



REPORTING ON TAIWAN ITINERARY 'NORMAL'
The Tertiary Education Services Office head says reporting on Taiwan itinerary is 'normal' for work related trips

P2



STUDIES IN PORTUGAL PROMOTED
The Portuguese Institute of the Orient has kicked off its new International Student Desk yesterday

P4



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WORLD BRIEFS



QATAR Foreign ministers from four Arab nations seeking to isolate Qatar over its alleged support for extremist groups met yesterday in the Egyptian capital, just hours after they said they had received Doha's response to their demands for ending the diplomatic crisis roiling the Persian Gulf. What Qatar said in response to the demands remains unclear, but the crisis is becoming a global concern as neither side appears to be backing down. **More on p14**

CHINA yesterday insisted India withdraw its troops from a disputed plateau in the Himalayan mountains before talks can take place to settle the most protracted standoff in recent years between the nuclear-armed neighbors who fought a brief but bloody frontier war in the area 55 years ago.

PHILIPPINES The decapitated bodies of two Vietnamese crewmen abducted last year by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants were found yesterday on a southern Philippine island. **More on p13**



INDIA The start of India's monsoon season has triggered floods and landslides in parts of the remote northeastern region, causing at least 20 deaths, authorities said yesterday.

More on backpage

Chan Meng Kam not running for AL P3



PEDRO CARDOSO

KYC technology will 'ensure that the person who uses the card is the rightful owner' P5 MDT INTERVIEW

Wong urges investigation over national flag

Earlier this week, a Chinese national flag was found hanging upside down at the Macau Ferry Terminal. The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, has condemned the people who photoshopped the image of the upside-down flag onto other pictures which were then posted online. According to a report by Macao Daily News, Wong clarified that the Chinese national flag was not hanging upside down anywhere else, other than besides the ferry, confirming that the photoshopped upside down flag image and accompanying stories created by netizens were fabricated. Further to this, Wong declared that the digital alterations not only insulted the national flag but insulted the Customs Services. He informed that the Judiciary Police will proceed with investigations into netizens who posted the digitally altered pictures of the national flag online.

800 aged residents looking for job

Some 800 Macau residents aged over 60 years old are registered at the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) to receive assistance while job seeking. According to a report by TDM, this number corresponds to data collected between January and May, 2017. According to the Social Welfare Bureau, 130 of these residents (corresponding to 16 percent of the total) were successfully employed after receiving help from the bureau. The latest government data indicates that the unemployment rate among those aged between 55 and 64 years old is 2.9 percent. DSAL considers this low rate a reflection of Macau providing positive environments for mature age workers to be included in the job market.

CHCSJ accused of medical negligence

A patient's relatives have accused the Hospital Conde de São Januário (CHCSJ) of medical negligence during the patient's life-saving procedures. CHCSJ denied the accusation and said that the hospital denies the charges made by the patient's relatives, who question the decisions made by a doctor from the hospital. CHCSJ noted that the hospital already fully understood the patient's condition, and that, according to medical records, the patient's relatives agreed to not transfer the patient to the Intensive Care Unit. CHCSJ also stated that the late patient's relatives could sue CHCSJ or forward the case to the region's medical accidents committee for further investigation.

EDUCATION

Sio: Reporting on Taiwan itinerary 'normal' for work related trips

THE Coordinator of the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) said that the alleged requirement for academics at the University of Macau (UM) to report their activities while on trips to Taiwan is normal if the trip is work related.

Denying that this requirement constitutes a violation of academic freedom, Sou Chio Fai argued that the university and its academics should report who they meet and what they plan to do when in Taiwan as the trips are financed by the government.

"According to the current law of tertiary education, we [GAES] respect all educational freedom in every higher education institution in Macau," he said, as cited by public broadcaster TDM.

"I think, as a public service and as any entity that has the support of public funds, when organizing official missions, they have to indicate with which entities or people they will

When organizing official missions, they have to indicate with which entities or people they will meet.

SOU CHIO FAI

meet. This is a normal practice [and] has nothing to do with educational freedom or an investigation."

The statement comes in response to allegations of diminishing academic freedom at the UM, first raised by Professor Hao Zhidong.

Hao, who is leaving the UM, claimed that the education institution was requiring its staff



report on any visit to Taiwan, including personal trips outside the purview of the UM. Questioned by the Times on the matter, the university declined to comment.

However, the GAES coordinator has rejected the idea that academics would need to make the same reports when traveling for personal reasons. "I

am not aware of these rules [to report the itinerary of a personal trip] in any public service," he said.

Citing an unnamed source, Hoje Macau reported last week that these requirements were not initiated by the UM itself, but had been imposed on it by an undisclosed government department.

GAMING

Japan casino ID checks could deter customers

Yuki Hagiwara and Isabel Reynolds

JAPAN could deter customers from its casinos if it forces gamblers to submit their social security numbers before entering, according to the head of a ruling party panel working on plans for the Singapore-style resorts.

Lawmaker Takeshi Iwaya's comments indicate a potential clash between bureaucrats and politicians as they prepare a bill to regulate gambling resorts following their legalization late last year. Speaking in an interview, Iwaya also called

for the legal framework to allow casinos to be opened in regions, as well as major cities.

The government is planning to submit a bill on casino operations to parliament in autumn, with the first such resorts expected to open their doors sometime in the early to mid 2020s. The world's major casino operators, including Las Vegas Sands Corp, Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd, Wynn Resorts Ltd and MGM Resorts International, have expressed interest in a market expected to generate billions of dollars in revenue.

"It's important to make sure access doesn't be-

come extremely restricted," LDP panel head Takeshi Iwaya said on Monday, when asked about the use of social security numbers. "These will be leisure and entertainment facilities, so they must be friendly to customers and we mustn't go too far" with attempts to prevent wrongdoing. He suggested passports and drivers' licenses as alternative forms of ID.

Bureaucrats are seeking to resolve public concerns over gambling addiction and money laundering in a country where crime rates are low. An expert panel working with officials said government

identification cards with chips that contain data including social security numbers should be a requirement for entry by residents of Japan, including foreigners.

This would be a stricter requirement than in the U.S., where social security numbers are required only when collecting winnings over a certain limit. Foreign tourists in Japan should be allowed to use their passports as ID, the expert panel said last month.

Strict entry requirements for residents of Japan would lessen the attractiveness of the market for casino operators who hope that local visitors will become a pillar of their gaming revenue.

Japan introduced social security numbers less than two years ago amid widespread public

unease and lawsuits by individuals concerned about data security and potential invasions of privacy. A campaign to make sure all Japanese and foreign residents have what is known as a "My Number" card has stumbled, with only 9 percent of the population in possession of such cards as of May.

"Even if we use them, we must avoid any data leaks or having people's activities monitored by the government," Iwaya said. "If enjoying gambling is treated as a bad thing, the integrated resorts won't be a success."

Smaller cities have already expressed annoyance that the bidding framework for casino licenses may exclude them and run counter to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's goal of reviving Japan's regions. **Bloomberg**

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Chan Meng Kam not running for AL

LAWMAKER Chan Meng Kam has announced that he will not be a candidate for the next Legislative Assembly (AL) direct election. Amid speculation regarding his possible appointment to the AL, Chan also confirmed that he would not become a lawmaker appointed by the Chief Executive. "If I

am a lawmaker, I will become a directly elected lawmaker. Why should I be appointed by the government?" questioned Chan.

In a press conference organized by Chan to announce his retirement from the AL, the Fujian community leader said that he has been "looking at these young people stepping into clubs and deeper into commu-

nity services," adding: "I think, assuming more young people will become lawmakers, that Macau's AL will become more energetic, and Macau's future will be more promising."

"I will stand in different places to continue serving Macau residents. [...] Every residents' issue is Si Ka Lon's issue, is Song Pek Kei's issue, and, natu-

rally, will always be Chan Meng Kam's issue. Si Ka Lon, Song Pei Kei and I do not have any family relationship. [...] We are breaking the hereditary system, which was part of my previous AL slogans. I believe in them," Chan remarked. "And you, residents, please believe in my choice. Supporting Si Ka Lon and Song Pek Kei is the same as supporting me, Chan Meng Kam."

Chan believes it is time for more young people to become a voice in society. He also noted that there are still many things he can do for society in his life and thanked his supporters.

Why should I be appointed by the government?

CHAN MENG KAM

Chan Meng Kam was born in 1962, in Fujian province. He moved to Macau in 1980, was elected as a Macau lawmaker in 2005, and in 2009 began his second term. In 2013, he was re-elected with his list securing the highest number of votes.

He is also a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. **JZ**

Local film projects selected for trade fair

Nine film projects were selected last Tuesday for the 2017 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Film Production Investment and Trade Fair. Co-organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the fair is a platform for film investors and producers from the three regions to cooperatively invest in the film industry. The fair cultivates filmmaking talents and promotes the film industry in the three regions. Eligible films were selected by an adjudication panel, based on the story's creativity, the applicant's experience and execution, the executive producer and production team, and the budgeting rationale. The applicants whose film projects were chosen for the fair include Vong Tin Leong, Long Wai I, Wong Kong Po, Tong Ka Chun, Ieong Lek On, Lou Ka Hou, Fernando Eloy, Vincent Hoi and Wong Teng Teng. These applicants will be invited to attend the fair on July 25 and 26.

AD

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EDUCATION

IPOR launches support desk for international students

Lynzy Valles

THE Portuguese Institute of the Orient (IPOR) has kicked off its new International Student Desk yesterday aimed at assisting non-Portuguese students intending to study in higher education in Portugal.

Under special regulations created by Portuguese authorities for international students, foreign students who are non-Portuguese and non-EU nationals may be admitted to study at universities in Portugal if they have a high school diploma and Portuguese language proficiency.

Roughly 400 local students decided to study in Portugal last year alone. As of June, the Portuguese consulate has received nearly 300 study visa applications for the coming academic year.

Speaking to the Times, director of IPOR João Laurentino Neves indicated that many local students prefer to continue their studies in Portugal and are keen to process their applications under the country's special regulations for international students. "What we're trying to do is to su-

pport this decision making of family and students," said Neves.

In addition to the support and assistance available from the local government for students intending to study in Portugal, the director noted that the support desk would be able to effectively mediate between students and universities.

What we're trying to do is to support this decision making of family and students.

JOÃO LAURENTINO NEVES
IPOR DIRECTOR

"What we're trying to do is to get this information from universities to provide useful information for [parents and students] to make decisions," the director clarified.



João Laurentino Neves

Neves predicted that the number of students wanting to move to Portugal to continue their education would increase as a result of the platform, stressing the government's aim to produce bilingual talents.

Regarding this aim, he said: "I do think that students now have understood that the politi-

cal message is very strong. They hear it from the Central Government and from the Macau government."

Neves also noted that the message is 'very strong and effective' as foreigners are aware that Portuguese speakers have also been receiving opportunities, for example in the develo-

ment of startups.

"People understood this message and decided that it's time to get new resources," Neves continued.

Some universities participating in the scheme demand a level of B2 Portuguese language competence, although this depends on the student's desired course.

Because of this competency requirement, IPOR is encouraging students to learn the language before moving to Portugal. The institute is also working with universities in Portugal to have part of the language training requirements conducted at IPOR.

Meanwhile, Neves believes that the region is making good progress on its goal of becoming a Portuguese-language learning-center within the Asia Pacific region.

Neves stated that IPOR is one of the biggest centers for acquiring an international Portuguese certification in the Portuguese language in Asia, adding that it has two institutes that support training Portuguese language teachers.

"I do think that Macau not only has the conditions, but the will to perform as the center of a network that has Portuguese language as its main core," he said.

Director of Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) Sou Chi Fai was cited in a TDM report describing the International Student Desk as "a good idea, an innovation."

AD

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UM co-organizes English summer camp

THE University of Macau's (UM) Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH) and local high school, Sacred Heart Canossian College's English Section recently co-organized a two-day summer reading camp for 20 students from the high school.

The students participated in a series of activities led by Professor Katrine Wong from the FAH department of English and Corrine Wallace from the UM English Language Center. The camp aimed to increase students' interest in reading and to provide them with an opportunity to experience college life.

On the first day, the activities included a three-hour workshop titled "Playing with Words," where students were introduced to three different English poems from the Victo-



rian to early modern era, impromptu performances of Shakespeare's play "Macbeth" at the university's Black Box Theatre and an interactive reading session in one of the university's residential colleges, where students engaged with selected texts using different questions.

On the second day, students presented mini-performances in the Black Box Theatre and

made up creative sentences with the words they had learnt over the two days.

The camp ended with a visit to the university library.

According to the press release from the university, both Professor Wong and Wallace stated that they were pleased that students exercised their imaginations and shared their funny and wild ideas during the camp.

KYC technology will 'ensure that the person who uses the card is the rightful owner'

Renato Marques

THE implementation of the "Know-Your-Customer (KYC)" facial recognition technology for ATM users with bank cards from mainland China will ensure that the person who uses the card is the rightful owner, the Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) Chief Executive Officer Pedro Cardoso told the Times in an interview yesterday.

Cardoso said that the bank sees this development in a "very favorable" light. "It is a costly development but also quite effective," he said, noting that people in Macau have become accustomed to seeing people using cards from banks based in mainland China that "most likely do not belong to them." The CEO stated that the unlawful use of a foreign bank card "disturbs the lives of residents." He added that the implementation of facial recognition technology represented a "significant investment," since the costs of retrofitting ATMs would be borne by banking institutions.

BNU owns approximately 200 ATM machines in Macau. Of these, approximately 50 percent are located at the gaming operators' integrated resorts; specifically, a large number of ATM machines are located on the gaming floors.

The CEO highlighted that the investment required to install the new KYC system was significant, both in terms of financial resources and in terms of time.

"We had to do this investment and to do it quickly in order to comply with the new regulations," he said. He did not want to disclose an approximate amount for the installation.

When asked about the purpose and possible consequences of implementing the KYC system, Cardoso noted that the additional infrastructure has attracted more tourists to the region. Nevertheless, "this doesn't mean that the territory should be open



Pedro Cardoso

to all kinds of activities, especially ones that aren't according to the law," he remarked.

Pedro Cardoso was recently granted the Banker of the Year for Asia award in 2017 by international business publication World Finance. "I had the idea that this type of award was only given to large organizations. [...] BNU operates in a small territory (Macau) and considering that dimension, BNU is also a relatively small bank," he said.

Cardoso believes that such recognition is "an award to the entire bank team." He noted the "fortunate coincidence" of arriving just as the institution was celebrating the 115th anniversary of its presence in Macau. "It's a good reward for all the efforts made by our existing and previous staff," he remarked.

Questioned on the factors that contributed to him receiving the

award, Cardoso said that when World Finance explained their decision-making process they "referred to the progress of the bank in the last few years in terms of the main Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and in terms of innovation and new products, services and operation workflow." He also noted that his "sixth-sense" informed him that "the role of BNU throughout all these years connecting Asia and Western countries and Portugal and the Europe in particular is also most likely one of the reasons for this award."

Questioned on the region's specific characteristics relating to recent global trends in electronic payment methods as well as electronic and online banking systems, the BNU CEO noted, "Macau is a particular case. China's [banking system] is one of, if not the most, advanced

banking systems in the world, in terms of electronic payments and in particular in mobile payment solutions. Macau is particularly well placed to develop significantly into that field." However, he noted that, "considering Macau's specific characteristics [there is] still a mix between traditional banking and developed banking," in this specific field. He emphasized that BNU is working on both fronts. In terms of traditional banking, the institution is preparing to open 20 new branches, within this year alone (21 including the Hengqin branch which opened earlier this year). On the other hand, the bank is also "working hard in terms of developing electronic banking solutions and specially targeting the new generation, the so-called 'millennials' who are much more prone to use such technology."

But there are challenges to implementing electronic banking solutions in Macau, where the banking system has not been included in broader e-payment systems such as PayPal or Alipay. "The way is to work through partnership. A traditional bank like BNU can't really go anywhere [with this] by itself. The way to go in my perspective is to work with the so-called Fintechs – which are companies much more advanced in terms of financial payment [solutions] – and that is the way we are working, establishing partnerships that can help us to progress in that area," Cardoso said.

Cardoso was recently granted the Banker of the Year for Asia award in 2017 by World Finance

As a final remark on future challenges for BNU, Cardoso noted that as a well-established bank, BNU could use all opportunities available as a result of the development of the Macau SAR. Nevertheless, "contrary to many of its competitors, BNU [decision centers] and parent companies (Caixa Geral de Depositos) are very far away while the others are operating in their 'home base' which gives them a significant advantage."

To tackle the fierce competition, Cardoso explained that BNU had to "leverage its position in the Portuguese-speaking countries" while also focusing on improving the quality of service and innovation by providing new services targeting the particular needs of millennials. This strategy follows a worldwide trend in banking.

Michelin acquires 40pct of Robert Parker

FRENCH tire company Michelin has finalized the acquisition of a 40 percent interest in Robert Parker Wine Advocate and RobertParker.com, one of the top independent consumer guide publications on wine.

In a statement posted

to the NASDAQ stock exchange, the company said that it seeks to strengthen and broaden its "experience in the area of gourmet dining" through the investment.

Michelin and Robert Parker Wine Advocate have been collaborating

to offer dining experiences that pair fine wine with food in Macau, Hong Kong and Singapore since 2016. Robert Parker Wine Advocate have recommended wines at these dining experiences to pair with dishes prepared by Michelin-starred chefs.

"Working with the Michelin guide on events in Singapore and Hong Kong-Macau demonstrated to both of our companies how much richer and more impactful the experiences we create for our loyal readers can be when we come

together," noted Robert Parker Wine Advocate's editor-in-chief and master of wine, Lisa Perrotti-Brown, according to the statement.

Robert Parker, founder of the wine company, said, "[For] far too long, critics have divided wine

and food into two separate areas of expertise, but now the most realistic blend of impartial, independent, unbiased, intelligent food and wine opinion and wisdom have been married for the benefit of both wine and food consumers."

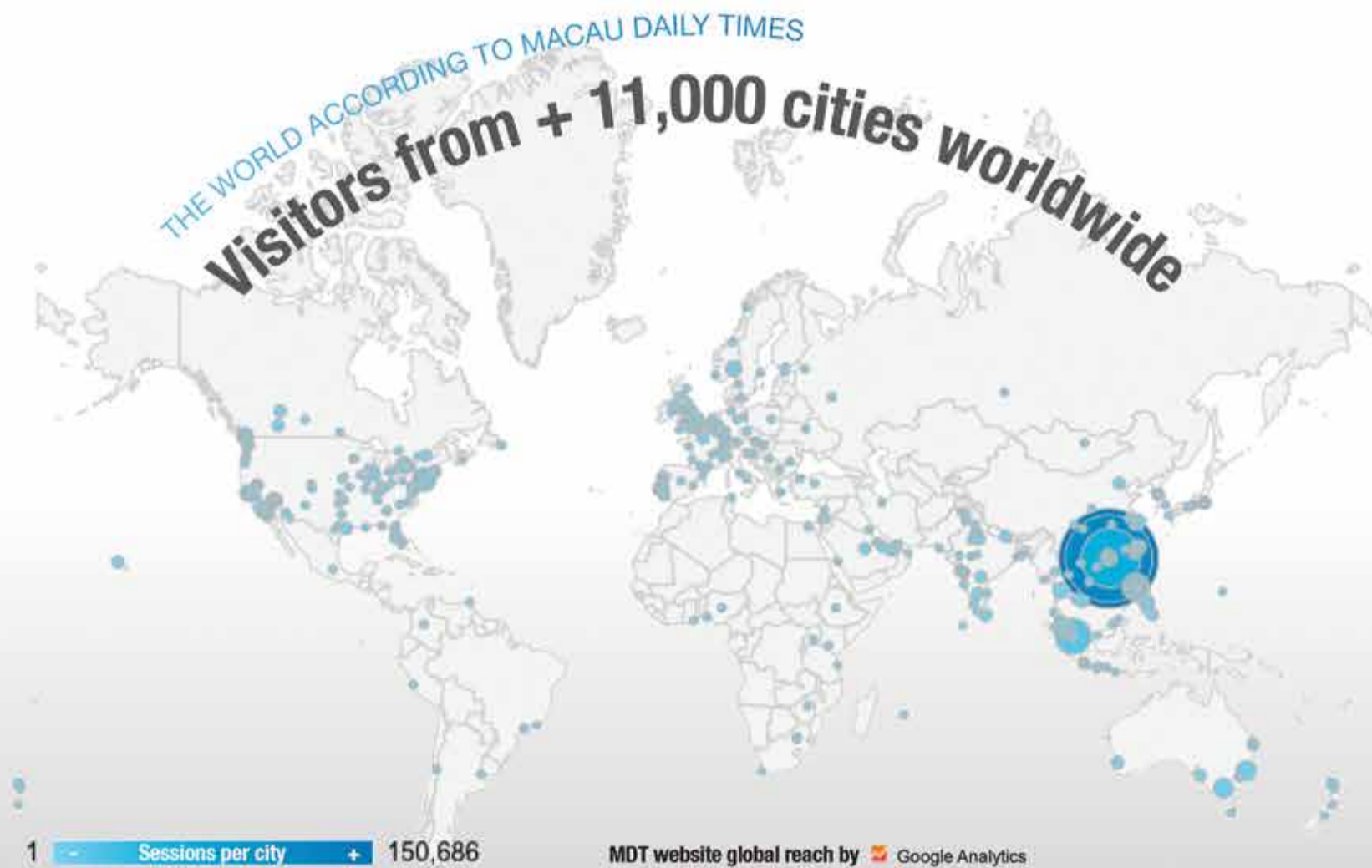
The partnership will initially focus on the Asian and North American region, before an expected rollout worldwide.

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 **Times**

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Consulate hopes for more trade visits to Philippines



Lilybeth Deapera (right)

Lynzy Valles

FORTY-THREE delegates from the Macau ASEAN International Chamber of Commerce recently visited the Philippines for a seminar on trade and investment, held at the Hyatt City of Dreams Manila.

The delegation met with the country's Department of Trade and Industry, and attended presentations about investment opportunities in the Philippines.

Philippine Consul General in Macau, Lilybeth Deapera, suggested that the growing relationship between the Philippines and China led to this visit, recalling that president Rodrigo Duterte had visited China in October 2016.

"As early as July last year, I've spoken with officers of MAICC saying that they were thinking of going to the Philippines either at the end of the first quarter or in the first half of 2017," she said.

"I think [one of the factors] that pushed the trade visit was president Duterte's visit to China," she added.

Members attending the trade visit

Members attending the trade visit were delegates from Macau, Hong Kong and China

were delegates from Macau, Hong Kong and China. The delegation represented different sectors, such as real estate and property, tourism and hospitality and maritime transport services and logistics.

The networking session was followed by a business matching session attended by more than 50 companies from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI), and Manila WTC Club.

The five-day event in May included trade visits to both Manila and Cebu City.

"We [also] went to Cebu and some of

them are interested in furniture [so] we visited a renowned furniture designer's shop," she said.

Although Deapera did not know of the deals that were signed during the event (as it was only exploratory for the delegates), she hoped that similar trips would be arranged in the future.

"I don't know if they were followed through after their meeting. [...] I hope there will be results after this initial meeting between them."

Meanwhile, when questioned about updates on the government-run shelters for its domestic workers, Deapera said they have yet to receive an update from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

"It's not a simple thing. DOLE has to learn about the situation and then budget a plan. It's a long process [and] we haven't received feedback on the status."

Last year Filipino migrant group Migrant-Macau highlighted the need for government-run shelters as a means to provide support to migrant workers who experience premature termination.

Money supply rebounds

According to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau, the money supply rebounded in May, while the share denominated in MOP remained stable. Both resident deposits and loans grew in comparison to the previous month. The currency in circulation in May dropped 0.9 percent from the previous month, with the portions denominated in MOP, HKD, RMD and USD standing at 31.3 percent, 52.9 percent, 3.9 percent and 9.8 percent respectively. Total deposits within the banking sector grew 1.5 percent from the previous month to MOP988.5 billion, out of which resident deposits and non-resident deposits amounted to MOP539.8 billion and MOP263.1 billion respectively. Meanwhile, domestic loans to the private sector increased 0.6 percent month-on-month to MOP424.8 billion, while external loans rose 3.9 percent to MOP417.4 billion. Concurrently, at the end of May, the loan-to-deposit ratio for both the resident and non-resident sectors grew to 85.2 percent.

6th Global Tourism Economy Forum to be held in October

The Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF) held a networking luncheon at the Guangzhou Marriott Hotel Tianhe on Tuesday to introduce the 6th edition of GTEF, which is scheduled for October 16 to 17 of this year. This year's theme is, "Regional collaboration towards a better future." The event included representatives from outbound tour operators and travel agencies, travel and trade industry representatives from Guangdong Province, leading operators from Macau (including SJM Holdings and Sands China), and members of the media. This year, GTEF will showcase 16 central and eastern European countries as featured "partner countries" to embrace China's "16+1" economic framework, and will present Guizhou province as the featured Chinese province. Furthermore, in support of the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, GTEF will be engaging with prominent leaders from both public and private sectors to deepen regional collaboration and foster tourism development.

Scholar receives award from engineers institute

Assistant Professor Lu Yan from the University of Macau's (UM) State Key Laboratory of Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI received the 2017 Outstanding Young Author Award from the circuits and systems society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He was given the award in recognition of his paper titled, "A fully-integrated low-dropout regulator with full-spectrum power supply rejection," published in March 2015. The paper has since been cited in highly influential journals and various conferences. The regulator was designed by Lu during his doctoral studies at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). Papers shortlisted for the award are evaluated for their general quality, originality, contributions, subject matter and timeliness. Only one paper is selected for this award each year. This is the second time that a professor from the laboratory has received the award.

Online test for aspiring doctors in HK

THE United Kingdom's Royal Society of Medicine (RSM), the Medic Portal and the British education group, ASIS, are launching a 90-minute online test titled, "Fit to be a doctor?" for students aged 14 to 18 who are considering medicine as a career. It will be launched on July 11 at 2 p.m. at the British Consulate in Hong Kong.

The test is designed to educate the next generation of doctors on the requirements and procedures for gaining

entry to medical schools across the world. It will be available at test centers led by Amber Education across Hong Kong.

Developers of the test believe it is the first of its kind on the market, as it will give aspiring medical students practical guidance on what they need to do to improve their odds in the highly competitive application processes for medical careers.

Commenting on the launch, Chairman of ASIS,

David Boddy, stated, "This is the first in a series of careers tests specifically aimed at helping young people understand with far more clarity the requirements of the professions they are entering. This [test] provides them with an invaluable insight into their potential future career path."

He said that Hong Kong had been chosen as the launch venue because of the quality of its students and their options to study medicine in Europe, the USA and China.

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Taiwan Dollar's Asia-best rally seen halting in second half

Chinmei Sung
and Justina Lee

THE Taiwan dollar's Asia-topping gains are coming to an end, local traders say.

The currency, which jumped 6 percent in the first half amid strong equity inflows, will end the year at 31 to the U.S. dollar, according to the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of foreign-exchange traders. This implies a 1.8 percent drop from the close on June 30. Overseas investors are likely to post net fund outflows over the next 12 months, while the central bank will show a bias for a steady weaker Taiwan dollar, a majority of the 17 respondents said.

The survey adds to signs the Taiwan dollar's rally in 2017 - the best among 11 Asian currencies tracked by Bloomberg - is unraveling. The currency posted its first monthly decline this year in June amid slower stock inflows and speculation of renewed intervention. With the U.S. expected to continue raising interest rates and Taiwan seen holding rates steady this year, the island's assets are also seeing their relative appeal erode.

"Inflation in Taiwan is low, so the central bank has no urgency to raise

BLOOMBERG



Inflation in Taiwan is low, so the central bank has no urgency to raise rates.

CHRISTOPHER WONG
FOREIGN-EXCHANGE
STRATEGIST

rates," said Christopher Wong, a foreign-exchange strategist at Malayan Banking Bhd in Singapore. "This will lead to pressure for fund outflows."

Wong expects the Federal Reserve's policy outlook to put pressure on Asian currencies in-

cluding the Taiwan dollar and South Korean won this half. Taiwan's currency strengthened 0.1 percent to 30.51 to the greenback on Wednesday.

Net inflows into Taiwan's stock market fell to USD720 million in June, the lowest figure for any month this year. The island has still seen a net \$8.8 billion of equity investments from overseas this year through Tuesday, second in Asia after South Korea.

This has helped the benchmark Taiex gauge rally 12 percent this year and reach a 27-year high on June 26. There are also signs the stock rally may falter: the measure slid the most this year on June 28 and a majority

of respondents in a separate Bloomberg survey said they expect the Taiex to end the year below the 10,000 level.

Ten of the 17 respondents in the latest currency survey said the central bank's attitude toward the Taiwan dollar is neutral with a bias for weakness, while six said neutral. Ten also said foreign investors will probably post net outflows over the next 12 months, four said flows will be neutral while the rest said inflows are likely. The exchange rate will fall to 30.73 to the U.S. dollar at the end of the third quarter, according to the median of 16 estimates. The survey was conducted June 26 to 29, with 12 banks participating. **Bloomberg**

TECHNOLOGY

Alibaba challenges Google, Amazon with new Echo-like device

Lulu Yilun Chen

THE competition in digital speaker-assistants is getting more intense, as Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. unfurled an Amazon Echo-like device and fellow Chinese internet giants Tencent and Baidu prepare to develop their own.

Alibaba's "Tmall Genie X1" will go for 499 yuan (USD73) to the first 1,000 people during a one-month trial, coming in below Apple's \$349 HomePod and the roughly \$180 Echo. Its biggest competitor, Tencent Holdings Ltd., is developing a voice-activated digital speaker that could hit the market within months, Tencent President Martin Lau said in a May interview. And yesterday, Baidu Inc. showed off its own "DuerOS" personal assistant.

Taking a page from Amazon.com Inc. and Google, Hangzhou-based Alibaba's speaker offers voice-controlled services from music streaming to newscasts and calendar-booking, according to its website. Importantly, the gadget - powered by the AliGenie system - may eventually simplify shopping for the Chinese e-commerce giant's 450 million active buyers who turn to the website for everything from cherries to makeup. It will begin formal sales from August 8 only for China and won't come with a display.

Digital speakers powered by virtual assistants are one of the hottest consumer product categories right now. Apple Inc. recently debuted its Siri-controlled HomePod, Google launched its Home speaker last fall and Amazon, the pioneer, has been churning out Alexa-powered devices for years.

Shipments of intelligent home speakers surged nearly 600 percent to 4.2 million units in the fourth quarter, with Amazon taking about an 88 percent share and Google 10 percent, according to Strategy Analytics. Spending on smart-home related hardware, services and installation fees will reach \$155 billion by 2022, up from almost \$90 billion this year with devices accounting for about half of that, the consulting firm estimates. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

'THE FRESH COOK' FILMS EPISODE AT THE PARISIAN MACAU

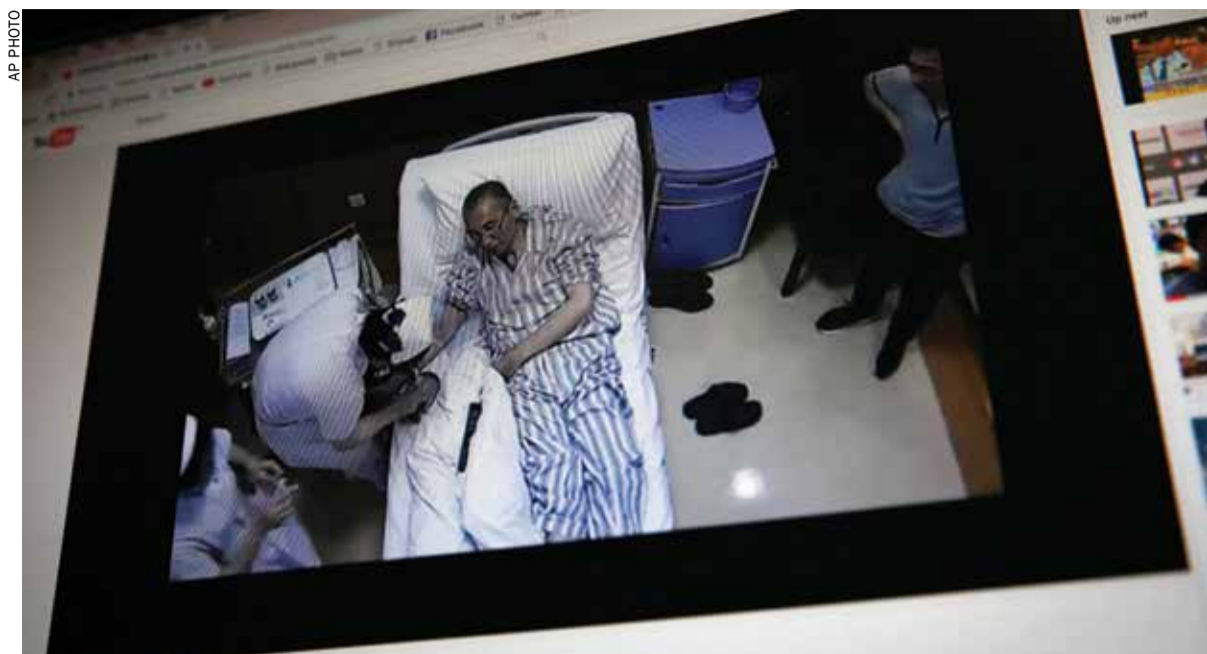


Chinese television show "The Fresh Cook" was recently filmed an episode on location at The Parisian Macao. The show was hosted by multiple award-winning international chefs, Jerome Leung and Steven Liu, and singer and actor, Lin Yi Lun. The episode also included Chinese celebrity contestants Yuan Hua, Peng Yu and Shao Bing. The episode was shot around various locations such as by The Parisian Macao's swimming pool and the "Love Lock Bridge" on the half-scale Eiffel Tower observation deck. The episode was broadcasted nationally on Jiangsu Satellite TV at 10pm last night.

According to a press release from The Parisian, "The Fresh Cook" is produced by Shanghai Fei Yue Culture and Communications Company Limited, and was the country's first celebrity culinary reality show. The show is currently the leading cooking program, and has been considered the most popular show on national television since the day it first aired. It has since won the Asian Adaption Award, and has been nominated for an International Emmy Award in the category of "Non-script Variety Show."

Originally named "Celebrity Master Chef," this is the third year that the show

has used a Sands Resorts property as its backdrop. According to the press release, Sands Resorts Macao is a popular location choice for film and television shoots, with productions including actor Chow Yun-Fat's "From Vegas to Macau," actress Zhang Ziyi's "My Lucky Star" and the Hollywood sequel "Now You See Me 2" all shot at The Venetian Macao. South Korean reality TV shows including "We Got Married: Global Edition," the "Dancing 9" television series, "Boys Over Flowers," "Fated to Love you," and Taiwanese series, "Summer's Desire" were also filmed at the integrated resort.



A video clip shows China's jailed Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo lying on a bed receiving medical treatment at a hospital

Foreign experts invited to treat Nobel laureate Liu

Didi Tang, Beijing

CHINA has agreed to allow liver cancer experts from the U.S., Germany and other countries to join a medical team treating imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, amid international criticism of Beijing's handling of his case and calls for him to be allowed to be treated abroad.

The judicial bureau in a northeastern city where Liu is being treated said yesterday Liu's medical team agreed to a request by Liu's family members for foreign experts to be consulted. Liu, China's best-known political

prisoner, is being treated at a Shenyang hospital for late-stage liver cancer diagnosed in late May.

The bureau said in an online statement that the invited experts were "the most authoritative liver cancer treatment experts," but gave no other details. Other countries whose experts had been invited weren't named.

In an emailed statement, the German foreign ministry in Berlin said it supports a humanitarian solution and hopes Liu will get the medical treatment he needs.

It was unclear whether Liu's case was brought up when Ger-

man Chancellor Angela Merkel met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Berlin yesterday ahead of the G-20 Summit in Hamburg. The U.S. Embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Following initial questions over how Liu had become so sick without having been previously diagnosed, authorities said they had assembled a team of eight Chinese specialists to oversee his treatment and have released statements testifying to the care he is receiving.

Yet his friends have raised concerns that Liu, his wife and other family members have not been

able to freely communicate with the outside and that their messages have been tightly controlled by authorities, who say Liu's family has been satisfied with their course of treatment.

"Having foreign experts on the medical team is no replacement for Liu Xiaobo and his family to freely choose how and where he should be treated," Liu's friend, scholar Wen Kejian, said yesterday. "We have not been able to speak to family members, who are under pressure not to speak to us."

Wen said he believes Liu and his family want to seek medical treatment overseas and that it is important for Liu to be allowed to communicate with his friends for the sake of his emotional health as he battles the liver cancer that has metastasized to his entire body.

Friends have raised concerns that Liu, his wife and other family members have not been able to freely communicate with the outside

Wen and another friend of Liu's, Mo Zhixu, tried to visit Liu at the First Hospital of China Medical University in Shenyang where the authorities said Liu is being treated. They made inquiries at likely floors, but were turned away when nurses said they were not aware of a patient by the name of Liu Xiaobo.

Western governments have been urging Beijing to release Liu and allow him the freedom to choose where he wants to be treated. The invitation of foreign experts also followed meetings between Chinese and Western officials, who suggested at least American and German doctors be allowed to see Liu.

Geng Shuang, spokesman for China's foreign ministry, said yesterday that China protects the rights of those convicted and serving time in jail.

"We request that China's judicial sovereignty be respected," Geng said at a daily media briefing. "No country shall interfere with China's internal affairs through an individual case."

Liu, 61, an essayist and literary critic, was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009 on the charge of inciting subversion of state power, based on his writings, including the bold Charter 08 that he co-authored. That document and some of his prior writings called for political reforms that would end the one-party communist rule. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010 while incarcerated.

China calls Liu a criminal who sought to overthrow the government and has denounced the awarding of the Nobel prize to him as an attack on its political and legal system.

In a statement yesterday, Amnesty International reiterated calls for Liu and his wife Liu Xia to be allowed to travel overseas.

"It is not too late for the authorities to end this cruel farce," the group said by email. The invitation to foreign experts appeared to be "in part an attempt to limit international criticism," it said. **AP**

opinion

CHINA'S ELECTRIC CARS ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY DIRTY

Mark Buchanan, Bloomberg

Could China, the world's largest automobile market, help address the threat of global warming if it went completely electric? The answer isn't as obvious as it seems.

China has been making great strides toward electrification. Electric vehicle sales are booming: Consumers bought more than 300,000 last year, and more than 5 million are expected to be on the road by 2020. The government just announced bold plans for a wave of big new battery factories.

Encouraging as that may be, though, the move away from conventional cars and trucks won't immediately reduce the country's carbon emissions. On the contrary, the production and exploitation of electric vehicles in China actually produces more greenhouse

gases and consumes more overall energy. In the short run, China's moves could make greenhouse emissions go up, not down.

Electric vehicles seem environmentally benign. They're lightweight, energy-efficient, and potentially greener than their conventional counterparts. But the reality is more complex. Their manufacture entails energy-intensive mining of rare elements, such as the lithium required for their batteries. Their fuel efficiency can make up for that in the course of use, but only if the electricity is produced in a relatively clean way.

Developed nations get the best results, because they tend to generate electricity using cleaner sources. By one estimate, the average electric car in the U.S. has just half the greenhouse gas impact

of a conventional car over its life cycle. It's even less in the western, southern and northeastern parts of the country, where power plants draw more renewable power. A comprehensive energy model being developed by Argonne National Laboratory produces a similar estimate.

Europe does well, too. Looking at all the processes involved in the manufacture, use, and ultimate disposal of a range of both electrical and conventional vehicles, Norwegian researchers found that electric vehicles offer at least a 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (assuming they were driven about 150,000 kilometers). To be sure, electric-vehicle batteries impose a host of other environmental costs linked to the mining of rare metals. But on carbon emissions, electric

vehicles win out.

The real challenge to reducing greenhouse gas emissions will be in developing nations - especially China, which is likely to dominate the global auto market for decades to come. Unfortunately, the structure of China's industrial economy will make it difficult. One recent study by Chinese engineers estimated that electric vehicles generate about a 50 percent increase in both greenhouse gas emissions and total energy consumption over their life cycle. The manufacture of the lithium-ion battery alone accounts for 13 percent of the energy consumption and 20 percent of the emissions.

The most promising ways to make electric vehicles better have little to do with the vehicles themselves. Energy infrastructure matters more. In China, electricity production



still relies quite heavily on high-carbon sources including coal. Hence, both the manufacturing of the batteries and the operation of the vehicle produce more pollution than they would elsewhere. The recycling industry in China is also underdeveloped. U.S. steel is about 70 percent recycled,

compared with just 11 percent in China.

Electric vehicles can help China reduce greenhouse emissions only in the context of a deeper shift toward renewable sources of energy and greater efficiency. No one technology alone can create a green revolution.

Shawna Kwan, David Tweed

HONG KONG

HONG Kong's new leader distanced herself from her predecessor's fraught relationship with lawmakers, vowing better communication as she sought to break years of political deadlock.

Five days after becoming the city's first female chief executive, Carrie Lam went before the Legislative Council yesterday promising more frequent meetings with lawmakers. Hong Kong's former No. 2 said her government would lobby the chamber's 70 democratically elected members directly to ensure their concerns were heard.

"I am a bit saddened seeing the internal conflicts and scuffles in the past few years," Lam said in a rare public critique of her ally and former boss, Leung Chun-ying. "Seeing the poor administrative-legislative relationship and the lack of trust between officials and lawmakers slow down the speed of policy implementation, I am concerned, but not disheartened."

Lam delivered the olive branch days after President Xi Jinping presided over her inauguration on the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule on a promise of a "high degree of autonomy." Xi - making his first visit since mass pro-democracy protests in 2014 - warned Saturday that challenges to China's sovereignty wouldn't be tolerated.

Lam's speech to lawmakers was more accommodating and represented her most substantive attempt to differentiate herself from Leung, whose five-year term was marred by legislative gridlock and increasingly radical protest movements. Her challenge will be wooing his critics without running afoul of China's Liaison Office, which democrats have accused of meddling in local affairs.

Lam has veiled dig at predecessor in unity call



"Even before she assumed office, she tried to make peace with legislators and other political parties in Hong Kong to offer something new to society rather than adopting the C.Y. Leung approach," said Chung Kim-wah, a political scientist at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. "The question is whether the Liaison Office is willing to step back and stop interfering."

Lam's first appearance at the legislature was largely orderly, despite pro-democracy lawmaker "Long-hair" Leung Kwok-hung being removed for rowdiness. Her predecessor's question-and-answer sessions were often interrupted by opposition lawmakers chanting slogans, throwing objects and staging walkouts.

Lam, 60, a one-time colonial civil servant who was preparing to retire before Leung decided not to seek a second term, has pledged to focus on healing political divides. China's support helped her overcome a more popular challenger in March to win an election by a committee

of 1,200 political and business elites dominated by Beijing loyalists.

"At a time when some citizens are feeling anxious and confused, my top priority is to unite the society," Lam said. "Therefore, connecting all parts of society extensively would be an important job for me and my executive team."

Lam is seeking an early victory in the legislature, where the pro-democracy opposition blocked many of Leung's most ambitious proposals including

a China-backed overhaul of the electoral process. She started by proposing a HKD5 billion (USD640 million) education fund, which includes converting contract teachers to full-time positions and paying annual subsidies of HKD30,000 for students who are funding their own undergraduate education.

The proposal appeared to enjoy across-the-board support. Wu Chi-wai, chairman of the opposition Democratic Party, said the move showed Lam's willingness to engage with stakeholders and "could improve the administrative-legislative relationship."

I am a bit saddened seeing the internal conflicts and scuffles in the past few years.

CARRIE LAM

The test for Lam will come should she attempt to push through proposals that touch on more controversial issues, such the national security legislation sought by Chinese authorities. She'll also have to deal with rising tensions as the courts proceed with cases that could result in the ouster of as many as 10 pro-democracy lawmakers.

Legislator Alvin Yeung, leader of the opposition Civic Party, said he was withholding judgment on Lam for now.

"I adopt a wait-and-see attitude," Yeung said. "It is now premature to make judgments without seeing any concrete policies being put forward." **Bloomberg**

Work starts on second railway to Tibet

WORK is underway on China's second railway line to Tibet that will wind through some of the world's most mountainous and inhospitable territory and likely take the better part of a decade to complete, state media said yesterday.

Work at the line's two ends in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, and Tibet's capital of Lhasa has already begun, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Other feasibility studies have been completed, but the most difficult section, through the mountains from Kangding in Sichuan to Nyingchi in



A train runs on Wangjiaba Bridge during a joint test of the Sichuan section of Xi'an-Chengdu Passenger Railway in Jiangyou. The first high-speed railway travelling through the Qinling Mountains with a projected speed of 250 kilometers per hour, started a joint test Monday in its Sichuan section

Tibet, is still being designed and may take seven years to finish once construction begins, Xinhua said.

Once completed, the

line will run for 1,700 kilometers, 80 percent of it consisting of tunnels and bridges. Total cost is estimated at 250 billion yuan (USD37 billion), which

le the travel time from Chengdu to Lhasa will be cut from 48 to about 13 hours, Xinhua said.

Likening it to a roller coaster, designers said

the line will traverse eight ascents and descents, topping out at 4,400 meters, Xinhua said. Varying terrain, landslides and earthquakes are

It will be the most difficult super project in railway construction history.

XIA LIE
SENIOR ENGINEER

also major threats.

"It will be the most difficult super project in railway construction history," Xia Lie, a senior engineer at China Railway Eryuan Engineering Group, was quoted as saying.

The line is the latest in a seemingly endless series of hugely ambitious construction projects that include the gargantuan Three Gorges Dam, the world's longest bridge over water in Jiaozhou Bay and the world's most extensive high-speed rail network.

China opened an initial line to Lhasa from Qinghai province to the northeast in 2006 that runs for 1,956 kilometers and tops out at about 4,000 meters.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

NORTH KOREA

Kim vows nukes are not on negotiation table

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed yesterday his nation will “demonstrate its mettle to the U.S.” and never put its weapons programs up for negotiations, a day after test-launching its first intercontinental ballistic missile. The hard line suggests more tests are being prepared as the country tries to perfect nuclear-armed missiles capable of striking anywhere in the United States.

Tuesday’s ICBM launch, confirmed by U.S. and South Korean officials, is a milestone in North Korea’s efforts to develop long-range missiles with nuclear warheads. It isn’t there yet — some analysts suggest it will take several more years and many

more tests to perfect such an arsenal — but a successful launch of an ICBM has long been seen as a red line after which it would only be a matter of time if North Korea isn’t stopped.

Worry spread in Washington and at the United Nations, where the United States, Japan and South Korea requested an emergency U.N. Security Council session yesterday. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson confirmed that the missile was an ICBM and said the U.S. response would include “stronger measures to hold the DPRK accountable,” using the acronym for the nation’s formal name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The uproar only seemed to in-

pire North Korea, whose propaganda machine rarely fails to aggrandize its leader and its military or to thumb its nose at rivals Seoul and Washington.

The launch came days after

the first face-to-face meeting between Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in and ahead of a summit of the world’s richest economies.

Yesterday, U.S. and South Korean troops, in response to the ICBM launch, engineered a show of force for North Korea, with soldiers from the allies firing “deep strike” precision missiles into South Korean territorial waters. Moon ordered the drills with the United States to show “North Korea our firm combined missile response posture,” his of-

vice said.

North Korea’s Academy of Defense Science, in a bit of hyperbole, said the test of the Hwasong-14 missile marked the “final step” in creating a “confident and powerful nuclear state that can strike anywhere on Earth.”

A U.S. scientist analyzing the height and distance of the launch said the missile could potentially reach Alaska.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry said it’s unclear whether North Korea has mastered re-entry technology for an ICBM. It said the North may now conduct a nuclear test with “boosted explosive power” to show off a warhead mounted on a missile.

North Korea has a reliable arsenal of shorter-range missiles and is thought to have a small number of atomic bombs, but is still trying to perfect its longer-range missiles. Pyongyang says it needs nuclear weapons and powerful missiles to cope with what it calls rising U.S. military threats.

Regional disarmament talks on North Korea’s nuclear program have been deadlocked since 2009, when the North pulled out of the negotiations to protest international condemnation over a long-range rocket launch.

The missile test could invite a new round of international sanctions, but North Korea is already one of the most sanctioned countries on Earth.

Last year, it conducted its fourth and fifth atomic bomb tests. The fifth test in September was its most powerful atomic detonation to date. **MDT/AP**

‘BRILLIANT VICTORY’, ‘THRILLING’ SUCCESS

A “**BRILLIANT** victory” and “thrilling” success, North Korea’s grinning leader crowed of his country’s first test of a long-range ballistic missile. The “final phase” in a confrontation with America, Kim Jong Un called it. Part of a coming stream of “gift packages” to the Yankees” in the form of more weapons tests. You can feel the self-satisfied, self-aggrandizing bliss as North Korean state media revels in

what it clearly sees as a historic moment — and a golden chance to boost the dictator and his military. In some respects, the accomplishment this week is as big a deal as the breathless descriptions. But, as ever with North Korea, there are some important reasons to be skeptical. People in the North Korean countryside still go without food. It’s still a third-world economy, with massive corruption

and rampant human rights abuses. It is hated, feared, mocked and sanctioned by its neighbors. Yet despite all of this, after decades of single-minded determination, a tiny, impoverished country stands on the threshold of completing a long-coveted goal that only the United States, Russia and a handful of others have accomplished: building nuclear-armed ICBMs.

China, Russia offer plan for easing tensions

RUSSIA and China have proposed a plan for defusing tensions over North Korea, suggesting that Pyongyang declare a voluntary moratorium on nuclear and missile tests while the United States and South Korea refrain from large-scale military exercises.

The Russian and Chinese foreign ministries made the recommendation in a joint statement after talks between President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping and another North Korean missile test, which Mos-

cow and Beijing both called “unacceptable.”

The foreign ministries said that as a “voluntary political decision,” North Korea should declare a “moratorium on testing nuclear devices and test launches of ballistic missiles.” In turn, the U.S. and South Korea should “accordingly refrain from large-scale joint maneuvers,” the joint statement added.

They said “the confronting parties” involved should sit down for talks to agree on principles that include a refusal to

use force and a pledge to make the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

At the same time, the document emphasized that the North’s “sensible concerns” must be respected and urged other nations to create a “peaceful atmosphere of mutual trust” to help launch the talks.

In an apparent hint at the U.S., Beijing and Moscow spoke against the “non-regional powers’ military presence in Northeast Asia and its buildup under the pretext of

countering North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs.”

They specifically opposed U.S. missile defense systems in the region, saying their deployment “seriously damages strategic security interests of regional powers, including Russia and China” and hinders peace and stability.

Xi’s visit to Russia came amid a flare-up of tensions between China and the U.S. over an American destroyer sailing within the territorial waters of a Chinese-claimed island in



Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) speaks with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting in the Kremlin

the South China Sea.

Putin hailed Xi during their Kremlin talks as a “big friend” and presented him with Russia’s hi-

ghest award for his efforts to strengthen ties. Xi said “the Russian-Chinese relations are now the best ever.” **MDT/AP**

Officials from Arab countries isolating Qatar meet in Cairo

Mohammed Wagdy, Cairo

FOREIGN ministers from four Arab nations seeking to isolate Qatar over its alleged support for extremist groups met yesterday in the Egyptian capital, just hours after they said they had received Doha's response to their demands for ending the diplomatic crisis roiling the Persian Gulf.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain said in a joint statement earlier that they would respond "in a timely manner" to Qatar's reply.

They did not elaborate on what steps they could take, though a major credit rating agency warned it had changed Qatar's economic outlook to negative over the turmoil.

The four countries cut ties to the FIFA 2022 World Cup host early last month over its alleged support for extremist groups and ties with Shiite power Iran. Qatar denies supporting extremists and has defended its warm relations with Iran; the two countries share a massive undersea natural gas field.

The four Arab nations issued a 13-point list of demands on June 22, giving Qatar 10 days to comply. They later extended the deadline by another 48 hours at the request of Kuwait, which has acted as a mediator to resolve the crisis. That deadline expired early yesterday morning.

There was no word yet on what went on during the Cairo meeting but a news conference was due later in the day. On Tuesday, intelligence chiefs from the four Arab countries also met in Cairo, likely to discuss the crisis, according to Egypt's state MENA news agency.



What Qatar said in response to the demands remains unclear. It already had called the demands — which include shutting down its Al-Jazeera satellite news network, expelling Turkish military forces based in the country and paying restitution — an affront to its sovereignty.

The crisis has become a global concern as neither side appears to be backing down.

Qatar, the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas, hosts some 10,000 American troops at its sprawling al-Udeid Air Base. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has been trying to ease tensions, while President Donald Trump's comments on Qatar funding extremist groups back the Saudi-led countries' position.

The nations could impose financial sanctions or force Qatar out of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a regional body known as the GCC that serves as a counterbalance to Iran.

Some Arab media outlets have suggested a military confrontation or a change of leadership in Qatar could be in the offing, but officials have said those options are not on the table.

On Tuesday, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel visited officials in both the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. He said Germany supported the UAE's efforts at confronting those who fund extremists.

"We now have this opportunity to reach good results for the benefit of the whole region. The

matter is not related only to the sovereignty of Qatar," Gabriel said. "We have to come back to common work at the GCC and for the Europeans this is a very important matter. For us, the GCC is the guarantor of stability and security in the region."

Meanwhile, Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan kept up the pressure on Qatar.

"To defeat terrorism, we must confront extremism, we must confront hate speech, we must confront the harboring and sheltering of extremists and terrorists, and funding them," Sheikh Abdullah said. "Unfortunately, we in this region see that our sister nation of Qatar has allowed and harbored and encouraged all of this."

Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, criticized the four Arab nations for trying to isolate Qatar "under the banner of fighting terrorism."

Though Qatar Airways' routes over its neighbors have been closed, along with the country's sole land border with Saudi Arabia, Doha has been able to import food and goods from other countries. Its economy, fueled by its natural gas exports, seems to be weathering the crisis though there has been pressure on its stock market and currency.

The credit ratings agency Moody's warned early yesterday that it had set Qatar's economic outlook to negative over the crisis.

What Qatar said in response to the demands remains unclear. It has already called the demands an affront to its sovereignty

"Public exchanges between the various parties in recent weeks and previous periods of heightened tensions between Qatar and other GCC countries suggest that a quick resolution is unlikely and that the stalemate may continue for some time," Moody's said. "Depending on the duration and potential further escalation of tensions, the dispute could negatively affect Qatar's economic and fiscal strength. Absent a swift resolution, economic activity will likely be hampered by the measures imposed so far." AP

EU, Japan have 'agreement in principle' on free trade deal

Raf Casert, Brussels

THE European Union and Japan have agreed "in principle" on a free trade deal that will affect an overwhelming majority of commerce between the two economic giants and will be officially endorsed at a summit of their leaders Thursday.

EU Council President Donald Tusk and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will meet Thursday and will be able to shake hands on the landmark deal, which took four years of negotiations.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said in a Tweet that "We've reached political agreement" and "now recommend to leaders to confirm this" at their short summit.

The timing of the announcement is important, coming just before a summit of world leaders in Hamburg, Germany. U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to express his discontent with free trade and his desire to renegotiate some deals.

Both the EU and Japan have stressed that their pact is intended as a rejection

of the kind of protectionism Trump advocates.

For Abe, it shows Japan remains an important partner in global trade, especially after Trump pulled the plug on a trade deal with Pacific nations. For the EU, it shows that it remains a champion of free trade even if free trade negotiations with the United States are in a rut.

A senior EU official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity ahead of Thursday's summit, said that the deal with the Japanese "means we have agreed on almost every-

thing of importance to either side."

Now, legal scrubbing and translations are expected to take several months before the agreement can be formally completed and put to approval to national authorities in the EU and Japan.

The 28-nation EU exports some 86 billion euros in goods and services to Japan every year yet still faces high tariffs and other obstacles in reaching the lucrative market.

A deal would require tweaks to Japan's protections for its dairy farmers,



EU officials are escorted by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (second right) to a working dinner as part of the negotiations

whose home market is protected by tariffs of up to 40 percent on processed cheese, wine, pasta and chocolate.

The EU official said that the EU food agriculture

sector was expected to be "the big winner" out of the negotiations.

Japan is specifically looking for removing import tariffs on cars and car parts. AP

VENEZUELA

Cop behind helicopter heist reappears in video

A new video has emerged of the Venezuelan policeman who allegedly stole a helicopter and then fired on two government buildings.

In the 5-minute video published late Tuesday, police inspector Oscar Perez claimed that he was in Caracas following an emergency landing on Venezuela's coast. He said he was ready for the "second phase" of his campaign to free his homeland from what he called the corrupt rule of President Nicolas Maduro and his "assassin" allies.

Perez gave no other details but pledged to join youth who have been protesting on the streets the past three months against Maduro.

"Stop talking. Get on the streets. Take action. Fight," he said in the video, sitting before a Venezuelan flag and with what looks like an assault rifle by his side. He also denounced Maduro's plan to rewrite the constitution.

"If this constitutional assembly goes through, Venezuela will



Medics take positions ready to assist the wounded during protests in Caracas

cease to exist because we'll have given away the country to the Cubans," he said.

The bold though largely harmless June 27 attack shocked Venezuelans who had grown accustomed to almost-daily clashes since April between often-violent youth protesters and security forces that have left more than 90 people dead and hundreds injured.

Perez apparently piloted the stolen police helicopter that sprayed 15 bullets toward the Interior Ministry and dropped

at least two grenades over the supreme court building.

While Maduro claimed Perez had stolen the helicopter on a U.S.-backed mission to oust him from power, many in the opposition questioned whether the incident was a staged by the government to distract attention from the president's increasingly authoritarian rule.

Adding to the intrigue is Perez's colorful past.

In 2015, he produced and starred in a film called "Suspended Death," and several photos

show him in fatigues, scuba diving while toting an assault rifle, skydiving and standing in action poses with a German shepherd by his side. In his political debut, he read a manifesto in which he claimed to be part of a group of disgruntled members of Venezuela's security forces determined to save the country's democracy.

Maduro said a massive loss of life was avoided because Venezuela's air defense system was quickly activated. But Perez said in the video that the strike produced no casualties because he had taken care to avoid them.

Neither of the buildings he attacked suffered damage. The helicopter he stole was found 24 hours later, abandoned in a verdant valley near the Caribbean coastline outside Caracas.

"They are going to have to put the entire nation in jail to stop our mission," he said in the new video, which had been seen online some 135,000 times within a few hours after its release. AP



Italy to nationalize bank

In a bid to end years of struggles, the Italian government is taking control of bank Monte dei Paschi under a relaunch plan agreed by European officials that includes the disposal of a massive USD32.5 billion in bad loans. In detailing the plan yesterday, CEO Marco Morelli said that ridding the bank of the load of soured loans was "the most relevant issue" in the European Commission's approval this week of the rescue plan.

Croatia defiant on border arbitration

Croatia yesterday rejected a European Commission call for the implementation of an international arbitration ruling in a longstanding border dispute with Slovenia that has caused tensions between the EU neighbors. Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said the commission has no jurisdiction in border matters and insisted that territorial issues should be resolved between the two states.

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POKER STARS LIVE MACAU

what's ON



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

LOVE OF MACAU - PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM
 TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
 UNTIL: July 9, 2017
 VENUE: Macau Art Museum
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

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

Offbeat

A FIFTH OF DIVORCES IN TAIWAN ARE TRANSNATIONAL COUPLES

As of May this year, the proportion of total divorces in Taiwan that involved one Taiwanese partner and a foreigner has continued to fall as in the previous six years.

Some 20.2 percent of the 21,000 divorces registered in Taiwan between January and May involved a foreign national, while only 14.4 percent of the 61,000 marriages were registered as "transnational", according to the newspaper Taiwan News.

At the same time, new transnational marriages are increasing as a proportion of total marriages, up 1.7 percent between January and May compared with the same period last year.

The data implies that although transnational couples are still more likely to divorce than culturally homogeneous ones, that propensity itself is on the decline.

In fact the share of transnational divorces has been falling since 2010, when it stood at about 26 percent. Last year, the share was 20.3 percent, while it was 20.8 percent in 2015.

Citing statistics released by Taiwan's Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, the newspaper said that more than 4,300 transnational divorces were registered on the island-state in the first five months of 2017.

Of these, couples with a spouse from mainland China accounted for 54.1 percent of the total, while those with a Southeast Asian spouse represented 38 percent. Just 1.6 percent of transnational couples had one of the partners from Macau or Hong Kong, while the remaining 6.3 percent (accounting for 271 people) were listed as "other".

One hundred and eight fewer Chinese spouses have sought a divorce this year, compared with the same period last year, representing a 4.4 percent decline.

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

6 - 12 JUL

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

ROOM 1/3

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

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min



DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 2

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 3

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

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min

MACAU TOWER

6 - 26 JUL



SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

ROOM 1/3

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

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min

this day in history



1997 MARS BUGGY STARTS EXPLORING RED PLANET

Nasa scientists have freed a robot from the space probe Mars Pathfinder, allowing it to begin its exploration of the Red Planet at last.

The rover, known as Sojourner, has been stuck on Pathfinder since its successful landing on Mars two days ago. It is the first time a man-made craft has travelled over the surface of another planet.

Pathfinder quickly sent back the evidence: an image of the Martian surface showing the tracks made by Sojourner's six studded titanium wheels.

The problem began when a partially-deflated airbag blocked Sojourner's way out of Pathfinder. Then the computers on board the probe and the rover failed to talk to each other.

Finally, at 0646 BST (0546 GMT) there was a breakthrough. Flight director Chris Salvo announced to the waiting team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California: "Six wheels on the ground."

There was an ecstatic cheer from the 70-strong team. But they will now have to wait another day for the first high-resolution pictures because an hour after the vehicle moved off the ramp, the sun went down and the rover was left parked until the next Martian morning.

The Sojourner is a tiny robot, about the size of a bread-bin and weighing just 10 kg. It travels on six wheels, each of which can move independently to cope with the uneven Martian terrain.

Most of the power is provided by solar cells on the roof, and there is also a battery power pack for backup. It is controlled remotely from California, millions of miles away.

The Pathfinder probe had a near-perfect landing on 4 July - America's Independence Day - in the Ares Vallis, an ancient channel on Mars that may once have held water.

The first reading sent back was of the temperature - a freezing minus 93 degrees C. The probe has also sent back some astounding pictures of the barren, rock-strewn surface.

It showed massive dust storms in the pink Martian sky, one raging just 600 miles (950 km) south of the landing site.

The mission is being followed avidly by millions on the internet through the official Mars Pathfinder website.

There is particular interest in what it may find following the controversial announcement by Nasa last August that it had found evidence of life in a Martian meteorite.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Although Sojourner was designed to operate for just one week, in fact it kept exploring Mars for nearly three months.

It covered more than 42,000 square meters of territory around Pathfinder's landing site and sent back 550 images of the Martian surface. Pathfinder itself also took thousands of pictures.

They revealed new information about geological features on Mars and provided compelling evidence that the planet once contained liquid water and was warm and wet, like the Earth.

The Mars Global Surveyor, which arrived in September 1997, was also a success, providing tantalizing hints of possible water beneath the surface. However, the next missions, Mars Climate Orbiter and the Mars Polar Lander in 1999, were costly failures, putting the future of Mars exploration in doubt.

Then in 2001, the Mars Odyssey revived Nasa's fortunes with a remarkable geological map of the planet which transformed our knowledge of what Mars is made of.

The European Space Agency put the Mars Express into orbit around Mars in December 2003.

In 2004, Nasa's Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, discovered compelling evidence for the prolonged presence of water on the planet's surface.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 There's quite a mixed bag of astrological energies on board, so prepare yourself. The stars emphasize peace and relationships, urging you to place yourself bravely between any warring factions

Taurus April 20-May 20 Jealousy and resentment are in the air, but not because of anything you've done. So put aside your famous ability to blame yourself for every single thing that's ever happened and listen up.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You should know that you're right about ditching the hesitations and moving forward. If this is a romantic tryst, so much the better. Not only will the plans go along well, the trip promises to be steamy.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The stars turn up your powers of charming manipulation, convincing you that no matter what you want, you can have it (as long as you're willing to dangle a very attractive carrot in front of someone's nose).

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 If a loved one happens to bring up an uncomfortable topic, you won't shy away from it -- but they'll be sorry they didn't let it lie right where it was. It's all about love, love, love for you.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You just can't be too careful when it comes to the feelings of a dear one, a family member in particular. So if you get the impression that you're being just a bit too blunt and honest try to rein it in, just a little.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Mata Hari has temporarily set up shop at your place, and she's doing all of her deals from your phone or email. Now that you know, you'll expect what tumbles out of your mouth to be extremely seductive.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Telling most people that secrets could be revealed makes them apprehensive. Saying that to you, however, just whets your whistle. Well, guess what? It's time for privacy, please, courtesy of the stars.

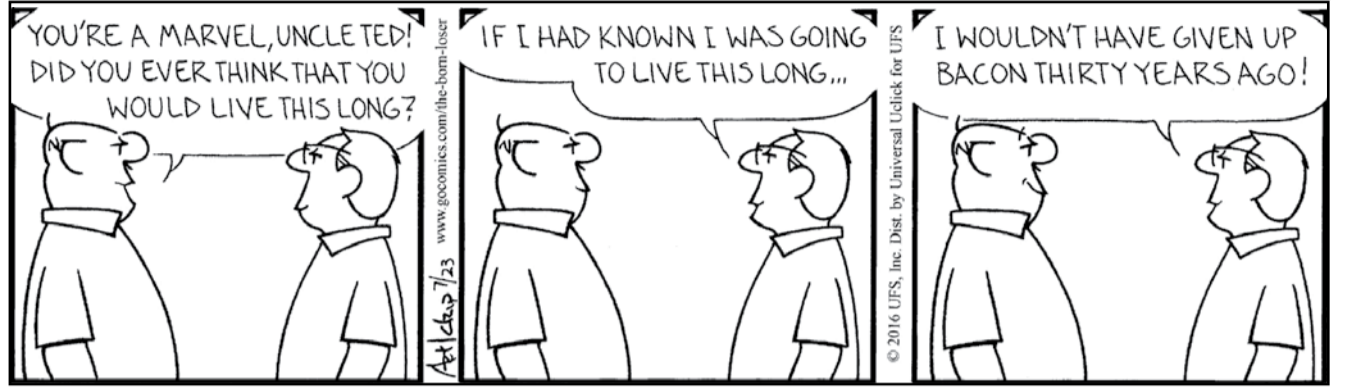
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Heaven help anyone you're around today who decides they'd like to drag you over to their side of the aisle, because not only will it not happen, but they'll end up sorry they ever mentioned it.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The temptation to tell one and all that extremely juicy secret you've been holding onto for an interminably long time will just about kill you, especially if you give into it.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Whatever you're feeling, it's going to show quite easily, and the more people you're surrounded by, the more fun it will be to let it fly. So when a friend asks you to help dig into their current situation.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Someone who's in a position of authority is watching your performance, and not being at all discreet about it. The good news is that with the current astrological setup, you'll charm the pants off of them.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

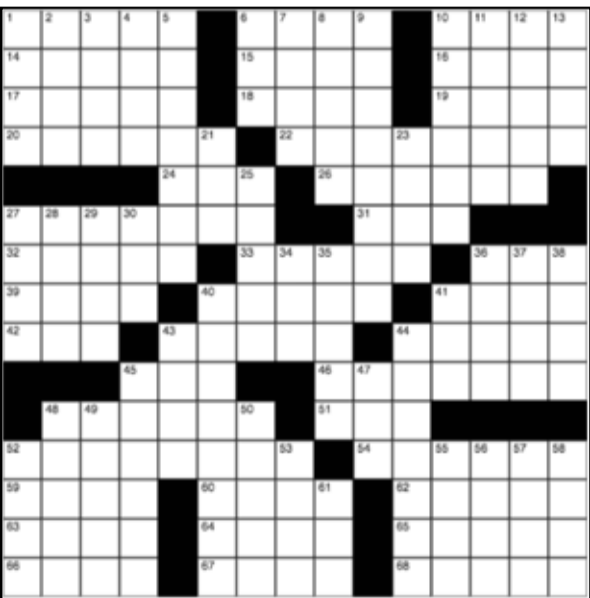
9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Let me repeat...; 6- Helps; 10- Tabula...; 14- Chili con...; 15- Job detail, briefly; 16- Biblical land; 17- Gay; 18- Tramp; 19- Spanish appetizer; 20- Recompense for hardship; 22- Without a bend; 24- Cry out loud; 26- Frightens; 27- "A Horse With No Name" band; 31- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 32- Gossip; 33- Exorbitant; 36- Star Wars letters; 39- Arguing; 40- Bellowing; 41- Polite address; 42- Debussy's "La..."; 43- Inclines; 44- Artery that feeds the trunk; 45- Swiss river; 46- Polite agreement; 48- Orange root plant; 51- Circle section; 52- Flight recorder; 54- Mistakes; 59- avis; 60- "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer; 62- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 63- Elvis's middle name; 64- Cancer's critter; 65- Teases; 66- Completed; 67- Cong. meeting; 68- Some Art Deco works; DOWN: 1- Champagne bucket; 2- Having all one's marbles; 3- Get one's ducks in...; 4- To Live and Die...; 5- Letter opener; 6- Shade of blond; 7- NASDAQ debuts; 8- Sums owing; 9- Very hot day; 10- Go to bed; 11- Saying; 12- Second-year students, for short; 13- Amo, amas, ...; 21- Dwarf with glasses; 23- Over-50 org.; 25- Iraqi port; 27- Composer Khachaturian; 28- Silent; 29- Bahrain bigwig; 30- Deteriorate; 34- Unit of weight; 35- Snap course; 36- Gilbert of "Roseanne"; 37- Info; 38- Mosque leader; 40- Vigorous exercises; 41- Pop's partner; 43- Carefree adventure; 44- Assign; 45- Obscure; 47- Before, to Burns; 48- Mild cigar; 49- Homerun king Hank; 50- Baseball manager Joe; 52- Actor Pitt; 53- Dec. holiday; 55- Crowd noise; 56- Put a lid...; 57- Ceremonial act; 58- Disrespectful back talk; 61- Tummy muscles;



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TENNIS

Federer, Djokovic benefit from Wimbledon retirements

Howard Fendrich

NOVAK Djokovic's first-round match at Wimbledon lasted all of 40 minutes Tuesday. Roger Federer's, which was next in the All England Club's main stadium, went 43.

When two of tennis' biggest stars crossed paths after both advanced when opponents stopped playing because of pre-existing injuries, they kidded each other about a way to try to make it up to the fans.

"We had a little joke about it in the locker room," Djokovic recounted, "saying we should maybe play a practice set on the Centre Court, have the crowd stay."

The short workdays for the two were quite similar. Djokovic led 6-3, 2-0 when Martin Klizan retired with a left leg problem that has bothered him for about two months; Federer was



Switzerland's Roger Federer (left) shakes hands with Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov after winning their Men's Singles Match

ahead 6-3, 3-0 when Alexandr Dolgoplov quit because of a painful right ankle he first twisted last month.

Those still go into the books as wins, allowing Federer to collect his 85th at Wimbledon, breaking a

tie with Jimmy Connors for the most in the Open era. Djokovic picked up his 234th match victory at all majors, moving ahead of Connors and alone into second place in history, behind only Federer's 315.

But the way the afternoon went meant Centre Court spectators who paid 56 pounds (more than USD70) per ticket, some of them waiting in line for hours, got only brief glimpses of seven-time champion Federer or three-time champion Djokovic. They did, however, have the opportunity to watch a pair of top women, current No. 1 Angelique Kerber and former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki, win full-length matches.

"I feel for the crowd. They're there to watch good tennis. Proper tennis. At least they see the two of us, who gave it all they had. They saw other players that tried, at least," Federer said. "It's unfortunate that it happened."

Two other men also stopped mid-match Tuesday, 19th-seeded Feliciano Lopez (left foot) and Janko Tipsarevic (right leg), bringing the first-round retirement total to seven. That equals 2008 for the most by men in the first round during the 50 editions of Wimbledon in the Open era.

It sparked discussion about whether Grand Slam tournaments should change their rules to allow players to still receive prize money if they withdraw before an event. That's a system being employed on the ATP Tour — which doesn't run majors — and lets someone who lost in qualifying take the spot in the main draw of an injured player.

The theory behind that setup: Players who are injured won't step on court simply to collect their prize money as an entrant, before calling it a day without finishing the match.

"Even if I had a torn muscle today, and the doctor says, 'You shouldn't go on court, you have serious damage to risk,' I could have faked it, stayed there for two less games, and still picked up the paycheck," said Tipsarevic, who stopped while trailing 5-0 after only 12 minutes against Jared Donaldson of the U.S.

A first-round loser at

Wimbledon earns 35,000 pounds (about \$45,000).

"Unless you're [in the] top 10... it's significant money," said Dolgoplov, who is ranked 84th.

Tipsarevic, Dolgoplov, Djokovic and Federer all said they would like to see the majors follow the ATP's lead.

"A player should not go on court if he knows he [can] not finish. The question is: Did they truly believe they were going to finish? If they did, I think it's OK that they walk on court. Otherwise, I feel they should give up the spot," Federer said. "The ATP has adjusted its rule, but maybe the Slams should [...] look at what they could do for the players to make it just a little bit easier."

At Centre Court on Tuesday, Federer and Djokovic had an easy go of things. Kerber, last year's runner-up to Serena Williams at the All England Club, had more to do to get past Irina Falconi of the U.S. 6-4, 6-4, and Wozniacki, a two-time U.S. Open finalist, needed three full sets to edge Tímea Babos 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

But it was the short men's matches that had everyone talking.

"If it's just excruciating pain, OK, you can't play. If something is tweaked here or there and you feel like you can give it a decent go without hurting yourself, I think they should stay out there and I think you owe it to the fans," said 23rd-seeded John Isner, who beat Taylor Fritz 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-3 in an all-American matchup on Court 14. "I know the Wimbledon Centre Court didn't get their money's worth today, that's for sure." **MDT/AP**

After injuries, Stephens plays first match

SLOANE Stephens hadn't played a competitive match in nearly a year because of an injured left foot, so when she stepped on the grass of Wimbledon on Tuesday, simply being there was significant.

"Just getting on the court, I was relieved, I was happy, excited," Stephens said. "I mean, all good emotions."

Less than six months after foot surgery, Stephens returned to action with a 6-2, 7-5 loss to Alison Riske in an all-U.S. matchup in the first round at the All England Club.

Stephens was a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon in 2013, back when she appeared to be a rising star in tennis, making at least the fourth round at six consecutive Grand Slam tournaments. She reached the semifinals at the Australian Open earlier that

year and climbed to a career-high No. 11 in the WTA rankings.

But she had a stress reaction in her foot last year, something she said was bothering her when she lost in the first round at the Rio Olympics. That was Stephens' fourth loss in a row — her most recent victory came in the second round of Wimbledon a year ago — and the last time she participated in a tournament until Tuesday.

Her ranking now down to 336th, the 24-year-old Stephens had permission from her doctor to get back to tournament play, she said, "So I was like, 'Why not?'"

"I did the best I could. I'm pleased with — I mean, obviously not that I didn't win — but that I was able to get out there and I was pain-free," she said. "I played decent." **MDT/AP**

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FOOTBALL

New league, very different challenges for Capello in China

John Duerden

AS he won league titles as head coach of Real Madrid, Milan and Juventus, Fabio Capello never had to contemplate relegation. In his first foray to China, it has suddenly become a very real threat.

Capello, winner of the UEFA Champions League in 1994 and who also led the national teams of England and Russia to the 2010 and 2014 World Cups, was appointed as head coach of Jiangsu Suning in June.

In three Chinese Super League games under one of the world's most famous coaches, Jiangsu has collected just one point. More worrying still is that in those games, the Nanjing-based club failed to score.

The latest setback was a 1-0 home loss to Shanghai SIPG, which was missing star players Oscar and Hulk through suspension. That loss left Jiangsu bottom of the 16-team league, three points adrift of safety.

"Maybe this is the most testing situation that Capello has ever faced," Gary White, who led Shanghai Shenxin clear of relegation from China's League

AP PHOTO



Fabio Capello

One in 2016, told The Associated Press.

"He does not have a team full of world-class players to rely on. He must bring the big foreign stars and the Chinese players together and get them to play for each other. It is not about quality, it is about motivation."

The player stocks are still

high at the club which finished runner-up in the 2016 season. Bolstered by more than USD80 million spent on Brazilian internationals Alex Teixeira and Ramires, Jiangsu pushed Luiz Felipe Scolari's Guangzhou Evergrande all the way for the title.

This season the stars remained at the club and firepower was

added in the shape of Colombian international striker Roger Martinez.

There were high hopes at the start of the season but the expected title challenge hasn't materialized and Jiangsu started to slip down the standings, winning just once in the first third of the season. South Ko-

rean coach Choi Yong-soo resigned on June 1.

"With the experience Capello has, you would think he can turn it around," White said. "This club should not be bottom of the league with the players they have. He has to get them to play for each other, the team, the fans and the city."

The expected upturn has yet to happen, though the 71 year-old Italian coach is trying to stay positive.

"We are improving," Capello said after the latest loss. "We are playing better all the time but we are lacking confidence especially in front of goal. Against Shanghai we played well and did not deserve to lose [...] I can see the quality that there is in the team."

Capello has been in China for less than a month but much of the Chinese media has warned of the need for a result soon.

However, Capello can take heart from Felix Magath. The former Bayern Munich boss arrived in June 2016 to take over a struggling Shandong Luneng.

"The Chinese Super League is a tough league and when you are in the relegation zone, confidence falls and when you are a big team with famous players, the other teams like to beat you," said Magath, who steered Shandong to safety with a margin of just two points.

This season Shandong is much-improved and currently sits in fifth.

For Capello, anywhere outside the bottom two when the season ends in October will do. **AP**

Messi to extend contract with Barcelona until 2021

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

LIONEL Messi will play out the best remaining years of his trophy-rich career at Barcelona.

The Spanish club said yesterday that Messi had agreed a three-year contract extension that will keep him at the club through the 2020-21 season. By then, Barcelona's all-time leading scorer will be 34 years old and finishing his 17th season with the club.

Barcelona announced that Messi will sign the new deal "in the coming weeks" that will be good through June 30, 2021.

The contract extension comes as no surprise. Messi has repeatedly said he wanted to play the best years of his career at Barcelona, before perhaps making a return

AP PHOTO



to his native Argentina that he left at 13 years old to come to Barcelona's famed La Masia training academy.

But with his current contract set to expire at the end of the upcoming 2017-18 season, the club's board, players, fans and new coach Ernesto Valverde can all

breathe easier this summer knowing their star is staying put.

Barcelona released a statement in English calling Messi "the best player in history, who has played his full professional career at Barca and has led the team to an era of extraordinary success, the likes of which has ne-

ver been seen in world football."

Since making his debut with Barcelona's first team at age 17 in 2004, Messi has established himself as one of the best to ever play the game. He has won the FIFA world player of the year five times, and has become the Spanish league's all-time leading scorer.

Messi, who turned 30 last month, has scored a club record 507 goals in 583 matches. His honors with the club include four Champions League trophies, eight Spanish league titles and five Copa del Rey titles.

The announcement comes five days after Messi married his childhood sweetheart Antonella Rocuzzo, mother of their two sons.

Messi will now be expected to again lead a Barcelona side that has been eclipsed for the first time in more than a decade by fierce rival Real Madrid, which won both the Champions League and La Liga titles last season. **AP**

Real Madrid's Modric questioned for alleged perjury

REAL Madrid midfielder Luka Modric was questioned yesterday by Croatia's state attorney amid accusations that he falsely testified about his financial deals with a former Dinamo Zagreb director charged with embezzlement and tax fraud.

"I came here to state my defense and tell the truth, like every time so far," Modric said after questioning for suspected perjury in the eastern town of Osijek. "My conscience is clear."

Prosecutors have said Modric gave a false statement to a court last month about his 2008 transfer from Dinamo to Tottenham. He moved to Real Madrid in 2012. Modric, the Croatia captain, told the court he had a deal with former

Dinamo director Zdravko Mamic to pay the club 50 percent of the 21 million euro (USD24 million) contract. Mamic, who denies any wrongdoing, allegedly took an unspecified chunk.

Modric is suspected of changing his testimony in favor of Mamic during the trial, compared to a statement he gave to prosecutors earlier in the investigation. The focus was on the date when he made a written deal with Mamic, before or after the money was paid.

If charged and found guilty, Modric could face up to five years in prison.

Mamic is considered the most powerful person in Croatian soccer with substantial political influence. **MDT/AP**

opinion

Made in Macao
Jenny Lao-Phillips



HIGH SCHOOL HORROR: RED SHOES IN THE WASHROOM

After my Macao Ghost Tour article a couple of months ago, I received enquires about what other ghost stories there are in Macao. People seem to be intrigued about these stories. But are they real, or just a figment of our imagination? In my experience, the difference between real and imagination is actually not that significant. For what I know, they could be stories spread over time stemming from the tradition and practices of a different era.

One such story is the red shoes in the washroom. It is not only in Hogwarts that there is a Moaning Myrtle. In stories told by people from different schools, there is a female ghost haunting the restrooms in almost every school. The story always begins with a warning: "Thou shalt not stay in school after sundown". Why?

Once upon a night, some students stayed late to work on a project (or was it for basketball practice?). Whatever the reason, the students stayed late and one of them went to the toilet alone and heard a girl crying. The lone girl called out to ask who it was and if the crying girl was in trouble. Receiving no answer, the student peeked from under the door to see who it was. But all that the student saw was a pair of red embroidered shoes: There was no one in the restroom, but the crying went on.

The origin of the story cannot be traced. I imagine someone created this story to keep students from roaming around the school at night. Or perhaps students created it hoping teachers would not keep them at school too late. Or perhaps someone really heard the crying in the toilet and encountered the red embroidered shoes. No matter how this story began to spread, the same version was told in almost every school in Macao and Hong Kong. Assuming it is an unfortunate coincidence, it raises two questions: Why does it always have to be red embroidered shoes? And why does it always have to be in the toilets?

In my opinion, red embroidered shoes are related to two things in the Chinese culture: weddings and pre-1940s fashion. According to the Chinese horror culture, people who die wearing red come back as the most vicious ghosts. Moreover, a few Hong Kong horror movies from the last century feature a ghost bride who was wronged and killed herself in her wedding dress, creating the impression that vengeful spirits are often female and dressed in red, much like the woman in white in western ghost stories. Furthermore, since the 1940s, embroidered shoes were no longer common. So, seeing a pair of red embroidered shoes - partly burnt in some stories - implies they belong to someone from a different era. I guess that's how a pair of red embroidered shoes became a scary image corresponding to a female ghost dressed in red.

The setting of these stories in the washroom is probably based on the 'Ying' and 'Yang' concept. While 'Yang' refers to bright and sunlight, 'Ying' relates to darkness. It is believed that vengeful spirits roam in places of 'Ying' atmosphere. One of those places are washrooms which are often dark and wet. Also, people normally go to the toilet alone, so they are more vulnerable to being attacked by ghosts.

However, with our modern culture of girls who accompany each other to the toilet, it leaves very little space for the toilet ghost stories to survive. Or perhaps it was these ghost stories we hear all the time in schools that led to the need of company whenever one needs to visit the washroom?

THE EMIRATES, TURKISH AIRLINES
BUZZ OFF US LAPTOP BAN LIST

Emirates and Turkish Airways said yesterday they have also been exempted from a U.S. ban on laptops in airplane cabins, joining Etihad in satisfying American security concerns that had cut into the long-haul carriers' business.

It remains unclear how the airlines addressed fears that the Islamic State or other militant groups might smuggle explosives in electronic devices.

But in Turkey, authorities now use CT scanners

to take cross-section images of passengers' electronics just before they board airplanes heading to the U.S.

Both airlines alerted the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees airplane safety in the United States, that "they are ready to comply with the enhanced security measures," said David Lapan, a Homeland Security spokesman in Washington. He declined to discuss specifics.

BOXING

Pacquiao backs call for WBO review of his loss to Horn

Jim Gomez, Manila

MANNY Pacquiao asked the WBO to act on a request by Philippine sports officials for a review of his welterweight world title loss to Jeff Horn, saying he didn't want to see the boxing industry "dying because of unfair decision and officiating."

While Pacquiao has accepted his defeat to Horn, who fought in his first world title bout in Sunday's so-called "Battle of Brisbane," the Philippine senator said in a statement yesterday he had a "moral obligation to uphold sportsmanship, truth and fairness."

The 11-time world champion cited a request by the Philippines' Games and Amusements Board, or GAB, to World Boxing Organization President Francisco Valcarcel for a thorough review of the refereeing and judging of the bout, which was staged outdoors in front of more than 51,000 fans at Suncorp Stadium.

The WBO should take action on the Philippine request "so as not to erode the people's interest in boxing," Pacquiao said. "I had already accepted the decision but as a leader and, at the same time, fighter, I have the moral obligation to uphold sportsmanship, truth and fairness in the eyes of the public."

"I love boxing and I don't want to see it dying because of unfair decision and officiating," he said.

In their July 3 letter to Valcarcel, GAB chairman Abraham Kahlil Mitra and two other officials expressed concerns about "the possible errors of the referee and the three judges who officiated the subject fight."

"We [...] request for a thorough review by the WBO for possible miscalls of the referee where some deductions were not made and of the judges in their judging that have caused varying opinions on their objectivity," the statement said.

Pacquiao's trainers were critical of the referee for not doing more to stop or penalize head clashes and neck holds. They highlighted statistics that showed Pacquiao,



Jeff Horn (right) of Australia watches as Manny Pacquiao falls on the mat during their WBO World welterweight title bout in Brisbane

who needed stitches to two cuts in his hairline that resulted from head clashes, landed twice as many punches.

Commentators from ESPN, which broadcast the fight live in the U.S., were among the most vocal critics of the outcome.

I love boxing and I don't want to see it dying because of unfair decision and officiating.

MANNY PACQUIAO

All three judges awarded it to Horn, with American Waleska Roldan's 117-111 score attracting most of the criticism. U.S. judge Chris Flores and Ramon Cerdan of Argentina each scored it much closer at 115-113.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said it was a "close fight. It could have gone either way." Pacquiao had a rematch clause in the contract, meaning the 38-year-old Filipino could negotiate to fight Horn again before the end of the year.

Horn won the majority of the early rounds on all judge's cards, but Pacquiao rallied and had opportunities to end the fight in the 9th when he

had the Australian schoolteacher wobbling and on the ropes. Horn recovered and won the next round, setting up a battle of attrition in the two closing rounds.

The WBO published a photo of the judge's cards on its Twitter account on Sunday night, and followed up on the GAB request for an inquest with another post yesterday that said: "The discretion of a referee or judge cannot be reversed, except in a case of fraud or violation of laws which is not the case in Pac vs Horn."

Pacquiao entered the fight with a record of 59-6-2, but the last of his 38 wins by knockout was in 2009. Horn hadn't lost any of his previous 17 professional fights, but had never encountered anybody with Pacquiao's credentials.

Philippine officials organized a free public viewing of the bout in southern Marawi city, to give thousands of displaced residents, troops and police a respite from a disastrous siege by Islamic militants that has turned parts of the city into a smoldering war zone.

The Filipinos cheered for their boxing hero, but fell silent when the decision was announced. Marawi crisis committee spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong said then that many could not accept the outcome but he added that the momentary entertainment was a relief and that Pacquiao provided a crucial message of courage and resiliency to the war-weary residents and troops. AP

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

SOURCE: D5IMG

WORLD BRIEFS

JAPAN Heavy rain following a recent typhoon left a 93-year-old man dead and flooded many houses in southwestern Japan, forcing thousands of people to flee, authorities said yesterday.

KENYA Police officials say three police officers were killed and seven others wounded as gunmen suspected to be al-Shabab militants attacked Panduguo center, Lamu County.



TURKEY's president is assailing German authorities' refusal to let him address Turks at a rally when he visits for the Group of 20 summit, declaring the decision "political suicide."

UKRAINE authorities have avoided a second cyberattack, the country's interior minister said yesterday, an announcement that suggests the effort to wreak electronic havoc across the country is ongoing.



VENEZUELA A new video has emerged of the Venezuelan policeman who allegedly stole a helicopter and then fired on two government buildings. Police inspector Oscar Perez claimed he was ready for the "second phase" of his campaign to free his homeland from what he called the corrupt rule of President Nicolas Maduro and his "assassin" allies. More on p15

US Fans of the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort can take home a piece of the former casino before it's gutted to make way for the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Furniture, poker tables, grand pianos, art and even its famous chandeliers will be among the merchandise up for grabs at a liquidation sale.