureau in the "beautifying, regrowing and replanting of the green lung of Macau."

The MGM head noted that as a community event, "it doesn't matter your level of fitness or your level of commitment or training. It suits everybody," adding, "we are all always very busy at work and this is one of those opportunities where we can put the work aside and actually focus on ourselves, our friends, our colleagues and most importantly on the opportunity to spend some quality time out in the open air."

Remarking on the importance of such an event for MGM as title sponsor, Bowie said, "Obviously MGM is soon to open in Cotai and it seems an appropriate time that we put a stake on the ground that says 'we are coming,'" acknowledging the work that has been done previously by Sands China in supporting the event.

"One of the good things of the gaming concessions in Macau is that we all want to contribute and when one finds it is time to move to something else, one of us is prepared to take up these events and to ensure that people in Macau, the community and our tourists continue to have quality experiences in Macau," he said. Bowie also noted that is also an opportunity to "exercise some

rivalry between corporations" in "good spirited competition".

Similarly to previous editions, the event aims to contribute to two chosen charitable institutions, and this year the picks were the Rotary Club of Macau, which was also chosen for last year's edition, and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

As has been the case for the past seven years, TrailHiker will donate the team's entry fees to these charity organizations, to aid their business operations in Macau.

During the press conference, the representatives of both the beneficiary organizations also had the opportunity to explain what they are as well as what kind of aid they provide.

Representing the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Sister Juliana Devoy, director of the Good Shepherd Center in Macau, explained their aim to assist women who have been or are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

The Rotary Club of Macau was represented by current president Fatima Ferreira, who explained that with the donations received they will focus on service projects for those with special needs, particularly "mentally and physically challenged people from children to adults in Macau." Both charity organizations said they were pleased to participate in the event so they could further spread their messages in the community.

Kirby added that the event had already contributed in the past years a total of MOP2.2 million in donations to the local community and charitable organizations, noting that only last year they donated a total of MOP400,000.

The inaugural TrailHiker was held at Hac Sa beach back in 2010, involving a total of 560 hikers. Since its inception the event has involved over 10,000 participants.

Macau Daily Times is TrailHiker's official media partner



Robert Kirby (center) and Grant Bowie (second from right)

Taiwan to simplify SAR residents' single entry visa

STARTING from July 1, residents of Hong Kong and Macau will only be able to apply online for a single entry visa permit to Taiwan through the Taiwan immigration department's online system. This information was recently announced by the Bureau of Hong Kong Affairs of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

Starting from July, the Hong Kong office will no longer accept written applications from residents of the two SARs.

The policy is valid for all Hong Kong and Macau residents, including permanent residents who were not born in either of the two regions.

According to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office's Hong Kong sector, for the past three years, the number of

permanent residents in Macau and Hong Kong who were born in one of the two regions and applied online for a Taiwan visa has been increasing.

In 2014, that number was 1.06 million. In 2015, the number increased to 1.18 million and in 2016, it reached 1.26 million.

As previously reported, Taiwan's National Immigration Agency has eased the administration burden for Macau and Hong Kong residents who intend to apply for a Taiwan visa.

The simplified procedure – which underwent an experimental period until March 27 – allows residents to apply online instead of having to visit the office in person.

This time, the policy will be permanently implemented.

CTM takes measures to tackle ransomware attack

A new, highly virulent strain of malicious software that is crippling computers globally appears to have been sown in Ukraine. Leveraging the same intrusion tool as the "WannaCry" attack in May, it has spread across Europe, the U.S., South America and parts of Asia. Telecom operator CTM issued a press release yesterday stating that it is taking "proactive measures to tackle the latest ransomware 'Petya' to ensure the protection of customer data." CTM urged the public to apply the necessary security patch it had released to prevent the attack of the ransomware.

According to CTM, the latest version of the "Petya" ransomware has spread widely, affecting computer system operations in public and private organizations worldwide. The harmful virus will encrypt the data in infected computers and extort the owner to pay a ransom. Similar to "WannaCry," "Petya" is using the vulnerabilities of Microsoft's operation system (MS17-010) to spread.

According to the press release issued by CTM yesterday,



in order to further ensure the protection server and network security, the telecom operator "has completed a comprehensive upgrade to its security measures, and urges customers to download and install the patch from the Microsoft official website."

"As this malicious software can access computers through emails and links in social media,

residents should apply good security practice when using computers, including backup important data on regular basis; do not open attachments in unsolicited or suspicious emails; do not click on links or download any files or attachments included in unsolicited websites; and regularly upgrade your anti-virus software to ensure network safety," CTM stated.

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Memorial Lectures
RUI AFONSO
An Eminent Citizen of Macau
Ilustre Cidadão de Macau
艾維斯先生公開悼念儀式

On July 3, 2017, at 6:15 p.m., a series of memorial lectures for the late Dr Rui Afonso will be held in the Stanley Ho Auditorium at the Consulate-General of Portugal for Macau and Hong Kong, Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva. Dr Afonso, a renowned lawyer, and lawmaker passed away in Lisbon on March 17.

The public lectures are open to all citizens, residents and non-residents who may wish to attend. Simultaneous interpretation will be made available in both official languages of the MSAR, Portuguese and Chinese.

No próximo dia 3 de Julho de 2017, pelas 18:15 horas, terá lugar no Auditório Stanley Ho, no Consulado-Geral de Portugal para Macau e Hong Kong, sito à Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, uma Sessão de Homenagem ao Dr. Rui Afonso, ilustre cidadão de Macau, que foi advogado e deputado à Assembleia Legislativa, falecido em Lisboa no passado dia 17 de Março.

O evento é público, de entrada livre e aberto a todos os cidadãos, residentes e não-residentes, que queiram participar. Haverá tradução simultânea nas línguas oficiais da RAEM.

我們永遠懷念的前立法會議員及傑出的澳門市民—艾維斯大律師，於 2017 年 3 月 17 日在葡萄牙里斯本逝世，為悼念尊敬的艾維斯先生，謹訂於 2017 年 7 月 3 日下午 6 時正，於葡萄牙駐澳門及香港總領事館何鴻燊博士演講廳，為艾維斯大律師舉行追思會，誠邀各界人士共同參與。追思會全程以葡語進行，屆時將設中文翻譯。

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TIME 時間

08:00 for 30 km Corporate Challenge (Registration time: 06:45am)
30公里挑戰線 於早上八時正開始 (登記時間: 早上六時四十五分)
10:00 for 10 km Family & Fun Course (Registration time: 09:00am)
10公里樂遊線 於早上十時正開始 (登記時間: 早上九時正)

Cut off at 16:00pm
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30 km Corporate Challenge
30公里挑戰線
10 km Family & Fun Course
10公里樂遊線

Each entry is for a team of 4 people (Limited to 500 teams only)
賽事以團隊方式進行，四人為一組 (名額上限 500 隊)

ENTRY FEE 費用

Corporate Challenge at MOP/HKD 1,800 per team
30公里挑戰線費用為每隊澳門幣/港幣1,800圓
Family & Fun Course at MOP/HKD 1,200 per team
10公里樂遊線參賽費用為每隊澳門幣/港幣1,200圓

Entry fee also includes commemorative TrailHiker T-shirt, other Macau TrailHiker gifts and post event buffet
報名費用包括紀念T恤一件、其他澳門遠足者禮品及活動後舉行的自助餐聚會

Finisher medal will be granted to the finishing teams
各完成隊伍將獲頒發完成獎牌

Registration Opens 開始報名日期

28th June, 2017 (first-come, first-served)
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Inquiries 查詢

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Volkswagen

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US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Local authorities fail to protect trafficking victims

LOCAL authorities have decreased efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims, according to the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report issued by the United States Department of State.

The report acknowledged that the MSAR authorities are "making significant efforts" to meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. They are doing so through measures such as "inspecting employment agencies, construction sites, and companies with gaming licenses for indicators of trafficking; conducting numerous anti-trafficking trainings and public awareness campaigns, including through new online videos available in eight languages."

Although authorities investigated four cases of potential labor trafficking in 2016, those probes didn't result in any charges. The report adds that "authorities have never iden-

tified labor trafficking victims in Macau" and fewer victims of sex trafficking were identified in 2016 than in previous years. Last year, four victims were identified: three children and one adult. This compares with six in 2015, five in 2014, and 38 in 2013.

Authorities have never identified labor trafficking victims in Macau.

REPORT

The report makes some recommendations to local authorities, among them the need to significantly increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict sex and labor traffickers. According to the report, there

AP PHOTO



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson speaks at a 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report ceremony at the State Department

is also the need to "implement proactive victim identification methods, especially among vulnerable populations." A minimum wage for foreign domestic workers was also recommended.

The Secretary for Security's Office issued a statement yes-

terday refuting the report and claiming that it "ignores objective facts about the situation in Macau."

"The security authorities reiterate that human trafficking will not be allowed, as well as any acts associated with it," the statement noted.

Electronic payment service available at IACM

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has introduced electronic payment services to make it more convenient for individuals to pay for government services. Residents may now use UnionPay, QuickPass, and Macau Pass to pay for various items, such as government fees, service charges, administrative licenses and permits, cemetery and burial services. Other services processed by IACM, such as applications for written reports on property registration, applications for authenticated construction project documents, sale of government publications and printed materials, collection of fines for traffic offenses, or travel agency licenses and tour guide cards, may also be paid through the electronic payment service. IACM's integrated service center, as well as the northern, central and islands district public services centers are currently providing the electronic payment function.

Banking industry to face shortage of human resources

The latest report from the Talent Development Committee indicates that Macau's banking industry will have to deal with a shortage of between 749 and 1,488 human resources staff between the next three to six years. According to the committee, currently there are 231 human resources positions to be filled in within the banking industry. Along with bank tellers, credit business, customer services (non-cash transactions), systems and programs development and accounting, are the major sectors where workers are expected to be scarce. Moreover, in the next three to six years, the insurance industry will face a gap in human resources of between 67 to 95 people. The greatest factor contributing to the lack of human resources is people changing jobs.

Psychiatric patient attacks passenger and police

As confirmed by the Public Security Police Force, a police officer was recently attacked by a local psychiatric patient. On Monday night, a female local resident was attacked by the patient before she fled to a supermarket and hid. However, the patient followed the victim to the supermarket where he, upon arriving, became aggravated. A police officer received a report about the situation and visited the scene. There, he was attacked by the psychiatric patient, becoming injured in the process. The situation ended up being brought under control by several residents who were at the scene.

Pui Ching to hold fundraiser for fire victims in Portugal

PUI Ching Middle School will be presenting an English musical titled "Esther" this Saturday evening with the goal of raising funds for non-profit organization "Associação Comunidade de Jesus Cristo Vale da Benção," to aid victims of the Pedrógão Grande forest fire in central Portugal, which occurred earlier this month.

According to a statement issued by the Pui Ching school, the non-profit organization sends workers to different parts of Portugal to advocate helping poor and broken families, alongside orphans and the needy.

This year's production, "Esther," is a biblical story of an orphaned Jewish maiden who becomes the queen of Persia. At the peak of her strife, she guided her people away from total annihilation and destruction while being challenged by Persian oppressors. The story involves the saying "With faith, hope, love and courage - nothing is impossible."

This is the fourth year Pui Ching has worked alongside the Centre for International



Cooperation in Education (CICE) to hold fundraiser events to send aid to children abroad. In last year's campaign, around MOP500,000 was raised for the "Watoto Child Care Ministries" organization, which oversees and cares for orphans and the women of Uganda.

Kou Kam Fai, principal of Pui Ching, expressed gratitude towards donors from all walks of life, and students, parents and teachers for supporting the school in this charitable event. Kou's favourite biblical verse, "Love one another as you love yourself", is what drives the event to hold donations for the Pedrógão Grande wildfire.

In addition to the musical, a

representative from football team FC Porto, will be flying from Portugal to provide signed jerseys to further boost funding for the charity event. The signed jerseys will be auctioned at the event.

The show will start at 8 p.m. and will be held at the hall of Pui Ching Middle School. Currently, tickets for the show are sold out but those who are interested in the auction are welcome to attend.

The Pedrógão Grande forest fire occurred on June 17 and took the lives of over 60 people. Police claimed that a lightning strike on a tree sparked the blaze in a region hit by an intense heat wave and dry winds. It is regarded as one of the worst fires in Portugal since 1996.

25 teams confirmed in AL direct election

THE Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) yesterday confirmed the legal status of four additional nomination committees in relation to the direct election process of the 2017 Legislative Assembly Election.

The confirmation means a total of 25 nomination committees have been approved for the upcoming direct election. The legal status of six nomination committees for the indirect election process had previously been confirmed.

Talking to journalists following yesterday's meeting, the CAEAL chairman said the Commission had identified a total of 118 individuals who had signed nomination papers of more than one nomination committee, contrary to the rules.

The Secretariat of the Commission has so far met 33 of those identified and found one case where a nominee signed the paper after someone else allegedly provided misleading or false information. The CAEAL transferred the case to the Public Security Police Force for investigation, said Tong. According to the CAEAL, if any wrongdoing is proved, the person or persons involved might face a prison sentence of one to five years.

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CRUZEIRO SEIXAS
E JOÃO PAULO**
Clube Militar de Macau
8 a 24 de junho



Exposição do cartoonista
RODRIGO DE MATOS
Espaço expositivo do
Consulado-Geral de Portugal
5 a 30 de junho



Exposição de aguarelas
"NOTURNO" de
FILIFE MIGUEL DAS DORES
Albergue SCM | 6 de junho a 9 de julho



Exposição "O MAR"
de **ANA PESSANHA**
Galeria da Casa Garden
7 de junho a 31 de agosto



Lançamento do CD
de música infantil
"CASTELOS NO AR"
Pequeno Auditório do CCM
9 de junho | 20:00



Encontro com o escritor
JOAQUIM FURTADO
Café Oriente - IPOR
13 de junho | 18:30



Exposição "DEBRIS" de **VHILS**
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MOSTRA DE **INDIELISBOA**
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Cinemateca Paixão
30 de junho, 1 e 2 de julho



Exposição coletiva dos alunos
dos **CURSOS DE GRAVURA**
da Casa de Portugal em Macau
Espaço expositivo da Residência Oficial
do Consul-Geral de Portugal
10 a 17 de junho



Festival de Gastronomia e
Vinhos de Portugal PRIMAVERA 2017
com os chefs

**JOSÉ JÚLIO VINTÉM
E CATARINA P. ÁLVARES**
Clube Militar de Macau
de 9 a 19 de junho



MÊS DO LIVRO
PORTUGUÊS
Livraria Portuguesa | 5 a 22 de junho



Espectáculo
"NO PRECÍPIO
ERA O VERBO"
Teatro D. Pedro V | 4 de junho | 20:00



Concerto com
JOÃO CAETANO
Grande Auditório do CCM
2 de junho | 20:00



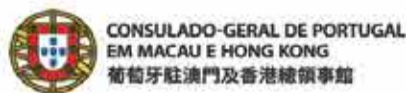
Cerimónia do
HASTEAR DA BANDEIRA
Consulado-Geral de Portugal
10 de junho | 9:30



**TAÇA DAS
CONFEDERAÇÕES**
Café Oriente - IPOR
17 de junho a 2 de julho



organizadores



patrocinador oficial



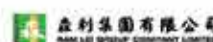
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Alibaba to invest USD1b in Lazada to speed Asian drive

Lulu Yilun Chen

ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd. will invest another USD1 billion to raise its stake in online mall Lazada Group SA to 83 percent, securing control of a fast-growing startup at the vanguard of its Southeast Asian expansion.

The Chinese e-commerce leader is buying out most other backers in a deal that values the Singapore-based startup at \$3.15 billion, Lazada CEO Maximilian Bittner said, with management and Temasek Holdings Pte. remaining as the only other investors. Lazada backers Rocket Internet SE and Investment AB Kinnevik said yesterday they were among the sellers. The startup's previously disclosed backers also include British supermarket chain Tesco Plc.

Alibaba took control of Lazada last year from Rocket in a \$1 billion deal - its largest overseas move to date. The company Bittner started in 2012 is now pivotal to quickening the Chinese online retailer's forays abroad, fulfilling billionaire co-founder Jack Ma's ambitions of becoming a truly global business.

Lazada's home turf is shaping up to be the next battleground for Alibaba and main Chinese rival JD.com Inc., and Amazon.com Inc. down the road. While still lacking the transport and payments infrastructure crucial to the widespread adoption of e-commerce,



the region has become the world's fastest-growing internet arena, with a populace of more than 600 million getting more comfortable with online shopping and payments.

"Obviously this allows Alibaba to expand its global footprint, giving them unrivaled access to users," Bittner said in an interview. "E-commerce penetration in Southeast Asia is only roughly 3 percent, so the partnership is a great step change."

Amazon hasn't yet voiced its intentions for Southeast Asia, but the industry expectation is that its constant quest for growth will lead it there as early as this year. Now that Alibaba's established its dominance of China and Amazon has taken the lead in the U.S., both

are looking to make their mark overseas. JD, whose preference for building its own distribution more closely mirrors Amazon's, is also said to be in talks to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in Indonesian online marketplace Tokopedia.

Alibaba - which despite its sheer scale still derives most of its revenue from China - has been the most aggressive thus far. It's amassing a regional presence in anticipation of Amazon's eventual entry, starting with 51 percent owned Lazada. Ma traveled to Kuala Lumpur in March to declare Malaysia its first logistics hub outside of China, a centralized warehousing and distribution launchpad for the region.

Indonesia, the world's fourth-

Ma traveled to Kuala Lumpur in March to declare Malaysia its first logistics hub outside of China

most populous nation, is considered among the most promising markets in the region. The country draws comparisons with China a decade ago, with its lack of

retail infrastructure, an exploding mobile-user base, and a growing middle-class craving leisure and quality goods, which underpinned the rise of both.

Lazada itself covers six countries - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - and runs about a dozen warehouses and scores of distribution centers from which it conveys goods directly to buyers. The company is competing with well-funded rivals from Matahari-Mall to Sea Ltd., but Bittner said Lazada can count on Alibaba's expertise.

Rocket Internet will sell its 8.8 percent stake in Lazada to Ma's company for \$276 million, it said in a statement. Kinnevik, which sold half its Lazada stake when Alibaba took control of the company in April, will get \$115 million for its remaining 3.6 percent stake, the Swedish investment company said in a separate announcement.

This year, Lazada introduced Alibaba's Taobao online bazaar to Singapore via a dedicated website. The Chinese e-commerce giant also helped Lazada create an online loyalty and services program that offers UberEats and Netflix along with free deliveries from Alibaba's Taobao and online grocer Redmart. It was the first time the U.S. companies have jointly created an online rewards program, Bittner said at the time.

"The e-commerce markets in the region are still relatively untapped, and we see a very positive upward trajectory ahead of us," Alibaba Chief Executive Officer Daniel Zhang said in a statement. "We will continue to put our resources to work in Southeast Asia through Lazada to capture these growth opportunities." **Bloomberg**

Justices to review New Jersey bid for legal sports betting

THE Supreme Court agreed this week to take up New Jersey's bid to allow sports betting at its casinos and racetracks, a case that could lead other states to seek a share of the lucrative market.

The justices will review a lower court ruling against the state, which is hoping to capture some of the estimated USD150 billion that is illegally wagered on sports each year.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and supporters in the state Legislature have tried for years to legalize sports gambling to bolster the state's casino and horse racing industries. The casino industry, after a period of job losses and closings, has lately been doing better.

Christie said Tuesday in Trenton at an unrelated event that he was encoura-

ged by the court's decision to take the case up. "We're not declaring victory but at least we're in the game and that's where we want to be," Christie said.

New Jersey state Sen. Raymond Lesniak, a Democrat who has led the state's effort to legalize sports gambling, said a win for the state would give an additional boost to casinos.

"Atlantic City is going to be packed when we win this case," said Lesniak, who first introduced legislation to overturn the ban in 2009. "Sports betting will lead to people staying for several days, not just playing a few hours and going home. During football season, the NCAA tournament, the World Cup, people will be flocking to Atlantic City to bet on them."

The case will be argued in the fall. Daniel Wallach, an attorney in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and an expert in sports law, said the case could lead to a nationwide repeal of the federal sports betting ban.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the New Jersey law last year, ruling that the law violated the federal Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992 that forbids state-authorized sports gambling.

"This is the day that New Jersey has been waiting for years," said Wallach, who has been closely following New Jersey's legal efforts to overturn the ban.

The court jumped into the case even after the Trump administration urged the justices not to get involved, putting the governor and the president he cam-

paigned for on opposite sides of the issue. President Donald Trump also once owned the Trump Taj Mahal casino in Atlantic City. It closed last October under the ownership of fellow billionaire Carl Icahn, who sold it in March to Hard Rock International. The company plans to reopen the casino under its own brand next year.

Speaking on a sports radio show this month, Christie criticized the federal government for restricting sports betting while simultaneously allowing states to legalize recreational marijuana even though it's illegal under federal law.

The case has lasted nearly as long as Christie has been in office. New Jersey voters passed a non-binding referendum to allow sports betting in 2011.

The four major pro spor-

ts leagues and the NCAA sued the state in 2012, after Christie signed a sports betting law.

Legal sports gambling is allowed in Nevada and three other states that already had approved some form of wagering before the federal law went into effect. Nevada is the only state to allow single-game wagering.

Congress gave New Jersey a one-time opportunity to become the fifth state before the ban was enacted, but the state failed to pass a sports betting law in the required time window.

Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, West Virginia and Wisconsin had joined New Jersey's effort to have the case heard by the Supreme Court.

This month, the American Gaming Association announced the creation of

a coalition involving organizations of attorneys general and police, policymakers and others to advocate for the repeal of the ban that the industry says has fueled the illegal sports betting market.

The groups cited research that showed legalizing sports betting in the U.S. could support more than 150,000 jobs.

"The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992 has failed to protect sports and fans," the group said in a statement after the court's action Tuesday. "PASPA, which is approaching its 25th anniversary, is fueling an unregulated \$150 billion illegal gambling market that continues to deprive states of vital public funding for services such as law enforcement and infrastructure." **AP**

HANDOVER ANNIVERSARY

One Hong Kong, two sentiments after 20 years of Chinese rule

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG KONG is planning a big party as it marks 20 years under Chinese rule. But many people in the former British colony are not in the mood to celebrate.

Fireworks, a gala variety show and Chinese military displays are among the official events planned to coincide with a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping starting today for the occasion.

Ahead of the anniversary, state broadcaster China Central Television has been running daily news features extolling what it calls the inextricable ties between China and Hong Kong in fields ranging from sports to the military and the arts.

Underneath the surface, however, tensions are simmering as Hong Kongers, especially the young, chafe at life under the tightening grip of China's Communist leaders.

"People are not celebrating but worrying about Hong Kong's future and its current situation," said Nathan Law, who at age 23 was elected the city's youngest-ever lawmaker last year and was a student leader of 2014's massive "Umbrella Movement" pro-democracy demonstrations.

Members of the Demosisto political party including young activist Joshua Wong on Monday draped a giant flower statue bequeathed by Beijing in 1997 in black cloth, which they said symbolized "the hard-line rule of the authoritarian regime." Other protests in the works include a rally by a pro-independence group on Friday evening and a pro-democracy march on Saturday, the latter an annual event that has drawn big crowds in the past.

Law said there's growing concern that Beijing is steadily eroding the "one country, two systems" principle put in place after it took control of the Asian financial hub. Under that principle, Hong Kong largely runs its own affairs and enjoys civil liberties unseen on the mainland, but now, he said, "there are lots of people describing the current system as 'one country, 1.5 systems.'"

He and others tick off a list of incidents that stoke fears about China tightening control. At the top is the case of five Hong Kong book-

AP PHOTO



sellers secretly detained on the mainland starting in late 2015 for selling gossipy titles about elite Chinese politics to mainland readers. One of the men, Gui Minhai, is still being held.

In a similar case, a Chinese-born tycoon with a Canadian passport went missing earlier this year from his hotel suite. News reports indicated mainland Chinese security agents operating in Hong Kong abducted him — a violation of the city's constitution.

People are not celebrating but worrying about Hong Kong's future and its current situation.

NATHAN LAW
LAWMAKER

Myriad other government plans have raised hackles, including stationing Chinese immigration officers in a downtown high-speed rail terminus under construction; setting up a local branch of Beijing's Palace Museum without public consultation; introducing so-called patriotic national education in schools that many parents fear is a cover for pro-Communist brainwashing; and introducing anti-subversion national security legislation.

Another worry, said veteran pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo, is the flood of so-called "red capital" as mainland investors buy up property and expand businesses in Hong Kong, elbowing aside indigenous tycoons. The wave of buying has been blamed for further inflating housing prices that make Hong Kong one of the world's most unequal places.

"We're supposed to be capitalists — fine. Except when it comes to public auctions of land, when all the big mainland concerns will always win," Mo said.

Xi's three-day visit includes an inspection of People's Liberation Army troops based in the city and culminates in the swearing-in of Hong Kong's new leader Carrie Lam. Police are ratcheting up security, with media reports indicating officers will crack down on political banners and images.

China's Communist leaders are eager to tout the success of "one country, two systems," which was envisioned as a way to entice back Taiwan, which Beijing sees as renegade province.

The recent tensions have drawn "serious attention" from Beijing, which can't afford to see pro-independence sentiment in Taiwan and Hong Kong at the same time, said Liu Shanying, political researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"Therefore, it must be put under control," whether by force or gentler methods, he

said. "There must be room for reflection on how to handle the Hong Kong issue properly because people in both Hong Kong and the mainland are Chinese after all."

For many in Hong Kong, the fundamental problem is the legitimacy of the city's Beijing-backed leaders. Lam was chosen by a coterie of pro-Beijing elites over a far more popular rival in what pro-democracy activists slammed as a fake election. The system was at the root of the 2014 pro-democracy protests.

"Many people believe Hong Kong is under the strict supervision of the Chinese government. And it has led to lots of conflicts," said university student Emily Chung, who was born July 1, 1997, the same day Britain relinquished control to China.

She identifies as both a Hong Konger and Chinese. She added, however, that "if conflicts between Hong Kong and China hadn't existed, I

would identify myself as Chinese," underscoring the wider trend of young people torn over their allegiances despite spending most or all of their life under Chinese rule.

Hong Kong University pollsters who have conducted polls on ethnic identity since 1997 found that the level of young people identifying as Chinese fell to 3.1 percent this month, the lowest ever level, according to a phone survey of 1,000 people. The margin of error was 4 percentage points.

Many young people lost hope after the 2014 protests, with the government refusing to give in to their demands for wider electoral freedom. The unresolved conclusion fueled the rise of a pro-independence movement, alarming Beijing. Authorities have moved to clamp down on separatist sentiment, disqualifying two pro-independence candidates from office last year for making improper oaths.

It underscores widening divisions in Hong Kong society, between young and old, rich and poor.

"They're just wasting their time. They should make good use of their time to study," said Choi Wah-bing, a 67-year-old retiree. He said he didn't understand young people protesting and agitating for more autonomy or independence. Hong Kong is like Beijing's "naughty child," he said.

Deepening divisions pose a risk of further instability, said David Zweig, a political scientist at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Beijing "can't figure out why 20 years after the transition, people in Hong Kong don't love the mainland more," said Zweig, adding that Hong Kongers don't have a problem identifying as Chinese until their freedoms are restricted. Or, as many residents put it, they don't want their home to become just another Chinese city.

"People like living in a free society," he said, "and they want their kids to live in a free society." AP

AP PHOTO



TERRY BRANSTAD

'Farm boy' from Iowa tasked with bridging US-China divisions

Matthew Brown, Beijing

A self-described "farm boy from Iowa" who befriended China's president three decades ago is tasked with smoothing relations between the world's two largest economies amid increased unpredictability in American foreign diplomacy under President Donald Trump.

Terry Branstad, 70, a former six-term governor of Iowa, made his debut yesterday as the new U.S. ambassador in Beijing. He's known China's president since Xi Jinping visited Iowa as a county-level Communist Party cadre on a 1985 trade trip.

The two struck up a lasting friendship that's expected to be a major asset as Branstad seeks to ease strains over the U.S.-China trade imbalance, China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions.

Less certain is how much influence Branstad will have with Trump.

The two first met during the 2016 election campaign. Their dynamic will be closely watched by China as it seeks to make sense of the new administration's sometimes volatile shifts in policy, said professor Shi Yinhong with Beijing's Renmin University.

"His task is going to be complicated," Shi said. "The ambassador is a good choice, but he does not decide Sino-U.S. relations. Everything depends on Trump and his policy toward China."

In a video greeting to the Chinese public, Branstad said he will focus on resolving the trade imbalance and neutralizing the North Korea threat. Both areas have proven fertile ground for disagreement between Washington and Beijing, North Korea's



U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad, speaks near his family during a photocall and remarks to journalists at the Ambassador's residence in Beijing yesterday

biggest trade partner and source of diplomatic and economic assistance.

U.S. lawmakers have long complained Beijing's protectionism disadvantages foreign companies and helps drive America's multi-billion dollar trade deficit with China.

On North Korea, China strongly opposed U.S. sponsorship of a missile defense system in South Korea in part because it has a radar system that Beijing said could be used for spying on China's military.

Trump has said he hoped China could use its influence with North Korea to convince Pyongyang to cease its nuclear and missile tests. However, this week he tweeted that Xi and China's efforts to help with North Korea have "not worked out."

Trump has also seemed to toy with dropping Washington's decades-old commitment not to recognize Taiwan by accepting a congratulatory phone call from the island's president. However, shortly afterward he reaffirmed the "One China" policy that recognizes only Beijing.

Against that background and amid Trump's "bombastic and erratic statements about China," Branstad's appointment gives Beijing some assurance that the U.S. remains interested in stability, said Paul Haenle, director of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy.

Immediately upon his arrival, Branstad was forced to confront another area of disagreement between the two nations — China's human rights record.

Controversy over the autho-

ritarian nation's treatment of dissidents resurfaced this week with news that imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo had been hospitalized and diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer. Branstad said Liu should have the chance to seek medical treatment outside China if it could help.

How hard he pushes Beijing on the matter remains to be seen, but he's already signaled a willingness to confront Xi.

During a May confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Branstad expressed disappointment on the slow pace of political reforms in China since he first visited in 1984. He told lawmakers that the problem has continued under Xi and that he would be willing to challenge his

"old friend" on the issue.

"He has not done what I'd hoped would happen, and that is become more open and more willing to accept freedom of press and stop the repression of minorities," Branstad testified. "He's got to recognize that some of the things that are being done in China today are very much against what I think [are] the right policies for a world leader."

Early in the 2016 campaign, Branstad expressed doubts Trump would last after the candidate arrived at the Iowa State fairgrounds aboard a private plane. He later said he'd been wrong about the New York billionaire and appeared unfazed by the many controversies that erupted around Trump in the lead-up to the election.

■ Branstad said Liu Xiaobo should have the chance to seek medical treatment outside China if it could help

Yesterday, Branstad remarked that he's developed "a lot of personal relationship" with the Trumps and recently had dinner at one of the family's namesake hotels with the president's daughter, Ivanka, and her husband, Jared Kushner.

Branstad grew up on a farm in Leland, Iowa, and predicted when he was still in elementary school that he would one day become the state's governor, according to his former law partner, Richard Schwarm. Schwarm said he'd first heard that story from Branstad's mother and it had been repeated so many times that it "was taken as gospel."

After earning a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Iowa, Branstad was drafted and served as a military policeman in the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. AP

FBI locates car related to missing scholar case

THE FBI has located the car that a missing Chinese scholar studying at the University of Illinois was last seen getting into earlier this month, the FBI said yesterday.

The University of Illinois Police Department and the FBI received numerous leads regarding the black Saturn Astra that surveillance video showed Yingying Zhang getting into on June 9, the agency said in a statement.

FBI spokesman Brad Ware declined to provide further details, including where and when the car was found. But in the statement, the agency said: "We have developed several additional leads and would like to remind the public that this is still an active investigation."

The FBI is offering up to USD10,000 for information leading to the location of the 26-year-old woman.

The disappearance has been labeled a kidnapping but police have not ruled out other scenarios. Local police and the FBI said her case is top priority.

The agriculture sciences scholar disappeared moments after stepping off a bus on her way to sign an apartment lease. Zhang has been researching crop photosynthesis and was expected to begin work on her Ph.D. in the fall at the University of Illinois, ac-

ording to the school.

Zhang's family members have traveled to the 44,000-student campus in Champaign, a city about 225 kilometers south of Chicago. They are staying in university housing as the search continues.

The University of Illinois has the largest Chinese student population of any U.S. college, with 5,600 students enrolled, according to U.S. government data. AP



This undated photo provided by the University of Illinois Police Department shows Yingying Zhang

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Chinese navy launches latest-generation destroyer

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA'S increasingly powerful navy launched its most advanced domestically produced destroyer, at a time of rising competition with other naval powers such as the United States, Japan and India.

The first 10,000-ton Type 055 entered the water at Shanghai's Jiangnan Shipyard yesterday morning, the navy said in a statement.

It said the ship is equipped with the latest air, missile, ship and submarine defense systems. China is believed to be planning to produce four of the ships.

"The launch of this ship signifies that our nation's development of destroyers has reached a new stage," the navy said.

A photo on the navy's website showed multicolored streamers being shot out of tubes while sailors and shipyard workers stood dockside next to a massive Chinese flag. It said the chief of the People's Liberation Army's Ge-

AP PHOTO



Fireworks explode next to China's new domestically-built 10,000-ton Type 055 destroyer during a launching ceremony at Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai yesterday

neral Armaments Department, Zhang Youxia, presided over the ceremony, in which a bottle of champagne was broken over the ship's bow.

The Type 055 is significantly

larger than China's other modern destroyer, the Type 052, representing the rising sophistication of China's defense industries. Once heavily dependent on foreign technology, China in

April launched its first aircraft carrier built entirely on its own, based on an earlier Ukrainian model.

In terms of displacement, it is roughly equivalent to the Arlei-

gh Burke class of destroyer.

China's navy is undergoing an ambitious expansion and is projected to have a total of 265-273 warships, submarines and logistics vessels by 2020, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Naval Analysis. That compares with 275 deployable battle force ships presently in the U.S. Navy, China's primary rival in the Asia Pacific, with the once-yawning gap between the two narrowing rapidly.

China says it needs a powerful navy to defend its 14,500 kilometers of coastline, as well as its crucial maritime shipping routes.

However, it also appears increasingly willing to challenge actions by the U.S. — long the region's pre-eminent military power — especially in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety.

Beijing has also long nurtured resentment against Japan over its past invasion of China, and their dispute over a group of tiny, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea has at times threatened to break out into open confrontation.

India, meanwhile, shares a disputed border with China and has grown increasingly concerned over the Chinese navy's growing presence in the Indian Ocean, facilitated in part by Beijing's close alliance with New Delhi's arch rival, Pakistan. **AP**

NEPAL

Millions vote in second phase of local elections

MILLIONS of people in Nepal were voting yesterday in the second phase of local elections to choose municipal and village councils despite threats from ethnic groups that oppose the polls.

More than 162,000 security forces were patrolling the election areas. There were no immediate reports of election-related violence.

The local elections are being held for the first time in two decades in the Himalayan nation, which was wracked by a long-running communist insurgency followed by a yearslong delay in passing a new constitution.

Voting was taking place yesterday in three of Nepal's seven provinces. Three other provinces held elections last month, and another will vote in September.

Ethnic groups in sou-



thern Nepal have called for a boycott of the polls, saying their demand for more territory in their province needs to be addressed first.

Members of the largest of the groups, the Madhesi, say their population demands far more territory than the province they were granted by Nepal's new cons-

titution. The constitution, adopted two years ago, sparked months of protests by the ethnic groups, leaving 52 people dead.

The government has been trying to convince the Madhesi to join the elections, postponing voting in their province to Sept. 18 in hopes of reaching an agreement.

More than 62,000 candidates were contesting 15,038 positions. Crucial local posts have been occupied by government-appointed bureaucrats because elections could not be held amid a 10-year communist insurgency and years of delays in drafting the new constitution. **AP**

CYBERATTACK

Ransomware hits new targets in Asia

A new cyberattack similar to WannaCry reached parts of Asia after hitting businesses, port operators and government systems in Europe, U.S. and South America.

A terminal operated by A.P. Moller-Maersk at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, a facility near Mumbai which is India's biggest container port, was unable to load or unload because of the attack. With the Gateway Terminal India facility unable to identify which shipment belongs to whom, the port is clearing cargo manually, Chairman Anil Diggikar said in a phone interview.

After wreaking havoc in Europe, the attackers behind the Petya virus have had a limited impact in Asia so far as they demand users pay USD300 in cryptocurrency per infected computer to unlock their systems. About 2,000 users had been attacked as of yesterday [Macau time] in North America, according to Kaspersky Lab analysts, with organizations in Russia and Ukraine the most affected.

"With there being no global kill switch for this one, we'll continue to see the numbers rise in

different parts of the world as more vulnerable systems become more exposed," said Beau Woods, deputy director of the Cyber Statecraft Initiative at the Atlantic Council in Washington.

There are signs the virus is starting to spread in China but no large-scale outbreak has been detected, according to Zheng Wenbin, chief security engineer at Qihoo 360 Technology Co.

After the WannaCry outbreak earlier this year, ransomware is becoming a routine risk for businesses around the world. While banks and retailers have strengthened defenses against certain types of attacks, such as those targeting credit card data, many others are still catching up in building their defenses.

The attack popped up in government systems in Kiev, then disabled operations at companies including Rosneft PJSC, advertiser WPP Plc and the Chernobyl nuclear facility. More than 80 companies in Russia and Ukraine were initially affected, Moscow-based cybersecurity company Group-IB said. The hack quickly spread from Russia and Ukraine, through Europe and into the U.S. (More on p15) **Bloomberg**



PHILIPPINES

17 bodies found in Marawi city

PHILIPPINE troops have retrieved 17 bodies believed to be of villagers killed by Muslim militants aligned with the Islamic State group who seized parts of southern Marawi city last month.

Government spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong tells The Associated Press by telephone that troops and rescuers found the bodies Wednesday huddled in a grassy lot in the Marawi village of Gadungan, which troops have cleared of militants.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Padilla says authorities will try to identify the bodies before they're added to the civilian death toll, currently at 27.

At least 299 militants and 71 soldiers and police have also died in the fighting that began when militant laid siege to Marawi on May 23.

CAMBODIA

Conservationists find rare cache of crocodile eggs

WILDLIFE researchers in Cambodia say they've found a clutch of eggs from one of the world's most endangered crocodiles, raising hopes of its continuing survival in the wild.

The New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society said in a statement yesterday that its researchers, along with Fisheries Administration employees and local residents, found six eggs of the Siamese Crocodile in Sre Ambel District in the southern province of Koh Kong as they were exploring for tracks, signs and dung of the reptile. It said it was the first Siamese Crocodile nest recorded in six years of research and protection in the Sre Ambel area.

The group says the crocodile, with an estimated global population of around 410, is found only in Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, with



Wildlife researcher In Hul of the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society picks up an egg of a Siamese Crocodile in the southern province of Koh Kong

the greatest number in Cambodia. The species is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature because its numbers are rapidly shrinking

"To avoid any threats, we moved the eggs to a safe place to hatch and track their pro-

gress," the statement quoted In Hul, a staff member of the Fisheries Administration, as saying.

Such threats, said the statement, "include illegal hunting of adults and hatchlings and collecting of eggs to supply crocodile farms in Cambodia and Thailand, especially

during the last two decades."

Other threats include the "degradation of habitats, decrease of natural food, low chance of breeding in the wild due to low number of individuals in the wild and weak law enforcement such as regulations on crocodile farming and trading." AP

AD



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Ethiopian factory workers sort shoes at the Chinese company Huajian's plant in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

IVANKA SHOES

Long hours, low pay and abuse

Erika Kinetz, Ganzhou

A worker with blood dripping from his head marked a low point in the tense, grinding life at a southeastern China factory used by Ivanka Trump and other fashion brands. An angry manager had hit him with the sharp end of a high-heeled shoe.

Workers from the factory, including one current and two former employees who spoke to The Associated Press, reported overtime that stretched past midnight, steep production quotas and crude verbal abuse at Ganzhou Huajian International Shoe City Co. They said beatings were not unheard of, but the shoe attack, which all three say they witnessed last year, was violent enough to stand out.

"He was bleeding right from the middle of the head," the current worker said.

"There was a lot of blood. He went to the factory's nurse station, passing by me," said a second man, who said he quit his job at Huajian because of the long hours and low pay.

The three workers are the first people with direct knowledge of conditions at the Ganzhou factory to speak with the media. All three spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, for fear of retribution or arrest.

Last month, three men investigating conditions at the Huajian Group factory in Ganzhou were detained, accused of illegally using secret recording devices to steal commercial secrets. They, like one of the three men AP spoke with, worked with China Labor Watch, a New York nonprofit that has been investigating Ivanka Trump's Chi-

nese suppliers for more than a year.

Li Qiang, founder of China Labor Watch, describes Huajian's Ganzhou factory as among the worst he has seen in nearly two decades investigating labor abuses. His group says pay can be as low as a dollar an hour, in violation of China's labor laws. According to China Labor Watch investigators, until recently, workers might get only two days off — or less — per month.

■ The company said it operates lawfully and that China Labor Watch invented so-called 'facts'

China Labor Watch said the company forced workers to sign fake pay stubs with inflated salary numbers and threatened to fire workers if they didn't fill in questionnaires about working conditions with pre-approved answers. Workers also said the company pressured people not to speak with outsiders about conditions at the factory.

In comments to the AP, the Huajian Group declined to respond to specific questions, but broadly denied all allegations, calling them "completely not true to the facts, taken out of context, exaggerated." The company said it operates lawfully and that China Labor Watch "invented so-called 'facts' by

illegal means of buying undercover work, which has already affected the enterprise's normal business seriously and affected the survival and employment of tens of thousands of staff." The company noted its significant contribution to the economy and to society, particularly through its employment of disabled people.

Before taking on an official role as adviser to her father, Ivanka Trump stepped back from day-to-day management of her brand, but she has retained her ownership interest.

In Washington earlier, she spoke at a ceremony unveiling the annual U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report, in which China was demoted to the lowest ranking over its human trafficking record. She said the report is "clarion call into action in defense of the vulnerable and the exploited."

She has not commented, however, on the detentions or the reports of poor working conditions at one of her brand's suppliers. Her spokeswoman declined to comment for this story.

Abigail Klem, president of the Ivanka Trump brand, said "the integrity of our supply chain is a top priority and we take all allegations very seriously." The company says its products have not been made in the factory since March, but China Labor Watch said it had an April production schedule indicating that nearly 1,000 pairs of Ivanka Trump shoes were due in May.

In the past, some brands have used China Labor Watch's reports as a tool to help keep their supply chains clean. Walt Disney Co., for example, investiga-

ted and ultimately decided to sever its relationship with at least one supplier following reports of poor conditions, and sought to improve labor practices at others.

China Labor Watch outlined its findings in letters sent in June to Ivanka Trump at the White House and to other brands. So far, the group says it has gotten no response.

The group said it also sent Ivanka Trump a video taken inside the factory in May. That video included a clip in which a manager threatened to rough up a worker who had apparently arranged shoes in the wrong order.

"If I see them f---ing messed up again," the manager yells, "I'll beat you right here."

The video has not been released to the public, but it was shown to AP at China Labor Watch's office in New York.

Marc Fisher, which has made shoes for Ivanka Trump and Easy Spirit at the Ganzhou factory, has said it would look into the allegations.

G-III Apparel Group, which produces shoes for Karl Lagerfeld, said it had not received a letter but "fully supports the independent monitoring of global supply chains."

"When workplace safety and fairness issues are brought to our attention, we take them very seriously and work with our partners to resolve them," G-III spokesman Chris Giglio said in an email.

Ann Taylor spokesman Shawn Buchanan also said the company takes the allegations "very seriously" and is "actively conducting an investigation to assess

this facility's compliance with our code of conduct and applicable laws and regulations."

The Kendall & Kyle brand said its "footwear manufacturer works with many footwear production factories and all factories are required to operate within strict social compliance regulations."

Other brands identified by China Labor Watch as customers of the Ganzhou factory include Nine West, Naturalizer and the Camuto Group, which makes shoes for BCBG Max Azria, Jessica Simpson and Tory Burch. None responded to requests for comment.

The current Huajian employee who spoke to the AP said life at the factory has changed since the arrests of the three investigators brought the glare of public attention.

Overtime was radically reduced this month, he said. Shifts used to run from 7:10 a.m. until after 9 p.m. or 10 p.m., and sometimes after midnight, with two daily breaks, he and a former employee both said. But for the last few weeks, workers have been released before 7 p.m.

They're also starting to get every Sunday off, which is standard under Chinese labor law, said the current employee, who also moonlights for China Labor Watch.

City government officials turned up recently, he said, and the factory gave everyone an egg to eat in the middle of their afternoon shift.

Life inside Ganzhou Huajian is focused on a single number: the monthly quota of shoes that must be produced, according to China Labor Watch investigators and workers. A single production line of 50 workers may need to produce close to 30,000 pairs of shoes, depending on seasonal demand, the current employee and one former employee told AP.

Those who miss their targets do not collect the full salary, said the current employee.

"It is impossible to meet the target, actually, because it just keeps on going up," the former employee said.

The new abbreviated working hours are a mixed blessing, the current employee said, because they haven't been able to meet production targets.

Huajian, meanwhile, has been moving production to Ethiopia, where workers make around USD100 a month, a fraction of what they pay in China, according to Song Yiping, a manager at Huajian's Ethiopian factory, who spoke to the AP in January. He said he's heard President Trump talk about bringing jobs back to America, but he doubts that will happen with shoes. Even Chinese vocational school dropouts don't want to work for Ethiopian wages.

"The American clients push down the price," Song explained. "Consumers want to buy cheaper shoes." AP

CYBERATTACK

Online group re-emerges to taunt US intelligence

THE day after a particularly virulent strain of ransomware burst across the globe, the mysterious Shadow Brokers group has re-emerged to taunt the U.S. National Security Agency.

It's a possible hint at the shadowy spy games being played behind the scenes of the cybersecurity crisis.

The Shadow Brokers, who have spent nearly a year publishing some of the American intelligence community's most closely guarded secrets, posted a new message to the user-driven news service Steemit yesterday carrying new threats, a new money-making scheme and nudge-nudge references to the ransomware explosion that continues to cause disruption from Pennsylvania to Tasmania.

"Another global cyber attack is fitting end for first month of the shadowbrokers dump service," the group said, referring to a subscription service which

purportedly offers hackers early access to some of the digital NSA's break-in tools. "There is much the shadowbrokers can be saying about this but what is point and having not already being said?"

Kaspersky Lab says a massive cyberattack that has locked computers across the world involved a new malware.

The company said that its preliminary findings suggest that it is not a variant of Petya ransomware, as some reports indicated, but a new ransomware that has not been seen before.

It named it ExPetr, noting that "while it has several strings similar to Petya, it possesses entirely different functionality."

The company said its telemetry data indicates around 2,000 attacked users so far. It added that organizations in Russia and Ukraine were the most affected, and hits were also registered in Poland, Italy, the U.K., Germany,

France, the U.S. and several other countries.

It added that the cyberattack involved modified EternalBlue and EternalRomance exploits.

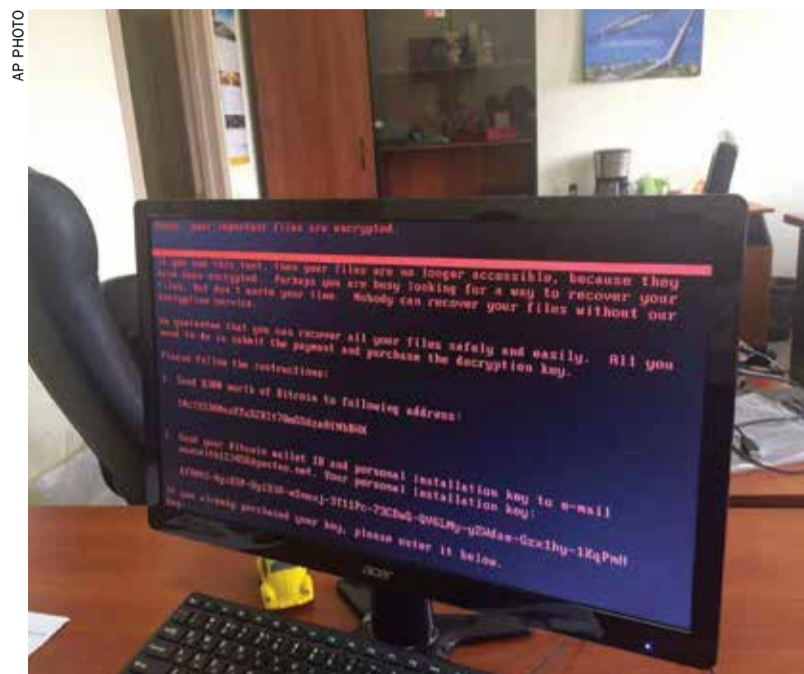
In Ukraine, the cabinet said an outburst of malicious software has been contained.

The ransomware that paralyzed computers across the world hit Ukraine hardest Tuesday, with victims including top-level government offices, energy companies, banks, cash machines, gas stations, and supermarkets.

The Cabinet said yesterday's statement that the cyber-assault has been stopped and the situation now is under "full control."

It added that "all strategic assets, including those involved in protecting state security, are working normally."

Ukrainian railways said in a separate statement that the cyberattack has caused some disruptions with money transactions, but its operations haven't been affected.



A computer screen cyberattack warning notice reportedly holding computer files to ransom, as part of a massive international cyberattack, at an office in Kiev

In Russia, Rosneft oil company says some of its gas stations have been affected by the outbreak of malicious software, but production operations haven't been hurt.

The company said yesterday it's too early to assess the damage from malicious software that has crippled computers across the world.

It acknowledged that it has faced some problems, which are being dealt with quickly. Rosneft said cash registers at some of its gas stations have been affected, but didn't offer

further details. Rosneft emphasized that its production cycle hasn't been affected by ransomware.

The Kremlin said that a ransomware attack that has affected computers across the world highlights the need for close international cooperation in fighting cybercrime.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the attack "again proves the Russian thesis that such a threat requires cooperation on the global level."

MDT/AP

AD

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what's ON



THE ART OF ZHANG DAQIAN

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

UNTIL: August 6, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

EXHIBITION OF CHAN IU PUI

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: August 7, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

STORY OF CANNON MAKING - CHILDREN EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 20, 2017

VENUE: Exhibition Gallery, 3rd floor of Macao Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

KUNG FU PANDA ADVENTURE ICE WORLD - ICE WORLD EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am -8pm (Last admission at 7:30pm)

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

VENUE: The Venetian Macao, Cotai Expo Hall F (temperature is -8°C inside the venue, thus hooded coats will be provided free of charge in limited quantities and sizes for children and adults)

ADMISSION: MOP120 (for one adult and one child aged 3 to 12), MOP312 (for three family members and one child aged 3 or above)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

COLOUR SHAPE LOVE - WORKS BY JOAQUIM FRANCO

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

Offbeat

NEIGHBOR FROM HELL: GREEK WEAPONS FAN CHARGED OVER BALCONY SHOOTING RANGE

Greek police say they have arrested an elderly man for allegedly setting up an improvised firing range on his balcony in a densely populated area and using guns he owned illegally for target practice.

A police statement says one of the handgun shots the man allegedly fired at a wooden target fixed to his balcony railings hit a neighboring flat in Piraeus, the Greek capital's harbor. Nobody was hurt.

The statement said a search of the 72-year-old suspect's apartment produced five illegally owned handguns. Officers also found 21 shotguns — most of them licensed legally — a sword, a silencer, an axe, a Taser, knives and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

The man was arrested Saturday and charged with firearms law violations and attempted grievous bodily harm.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:40	Confederation cup 2017 (repeat)
18:20	Revenge Sr 3
19:10	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:40	Miscellaneous
20:30	Soap Opera
21:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:30	TDM Interview
22:10	Miscellaneous
23:00	Now Generation
23:30	TDM News
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	Miscellaneous
01:55	Confederation cup 2017: Germany - Mexico
03:55	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

29 JUN - 5 JUL



DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 1

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

Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin

Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 90min

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



THE MUMMY

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Walls

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

MACAU TOWER

22 JUN - 5 JUL



TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

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

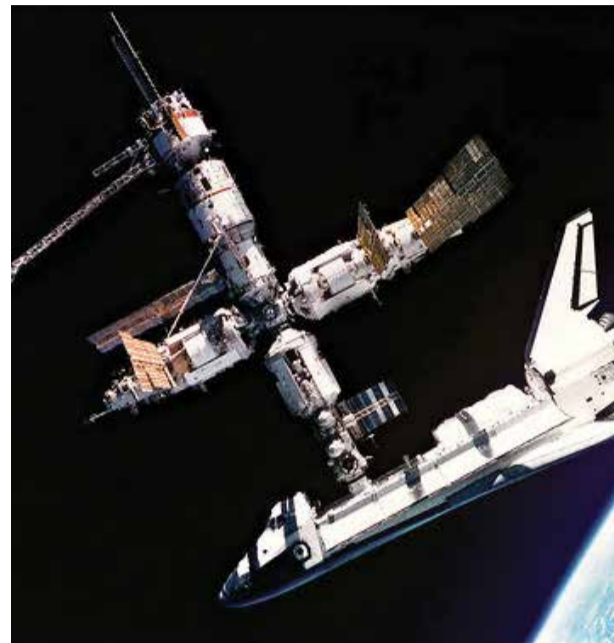
Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min

this day in history



1995 US SHUTTLE DOCKS WITH RUSSIAN SPACE STATION

American and Russian spacecraft have successfully docked in orbit for the first time in 20 years.

The US shuttle Atlantis delivered a relief crew of two cosmonauts to the Russian Mir space station, signalling a new era of space co-operation between the two former Cold War rivals.

The operation to link the craft was led by the commander of the Atlantis, Robert Gibson. Flying over the Mediterranean at 17,500mph, he lined up the Mir in his sights and with barely a shudder the two craft touched.

"We have capture," he said.

After the safety of the spacecraft was confirmed with the pressure between them equalised, Gibson opened the hatch separating them.

Propelling himself through to the Russian craft he stretched out his arm to shake hands with his counterpart.

The symbolic gesture was watched live from Moscow by US Vice President Al Gore, and by the head of NASA Dan Goldin at the Russian control centre.

The crew of the US shuttle moved into the Mir for group photos, before presenting the cosmonauts with gifts of chocolate, fruit and flowers. The Russians gave the Americans gifts of bread and salt, the traditional symbols of welcome.

Mr Gibson said: "After all the training and the preparation it seems hard to believe we're actually there but indeed we are."

The two spacecraft will remain attached for five days, giving the Mir crew time to stock up on fresh water, oxygen and nitrogen. The crews will carry out a range of scientific experiments.

A further six link-ups between the shuttle and Mir are planned, before work on the assembly of an international space station begins in orbit in two years' time.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After 15 years in space, the Mir space station returned to Earth in March 2001.

Over the years, Mir has circled the Earth about 88,000 times, travelling 3.6bn km (2.2bn miles).

In many ways, the platform has been humankind's first real home in space, as well as being the pride of the Russian space programme.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 This is not a good time to sit around waiting for things to happen...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You may find that something isn't quite what it appears to be today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your partners - in business, in love or in other parts of life - are calling in favors...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Take care of your own needs first - otherwise, you will never get around to them!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Small-minded people really get under your skin today - and you may need to tell one off.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Roll the dice - take a risk today. You need to believe in yourself...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Explore new territory today - whether it's online, out in the world or even in the middle of your most intimate relationship.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Trust your gut today - even if it's telling you some pretty weird things. Your energy needs all the help it can get...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're feeling quite jolly today - and it's easy to share this feeling with those around you.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your sense of discipline and rigor makes today more focused - but also more fun, if you can believe it!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You find new ways to use your talents and energy today, so make sure that you're reaching but into new fields...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You are in conflict with your boss - or someone else who's responsible for a project you care about.

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- Barrel; 5- Starchy food grain; 9- Chinese "way"; 12- Plaster backing; 13- Chopin composition; 15- Collide with; 16- La Scala highlight; 17- Postpone; 18- Decorative case; 19- By the day; 21- Ascertain dimensions; 23- 24 hour periods; 24- Foy, Quebec; 25- Opening word; 28- Pertaining to Scotland; 33- Ornamental coronet; 34- Needy; 35- Dagger; 36- Early bird?; 37- Bullwinkle, e.g.; 38- Flight; 39- Take ___ Train; 41- Neighbor of Sask.; 42- "Die Fledermaus" maid; 44- Powerfully; 46- Tidy up; 47- Sought office; 48- Division of a school year; 49- Two wrestlers on the same side; 53- Widen; 57- Carpeting calculation; 58- California-Nevada lake; 60- Strong wind; 61- Charged particles; 62- 1985 Kate Nelligan film; 63- Memorable times; 64- Boozehound; 65- Prepared to drive; 66- Bears' lairs; DOWN: 1- Give it up for a performer?; 2- River in central Switzerland; 3- Agitate; 4- Cotton fabric; 5- Night flight; 6- Agenda entries; 7- ___-de-sac; 8- Mild cheese; 9- Ballerina's skirt; 10- Asian river; 11- Mayberry moppet; 14- Billboards, some say; 15- Assaults; 20- ___ Camera; 22- ABA member; 25- Cancels a dele; 26- Pieces of ___; 27- More wise; 28- Like a chimney sweep; 29- ___ Nostra; 30- Small bay; 31- Bobby of the Black Panthers; 32- Macho types; 34- Voting-pattern predictor; 37- Person of great influence; 40- Main arteries; 42- Dynamic beginning; 43- Wounded; 45- Dundee denial; 46- Sea nymph; 48- Steakhouse order; 49- Mai ___; 50- Buck follower; 51- Lady's escort; 52- Germinated grain used in brewing; 54- Be bold; 55- Brio; 56- Capone nemesis; 59- ___ Haw;

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

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including website and contact information.

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including Mandarin Residences, Nam Hong Studio Apartment, St Pauls Ruins, and Cattleya Court.

JML Property logo and branding, including the text '卓雅物業' and '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..."

CYCLING

Key stages of the Tour de France route

WITH 21 stages, 23 tough climbs in five mountain ranges, three mountain-top finishes and two time trials, the route for the Tour de France, which begins Saturday in Duesseldorf, Germany, promises to challenge the wide variety of skill sets in the professional cycling peloton.

Here is a quick look at what to look forward to at the 104th edition of cycling's greatest race:

OFF WITH A BANG: At just 14 kilometers, the opening time trial in Stage 1 in Duesseldorf is short enough for a good number of riders to harbor ambitions of winning it and becoming the first wearer of the race leader's iconic yellow jersey - a guaranteed highlight of any rider's career.

It also isn't long enough for riders who are strong against the clock, like defending champion Chris Froome, to open up big gaps over weaker time trialers like key rival Nairo Quintana.

That is good for fans, because it will mean the race isn't decided early on, but perhaps not so good for riders. With most of them still in contention after the time trial and full of nervous energy, they will race hell for leather over the next three flattish stages, increasing the likelihood of crashes that could take out top contenders.

SPRINTERS SHINE: Sprinters like Marcel Kittel, who can hit speeds of 70 kilometers per



2016 Tour de France winner Chris Froome of Britain

hour over short distances, will be looking for victories on the stages between Duesseldorf and Day 5, when the Tour veers sharply uphill in the Vosges - spiky, hilly terrain where bulkier, muscly sprinters struggle. They will get more opportunities for victories in Burgundy wine country at the end of week one, in week two before the Pyrenees and, of course, on the cobblestones of the Champs-Élysées boulevard at the

end of the final stage in Paris on July 23.

OUCH, THIS HURTS: In their perpetual quest to innovate, Tour organizers have slightly cut down on the quantity of climbs in 2017 but increased their steepness. Six particularly steep ascents stand out, starting in stage 5 with 20-percent gradients up to the Planche des Belles Filles ski station in the Vosges in eastern Fran-

ce. Froome won the stage there in 2012. The Col du Grand Colombier, in the Jura mountains on stage 9, has the sharpest gradients - 22 percent, steep enough to test the clutches of reporters who follow the race by car if they're not careful.

Also in the Jura are the 15-percent gradients of the Mont du Chat, last climbed by the Tour in 1974.

"One of the hardest climbs in

France," Tour director Christian Prudhomme said when the route was unveiled.

Other gradients of note are 16-percent slopes to the Peyragudes ski station and 18-percent stretches on the Mur de Péguère, both in the Pyrenees, and a 14-percent section on the Col de Peyra Taillade, on stage 15 in the Massif Central.

QUEEN STAGE: Every Tour has a stage that stands out for its difficulty and drama - the so-called "Queen stage." This year that appears to be the unprecedented mountain-top finish at the Col d'Izoard in the Alps. The hostile terrain of sun- and snow-scorched rocks and the thinning mountain air on the long climb to an altitude of 2,360 meters (7,742 feet) could make the Izoard, at the end of stage 18, the last big battleground among surviving contenders for the winner's check of 500,000 euros (\$550,000).

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: The 22.5-kilometer time trial in the Mediterranean port city of Marseille on the penultimate stage 20 should settle overall rider placings before the largely ceremonial final ride into Paris the next day. It will start and finish in the Velodrome Stadium that is home to the city's football team, and will go through the Old Port, with a short climb to the white basilica that overlooks France's second-largest city. **AP**

FOOTBALL

FIFA publishes Garcia report on 2018/2022 World Cup bidding

AFTER years of intrigue about allegedly corrupt World Cup bidding, FIFA published an investigation report yesterday [Macau time] that showed how voters exploited the murky system yet allowed Russia and Qatar to host the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.

FIFA published investigator Michael Garcia's 430-page dossier less than 24 hours after Germany's biggest-selling daily Bild began reporting extracts from a leaked copy it received.

The full report verified the broad conclusions of a summary of Garcia's work published by FIFA in November 2014.

A Russia bid backed by Vladimir Putin gave limi-

ted cooperation to Garcia's team which found no evidence of undue influence. Putin met six of 22 FIFA voters before the December 2010 elections.

Qatar's ultimate victory over the United States tested FIFA's bid rules to the limit. The bid team used a full range of lavishly funded state and sports agencies, plus advisers who raised Garcia's suspicions.

Garcia's report was once a holy grail for FIFA critics who hoped it would be explosive and force a re-run of the World Cup hosting votes.

Many believed Russian and Qatari bids must have behaved badly to persuade a FIFA executive committee lineup in 2010 that

has since been widely discredited.

"Bid teams operated in an environment where a number of [voters] did not hesitate to exploit a system that in certain respects did not bind them to the same rules applicable to bid teams," Garcia wrote, noting that some FIFA officials "sought to obtain personal favors or benefits."

Some of those same FIFA officials have since been indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice in a widespread racketeering case that is ongoing.

Garcia's team did not have the evidence-gathering powers of a criminal probe and it was clear they would be hampered even before starting a glo-

be-trotting 2013-14 investigation.

His full report detailed how: FIFA voters refused to be interviewed; bid teams such as Russia and Spain were evasive; potential key witnesses could not be tracked down.

Garcia's work also has been overtaken since he delivered it to FIFA's then ethics judge in September 2014.

A 42-page summary written by German judge Hans Joachim Eckert was published two months later and disputed by Garcia. Their public falling out prompted FIFA to pass the dossier and supporting evidence to Switzerland's attorney general for review.

The true significance



Michael Garcia, Chairman of the two chambers of the new FIFA Ethics Committee

of Garcia might only be seen once Swiss authorities have completed their work. It started with suspected money laundering linked to the World Cup bids and extended to other areas of FIFA business.

Around 25 investigations have been launched, the Swiss federal prosecution office said this month, using more than 170 suspect bank transactions as evidence.

Swiss investigators have shared evidence in recent years with the FBI and U.S. prosecutors who have indicted or taken guilty pleas from more than 40 football and marketing officials.

Russia has repeatedly denied wrongdoing since 2010, though the report confirmed that leased computers used by Russia's bid campaign were later destroyed. **AP**

opinion

Girl About Globe
Linda Kennedy



'EL MAN-SPREADING' AND 'EIN GIN AND TONIC'

I'm off on holiday to Europe soon, and fearing what I am going to find. Reports suggest everything has changed. The Spanish are feminist and the Russians are sober. The Germans are drinking the terribly British gin and tonic. Has Brexit caused everyone to try something new?

First, the Spanish. Spain is one of the national homes of Latin lovers and whilst there are some jobs which are outdated, like being a nob Thatcher or a manufacturer of CDs, I hadn't expected the Spanish exerciser of his lat muscles to become 'obseleto' so quickly. So what's happened to make Spain feminist? Well, transport. They've gone and put up signs against 'el man-spreading.'

Man-spreading is when men take up more room than they're entitled to on public transport by letting their knees flop apart, in a physical version of being a Basque separatist. It means they then encroach on the space of the people on either side. It's infuriating. Most men don't notice they are doing it, which isn't an excuse but the manifestation of a subconscious sense of entitlement. New York has 'dude, no man spreading' signs on its subway. But Madrid? Who knew it was so edgy as to make rulings on he-knees? Who even thought patella wasn't a type of tapas?

Meantime, in Germany, ice cocktails are a big trend, to fend off the summer heat. Ice cocktails are liquor ice-lollies. At music festivals in Berlin, the outright favourite has been the frightfully British gin and tonic cocktail. Yes, Germans are ordering 'ein G&T' and ignoring the 'bierkeller'.

To Russia. Once associated with being the hardest drinking nation on the planet but no longer.

In Russia, low alcohol beer sales are on the up, bubbling 12% higher last year, as healthier lifestyles becomes popular. Muscovites are quoted on TV as saying 'it's great, if you like the taste of beer, but you don't want to get drunk and start a fight'. Hang on. What? President Putin pretty much behaves as if he's been putting away pints of both beer and vodka, picking geopolitical fights on the basis it's 3am somewhere. Russia is becoming sober? Will peace-loving normal Russians start a cultural revolution from the ground up. 'Stop picking fights, Mr President, that's not who we are anymore. Here, here have a beer zero.'

I ponder: what can be done to capitalize on this? How can the traits of a new Europe be used for global good?

President Trump, a famous teetotaler, could stand for president in Russia, shifting him out of the White House in a bit of man-spreading even NYC feminists would endorse. He already seems to have a lot of friends in Russia.

Germans being into G&T? Tell Britain's Brexit negotiator David Davis. If he were to hold all other requests hostage on the basis that then, and only then, would gin and tonic be given settled status in Germany, he might be onto a winner. 'Angela, your youth don't want beer anymore. They want gin and tonic. Give us preferred tariffs on everything, or the gin is off the table.'

And 'el man-spreading?' First, I am glad for my Spanish sisters – their commute will be more comfortable. And second, I am yet more glad for the implications. If Spain has these alerts, Euro neighbours will see when they visit. Awareness of man-spreading with spread. Signs against man-spreading will spread. Europe will become a haven of leg-room, a continent without knee oppression, where men and women reach their destinations neatly and in harmony.

Maybe I am looking forward to my holiday, after all. It sounds like EUtopia.

THE BUZZ TOILET CHARITY'S PLAN FOR TRUMP-NAMED INDIAN VILLAGE BLOCKED

A toilet-building charity says its efforts to rename a north Indian village after President Donald Trump are being blocked by local officials.

The Sulabh International charity said residents of the dusty village of Maroda were worried they wouldn't receive free toilets if they were forced to abandon the new name "Trump Sulabh Village."

But its founder Bindeshwar Pathak assured yesterday that the toilet building would continue "as long as they let us." None of the funding is coming from Trump or the U.S., but Pathak said he hoped the renaming gesture would bring attention to their efforts to improve sanitation across India.

Press Trust of India news agency said district officials had criticized the renaming effort as a fundraising stunt.

REPORTS

Bo Xilai released on medical parole

Bo Xilai, a former Chongqing party chief, who was serving a life sentence for corruption and abuse of power has been granted medical parole following a diagnosis of liver cancer.

Bo was transferred to a medical facility on Bangchui island near Dalian, the northeastern port city where he once held a top party job.

According to a source cited by Radio Free Asia, Bo was diagnosed with liver cancer by doctors in Beijing's Qincheng Prison earlier this year. The same source said that the cancer is in a fairly early stage.

A Beijing-based academic said that the standard of medical care offered to a former high-ranking official like Bo in China's Qincheng prison would be "excellent."

Bo's transfer happens after dissident Liu Xiabo was granted medical parole after being diagnosed with late-stage, inoperable liver cancer. Liu was transferred to a Liaoning hospital.

"They all receive a certain standard of treatment in Qincheng, which is far better [than that available to Liu]," the academic said. "It is very good indeed."

Bo's dismissal from office in March 2012 came after an embarrassing February 6 visit to the U.S. consulate in Chengdu by his former chief of police and right-hand man Wang Lijun. Wang fled to the



U.S. consulate in Chengdu after a falling out with Bo after which Wang informed him of an investigation being conducted into the Bo family.

Anhui-based former state prosecutor Shen Liangqing said that there is no comparison between Liu's peaceful advocacy of democratic, constitutional government and Bo's activities in Dalian and Chongqing.

"Bo Xilai has committed very major crimes, including the purges of so many people during his 'revolutionary songs and anti-mafia' campaigns in Chongqing," Shen said. "He used absolutely cruel and horrific methods."

Bo's tenure in Chongqing saw reports of forced confessions and rights abuses during campaigns which at the time won political praise for Bo and his then chief of police Wang.

Bo was famed for "strike black, sing red" campaigns

during his tenure in the city as pensioners gathered daily to sing Mao Zedong-era anthems.

Li Zhuang, a whistle-blowing lawyer, said that many of those convicted in Chongqing at the height of Bo's anti-mafia campaign were targeted purely for their wealth.

Li said that Bo and Wang ran a terror campaign which, while it did arrest some criminal bosses, also targeted innocent businessmen with the aim of taking over their assets. Bo was later sentenced to prison in September 2013 for corruption and abuse of power, a month after his wife Gu Kailai was handed a suspended death sentence for the murder of British businessman, Neil Heywood.

The murder is regarded by the New York Times as the "most spectacular and closely watched" murder scandal in the Communist Party's post-Mao history. **MDT/Agencies**

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

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA Thousands of Indians gathered in several cities yesterday to protest recent violent attacks across the country targeting minority Muslims. The protesters decried the silence of the Hindu nationalist government in response to public lynchings and attacks since it took power in 2014.

QATAR The United States is urging Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries to stay "open to negotiation" with Qatar as they try to resolve a major diplomatic crisis with their neighbor.

SYRIA At least 15 people were killed in an airstrike in eastern Syria yesterday in the second attack in three days reported to kill civilians in the Islamic State-held Euphrates River valley.



PALESTINE Hamas has begun work on a buffer zone along Gaza's border with Egypt, the Islamic militant group said yesterday, as part of an effort to assure Cairo that it's serious about preventing the cross-border flow of weapons and militants.

EUROPE Police yesterday arrested six suspected members of the Islamic State group in a Europe-wide terror probe, four in Spain and one each in Britain and Germany, Spain's Interior Ministry said.

COLOMBIA has reached a major milestone on its road to peace as leftist rebels relinquished some of their last weapons this week and declared an end to their half-century insurgency.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



A Thai street food vendor waits for customers in chinatown in Bangkok, Thailand. Bangkok city officials are trying to ban food vendors whose carts sell everything from Thailand's signature noodles to spicy tom yum goong soup which have become institutions on the capital's hot and humid sidewalks.