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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

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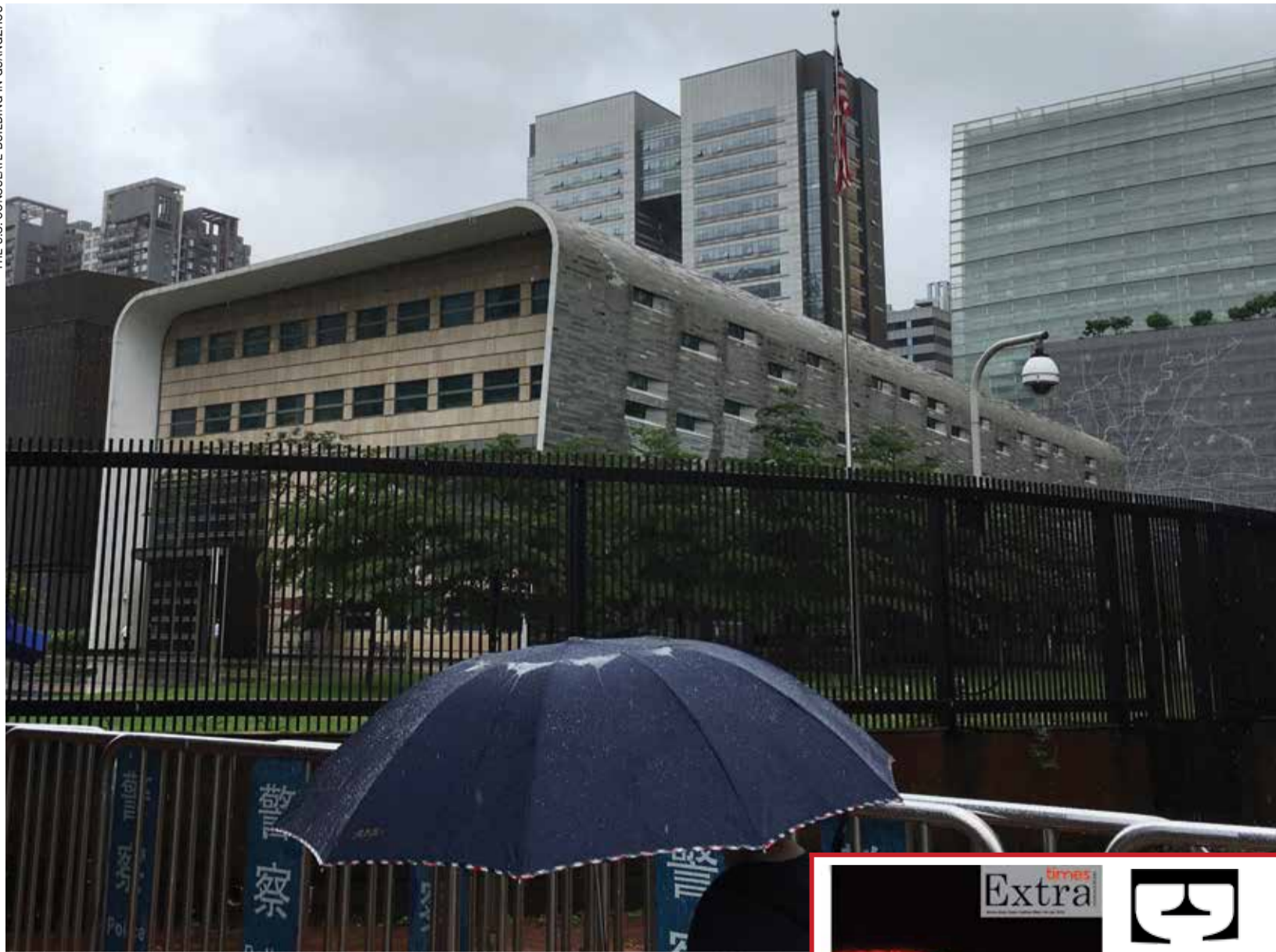
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GREATER BAY AREA

**SAR residents in mainland may vote**

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THE U.S. CONSULATE BUILDING IN GUANGZHOU



**More US diplomats screened over mystery health issues in China**

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WORLD BRIEFS



**PHILIPPINES** Police arrested nearly 500 people, including eight Israeli nationals, who they say were involved in an online investment fraud that victimized people overseas, including in Australia and South Africa.



**RUSSIA** President Vladimir Putin, who has ruled Russia since 2000, says he is "always thinking" about who will succeed him when his term is over.

**AFGHANISTAN** President Ashraf Ghani yesterday announced a weeklong cease-fire with the Taliban to coincide with the holiday marking the end of Ramadan next week.  
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## AL PLENARY

# Rosário supports driving license recognition with mainland China

Julie Zhu

**SECRETARY** for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário provided his understanding of the recognition of mutual driving license between mainland China and the MSAR. The Secretary voiced his opinion to the lawmakers during yesterday's Legislative Assembly's (AL) plenary meeting.

As proposed by lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong, the AL had a debate on the recognition of mutual driving license yesterday.

"I hope lawmakers will not misunderstand [because] I don't mean to criticize [the lawmakers]. [On the recognition], it is [about recognizing] our own country's driving license; our compatriots' [driving license]," said Raimundo. "I even feel a bit embarrassed for having to debate it and for having to conduct a public consultation about it. This is about responding to our compatriots; it is not a benefit Macau is giving them [mainlanders]."

"We have already recognized driving licenses of 110 countries. The 111th country is our own, yet we require a public consultation and debate? I have no doubt regarding it [the recognition]."

Raimundo's comment triggered mixed responses from lawmakers. For instance, both Au Kam San and Mak Soi Kun expressed an opposing opinion to Rosário's comment.

Au, while criticizing the Secretary, said "according to your logic, they [mainlanders] should be able to come to Macau with their ID card, study here and live here. But how come they can't? It [China] is protecting Macau, Macau is under the state's care".

Chui Sai Peng, however, supported Rosário, commenting that the recognition will "altogether demonstrate the state's sovereignty."

"Some people will never understand [things], no matter how you explain it to them. They oppose for the sake of opposition," said Chui.

"Currently, the mentality of many Macau residents compels them to be strict to others but lenient to themselves. [...] The Liberation Army already came out [to help] after Typhoon Hato.



Raimundo do Rosário

Besides, the mainland's police authority will come to Macau to take them [mainland drivers who cause traffic issues in Macau] back [to the mainland]," said Chui, adding "it [the recognition] is not worth discussing, as it is an outdated issue."

Chief Executive-appointed lawmaker Chan Wa Keong remarked that "if you [the government] propose to hand out cash every day, I think nobody will oppose."

"Taiwan is a province. Why is Taiwan province allowed to [Taiwan driving license can be used in Macau] while other provinces are not?" Mak Soi Kun questioned.

Several lawmakers voiced their support to the mutual recognition, although they still posed some questions to government representatives who attended yesterday's AL. These lawmakers included Ma Chi Seng, Iau Teng Pio, Chui Sai Peng and Angela Leong.

These four lawmakers, together with several others, questioned the potential transportation pressure that might fall upon the city's roads once the recognition is implemented. In terms of safety issues, the lawmakers worry that mainland drivers are unaware of Macau's driving regulations; non-local employees will possibly be hired to operate vehicles in Macau when they have not been approved by the government to perform such tasks and that there might be more car rental companies.

"We understand that the public is concerned about the demand generated after mainland license holders come to the city. On average, mainlanders stay 1.5 days in Macau. How can they find a car [in that time]? We don't have car rental companies at the border gates. [...] We don't think it [the recognition] will encourage them to drive cars," said Lam Hin San, director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT).

Lam also noted that any party who wishes to open a car rental company in Macau must have a fleet comprising a minimum of 25 vehicles and be able to offer a minimum of 25 private parking spaces.

"Tourists, including mainland tourists, know how to use Macau's public transportation system, [...] We reckon they will not have any special requirements [driving in Macau]," said Lam.

During the first three to four months of this year, accidents related to non-local workers decreased by 30 percent year-on-year.

A representative from the Public Security Police Force (PSP) further reported that, in 2016, 230 non-local workers were found working beyond their own employment permit. The number has been continuously decreasing since 2016.

Previously, as well as yesterday, the DSAT director noted that mainland driving license

holders are already allowed to drive in Macau if they simply change their driving license in Hong Kong to a Hong Kong-based driving license.

"About 43,000 Macau residents already have mainland driving licenses," said Lam, according to whom, approximately 250,000 Macau residents have a Macau driving license, adding that "the recognition is convenient [for residents] if they [the 250,000] need to drive in mainland China."

In 2017, somewhere around 2,500 mainland residents obtained Macau's driving license, according to the PSP representative.

In 2016, the PSP conducted 1,131 inspections in regard to illegal drivers. In 2017, the number of inspections went up to 1,243.

## Taiwan is a province. Why is Taiwan allowed to while other provinces are not.

MAK SOI KUN

According to Lam, in 2017, 30,000 mainland residents obtained their driving license in Hong Kong and approximately 500 traffic infractions were committed there.

In addition, PSP statistics show that in 311 cases in 2017, drivers were found not qualified for operating vehicles in Macau. In the first four months of 2018, 81 similar cases were registered.

Lawmaker Fong Ka Chio voiced that self-driving tourism in Macau will not become an economical problem since mainlanders' motivation to drive in Macau is low due to Macau's driving environment.

"The demand for self-driving tourism in Macau is really low. We have 83 bus routes and we have free methods of transportation," said Lam, who also pointed out that non-local students will need to take a test in case they intend to drive in Macau.

According to Lam, tourists who wish to drive in Macau are not required to register for driving if they will drive for less than 14 days. Any driving activities, which extend further than 14 days, will require tourists to go through administrative procedures.

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SCIENCE

# UM to confer honorary degree on Nobel laureate Ada Yonath

**T**HE University of Macau (UM) will confer the Doctor of Science honoris causa degree on Professor Ada Yonath, a Nobel laureate in chemistry, in recognition of her contributions to the biomedical sciences. In addition, tomorrow, Yonath will give a talk titled 'Next Generation Species Specific Eco Friendly Antibiotics and Thoughts about Origin of Life'.

Some pathogens can develop antibiotic resistance so that antibiotics cannot stop their infection effectively. Therefore, it is very important to ensure the effectiveness of antibiotics for protecting our health. Yonath made significant contributions to the improvement of existing antibiotics and development of new antibiotics. She will share her research results during the talk.

Born in Jerusalem in 1939, Yonath is a world-renowned



Ada Yonath

protein crystallographer best known for her pioneering work on the structure of the

ribosome. In 2009, she became the first Israeli woman out of her ten compatriot Nobel laureates to receive the Nobel Prize in chemistry, along with Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas A Steitz, for her studies on the structure and function of ribosomes. She was also the first woman in 45 years to win the Nobel Prize in chemistry. In addition to the Nobel Prize, she has received many other honors and awards throughout her career, including the Albert Einstein World Award of Science in 2008, the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize in 2007, and the Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize for Biology or Biochemistry in 2005.

The event will be held tomorrow, starting at 9.30 a.m., in Mr and Mrs Lau Chor Tak Lecture Theatre, Anthony Lau Building, UM. It will be conducted in English.



## Military Club opens painting exhibition

**T**HE Military Club this week opened a painting exhibition featuring a total of 30 works by Portuguese artists.

The exposition includes works from three painters: Pedro Proença, Maria João Franco, and Madalena Pequito.

The exhibition presents a set of works, from each artist, which share visible thematic unity. Many will recognize the distinctive styles of Proença and Franco, that characterize and differentiate the artworks.

Proença's works are presented in two different series, both in the subject and the format. "First, it is the preponderance of drawing as a form of representation. This aspect reveals or betrays the strong influence of the comic strips that marks the artist," organizers said in a statement. This is in addition to "the bright and contrasting colors that give them an atmosphere

of celebration, brightness, and fantasy."

In a dissimilar tone is a series of works by Franco. They delve into one of her dominant themes, the human body. "[Her depictions are] a body that often appears as no more than a suggestion, rather than as an objective representation," the statement noted.

The exhibition is associated with the Day of Portugal and forms part of the official program supported by the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong.

It is also included in the club's cycle of activities entitled "Meeting Bridges" which will feature two more exhibitions later this year: one dedicated to the art of Portuguese-speaking countries, to be held in October, and another, focused on local artists, which will take place at the end of the year.

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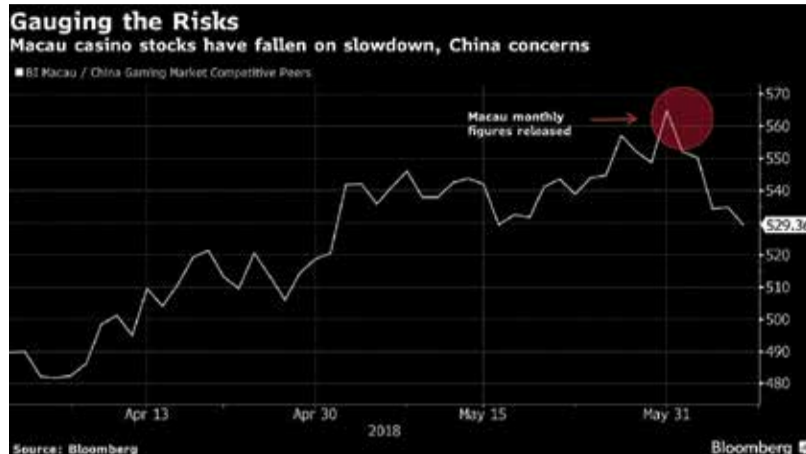
# Jittery casino investors weigh risks of China cash crackdown

**S**IGNS of a renewed crackdown by Macau to stem currency outflows are fueling investor jitters over casino stocks in the world's biggest gambling hub.

An index of local casino operators slumped yesterday after the Macau Monetary Authority said late Wednesday that money exchange and remittance services by shops or individuals other than banks, the postal savings office, money changers and remittance companies are illegal. It also called on banks to monitor merchants using credit card machines from conducting illegal activities.

The statement follows investor concerns earlier in the week of a clampdown after banks withdrew cash-back machines from pawnshops and jewelry shops inside casinos. The moves may be part of a broader Chinese government strategy to control currency outflows in Macau, with analysts warning of the risks of a broader regulatory crackdown.

"Regulatory risks are on the rise," Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. analysts led by Vitaly Umansky wrote yesterday in a note. "A correction in the short run may be justified if the government were to broaden efforts to reduce outflows through Macau."



The Bloomberg Intelligence's index of Macau casino stocks dropped 1 percent in Hong Kong trading yesterday. SJM Holdings Ltd. shares fell 2.8 percent and MGM China Holdings Ltd. slid 0.9 percent. Wynn Macau Ltd. dropped 0.5 percent, erasing an earlier gain of as much as 1.8 percent.

The government in the past has imposed restrictions on the use of credit-card payment machines in an effort to control the flow of currency out of China. Efforts to stem the money flow from China to Macau's gaming industry are triggers for concern among investors. The machines are a popular source of

cash for casual gamblers in Macau.

Bernstein analysts warned that sentiment for Macau casino shares is likely to take a hit with the Macau regulatory move highlighting risks to the "loose currency regime" that's been in place in the territory. JPMorgan analysts DS Kim and Sean Zhuang advised investors on a wait-and-see approach before accumulating stocks on dips.

Casino stocks have also been pressured after data last week showed Macau casino revenue growth fell short of estimates for May. Analysts have warned that the upcoming World Cup could pare gaming revenue in June. **MDT/Bloomberg**

## EDUCATION

# More locals in Guangdong included in education allowance

**S**UBSIDIES for Macau residents who study in Guangdong are now extended to students who study in any city across the Guangdong province, according to a dispatch published in the government Official Gazette.

The beneficiaries of this allowance are students enrolled in schools across the Guangdong province, including preschool, primary, and junior high-school educational institutions, in addition to full-time regular high school and full-time secondary vocational schools.

Students enrolled in preschool education must have been three years old on December 31 of 2017 in order to receive the allowance.

The amount for each student's allowance is determined on the basis of tuition fees confirmed by the education administrations where the school is located.

The maximum allowance is MOP8,000, MOP6,000,

MOP6,000 and MOP6,000 for pre-school education, primary school education, junior school education and high school education respectively.

The distribution of the allowance will be made after the parents or guardians of students or adult students submit applications to the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ).

Only the applications submitted by students still attending school on March 31, 2018 will be accepted.

In case the allowance is used to support training courses, it will only be granted to students who attend training courses organized by DSEJ with the intent of improving the student's knowledge of Macau's political, economic and cultural aspects.

The training courses should be conducted between June and August of 2018. Students' attendance of a minimum of 20 hours is a requirement, and the student attendance rate must not be less than 80 percent.

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# Chef to demonstrate Mexican food at IFT today

Lynzy Valles

**CHEF** Esdras Ochoa will present his modern take on traditional Mexican food at the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) today.

Born in Mexico City, Ochoa grew up at the border between Mexico and the United States, in the twin cities of Mexicali and Calexico. Dubbed "Los Angeles' Taco King", the chef currently has a restaurant in Hong Kong called "11 Westside". He also owns two restaurants in the U.S., "Mexicali Taco & Co." and "Salazar", which were included in GQ Magazine's list of Best New Restaurants in America.

Ochoa told the Times that he is set to open another concept in Mumbai, India, this September.

According to the chef, he will present dishes from the different regions of Mexico.

"We're going to do a little [presentation] of the north, south and the coast so that everybody gets a little [taste] of the general flavors of Mexico," he said.

"I feel very fortunate to be able to do what I do and to share with the world what Mexican food is



Esdras Ochoa

about; and on some occasions, use local ingredients from different countries but still use the same Mexican techniques," the chef added.

Also in attendance will be Mexican businessmen specializing in spirits, beer and traditional ingredients.

Co-organized by the Consul General of Mexico in Hong Kong, the demonstration aims to utilize gastronomy to strengthen ties be-

tween the MSAR and Mexico.

Consul General Damián Martínez Tagüena explained that food and beverage representatives will also attend in hopes of sourcing ingredients from traditional producers in Mexico.

He added that the consulate aims to bring chefs to both SARs to enhance cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

"We know the great love of food for people in Macau. The number of good restaurants per capita is impressive, [so] we're happy to bring good [Mexican] food," he said.

"The future chefs of many restaurants in hotels are training in IFT now, so by teaching them a couple of simple but effective recipes, I think it's a good step in the right direction that will have a long lasting effect," the official noted.

The Consul General of Mexico in Hong Kong also organizes trips to Mexico to visit Tequila Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its production of the famous spirit.

The official hoped that the consulate could also bring delegates from Macau.

# Wan Kuok Koi announces investment in Cambodia

**WAN** Kuok Koi, one of the most infamous and feared triad leaders before Macau's handover, has announced plans to invest in Cambodia.

On May 20, Wan appeared at the opening ceremony of the World Hongmen History and Culture Association Headquarters, in Cambodia.

"We will establish Hongmen schools in order to let foreigners and overseas Chinese study Chinese books, and to let foreigners read about [topics such as] loyalty, filial piety, benevolence, and justice," said Wan in an interview with the Hong Kong press.

"[We] want to open elderly care homes and schools. All [these projects] need money. Rich people do not dare to support Hongmen [because they are] afraid Hongmen is [a] sensitive [group]," he added.

During the ceremony, HB (Hongmen cryptocur-



Wan "Broken tooth" Kuok Koi (left) left the prison in December 2012

rency) was launched. According to Wan, he expects to issue one billion HB, each valued at one USD.

"Nowadays, blockchain is unstoppable. [...] Therefore, we issued HB to have a financial value. Afterwards, I can work on the Chinese cultural city," said Wan.

He added that Hongmen will cooperate with the state's long-term plans.

Wan, also known as "Broken Tooth", also plans to invest in e-commerce and intends to launch Hongmen-related watches, tea, hotels and casinos.

AD



## BUBBLES AND PEARLS

Champagne and oysters were made for each other. This summer at Aux Beaux Arts, celebrate indulgent weekend brunches with a bottle of Billecart-Salmon Brut Reserve and 24 savory Irish Rock oysters for just MOP888\* per set. Advanced booking is encouraged due to limited availability.

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# SARs may give voting rights to residents living in mainland

**T**HE Hong Kong government has said that it would consider giving voting rights to half a million citizens living and working in mainland China.

The proposal is part of the "Greater Bay Area" initiative and has triggered questions from the pro-democratic wing about whether such extensions should be implemented worldwide.

The Times contacted the Government Spokesperson Office to ask if the Macau SAR will consider providing such rights to locals living outside Macau's borders, namely in mainland China, but did not receive a reply by press time.

In Hong Kong, the proposal is a point of concern regarding the organization of the electoral process, as well as the coordination and supervision of work on polling stations, among others. During the weekly Legislative Council meeting on Tuesday,



the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Patrick Nip, said that all arrangements for polling outside Hong Kong must be critically examined.

"[We must consider matters] such as how the polling and counting process could be effectively monitored, as well as transportation of ballot papers

and boxes to and from polling stations outside Hong Kong," Nip was quoted as saying by the South China Morning Post.

He stated that all relevant electoral legislation, risks and unforeseen incidents have to be carefully reviewed and considered.

In response to lawmaker Starry Lee, chairwoman of the De-

mocratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong – the SAR's largest pro-government party – he added that, "promoting the 'Greater Bay Area' while denying voting rights to those who work there is contradictory."

According to the Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong, the number of Hong Kong permanent residents staying in Guangdong was estimated to be 531,000 last year, of which 42 percent are aged below 15 years old.

The current law states that only Hong Kong permanent residents who "ordinarily live" in the city can vote, and must provide proof of a local residential address to register.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Charles Mok said, "Our youngsters do not only go to the Greater Bay Area for work, but also to Taiwan and all over the world. If you launch such a policy, it must apply worldwide." **RM**

## Consultation on immigration regime ends

The public consultation of the amendment of the immigration regime ended on Wednesday. The consultation was attended by over 700 people. According to the Public Security Police Force (PSP), many residents voiced their agreement with the amendment. The government will summarize and organize all opinions before carrying out relevant amendments in an orderly manner. PSP says it will maintain close communication with all sectors within the community to further study relevant suggestions. It will refer to relevant case studies in Macau's neighboring regions to formulate more suitable immigration policies.

## Road project to occupy both San Ma Lou traffic lanes

Starting from the end of this month, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) will conduct road engineering projects at San Ma Lou, following a collision along the avenue in March this year. The construction will start June 30 and end August 31, during which time both traffic lanes will be closed. The IACM said it will try to work around the clock in order to complete the project as soon as possible. The IACM believes the project can be completed before September 1. The project, which includes the construction of a concrete pavement, is estimated to cost about MOP1.8 million.

## Five suspects arrested for involvement in phone scams

Five people from three local telecommunication shops and pawnbrokers have been taken in by the Judiciary Police (PJ) on suspicion of involvement in phone scams. The three shops were found to have transferred more than MOP710,000 to mainland bank accounts, allegedly in relation to phone scams. The five suspects consist of three local residents – who are in charge of the shops in question – and two employees (one local). The PJ does not rule out the possibility that some of the suspects were involved in a conspiracy to defraud.

# Ma unveils WeChat travel plan for Greater Bay Area

**T**ENCENT Holdings Ltd. is working with the Chinese government to create an electronic pass system that smooths travel between Hong Kong, Macau and the southern province of Guangdong.

The unusual proposal would see multiple travel documents linked to Tencent's WeChat app to streamline border crossings, the Shenzhen, Guangdong-based company said in a statement. With the 'E-card' ID system, users some day might be able to check into hotels and set up bank accounts if regulators approve, the company said.

Travelers between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau are required to have special permits, similar to visas, even though they are part of the same country. Founder Ma Huateng has been a champion for developing Tencent's home province and the former colonies into the so-called "Greater Bay Area" that could rival the region around San Francisco.

The E-card program will use a feature of WeChat known as "mini program" to allow users to link their Chinese ID card to their travel permits. WeChat has



Tencent founder Ma Huateng

more than 1 billion active users and Tencent also runs news portals, a Hollywood-like movie production and distribution network, online book stores and games including Clash of Clans.

The proposal is a follow up on ideas Ma first put forward last year during an annual legislative meeting in Beijing. While details were vague, his suggestion was written into China's government work report, and broached the idea of twinning Hong Kong's capital and financial muscle with the manufacturing prowess of Shenzhen and the Pearl River Delta region. Ma said that it could help "the long-term stability and prosperity of Hong Kong and Macau."

Ma's plans for the region compete with at least 120 so-called tech zones now getting drawn up around the country as provinces and cities seek to forge China's equivalent of Silicon Valley. All are vying for talent and capital.

Proposals to unify the Pearl River Delta elicited some concerns: critics say any plans for Hong Kong and mainland Chinese immigration and customs officials to share locations – to speed border crossings – violates the one-country two-systems framework. But the same ideas that provoke outrage in some has also aroused enthusiasm in others who say simplifying travel will increase the cities' competitiveness. **Bloomberg**

# Pension Fund drained by 2031, report predicts

**T**HE Macau Pension Fund will not be able to cover its expenses by 2031, according to the Legislative Assembly's (AL) Follow-up Committee on Public Finance Affairs.

The government has disclosed that it would invest in the retirement fund system in order to ensure the fund's continued operation.

As at the end of 2017, the fund included 9,416 working members and 3,533 retirees, with cumulative total expenditures including pensions and other subsidies estimated at MOP1.766 billion.

Some 5,095 civil servants are expected to meet the retirement requirements by 2027, with their regular retirement pensions predicted to amount to up to MOP6.2 billion.

At the end of last year, the total financial assets were MOP16.774 billion, of which approximately 77 percent were allocated to the international portfolio, with the remaining funds allocated to the

deposit portfolio. The annual return is 9.65 percent, amounting to MOP14.93 billion.

The fund owns a collection of 84 Japanese art pieces valued at MOP13.7 million. The collection, which includes pieces that date back to the 18th and 19th centuries, features works by Japanese artists Katsushika Hokusai, Kitagawa Utamaro, Suzuki Harunobu, and Ando Hiroshige. According to the report, as well as information provided by the Fund, the art collection was acquired in the late 1980s by the Portuguese administration, and has since been kept in the safe of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino. A highlight of the collection is a set of 46 prints from Hokusai, including "The Great Wave off Kanagawa," a world-famous woodblock print by the Japanese ukiyo-e art movement period artist. The fund also owns a real estate property in Lisbon valued at MOP9.6 million.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

'ROI Vs ROE'

How hard is your equity working for you?

Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property. JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



SAM LEE

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In the simplest terms, investing is putting X dollars into a business or an asset in anticipation of getting X + R dollars back in the future, where R is the rate of return.

But there is more than one way of looking at returns depending on what you use as the baseline which the returns are measured against.

Today we'll explore two critical profitability ratios, return on investment (ROI) and return on equity (ROE).

Using the Out-of-Pocket method, ROI refers to the total gains minus total expenses over a certain period divided by the out-of-pocket money invested.

This basically gives us the percentage of invested money that's recouped after the deduction of costs.

For example, if we bought a \$1,000,000 property and put down 20% from our own pocket, then saw a 20% jump in capital value and spent \$50,000 in manage-

ment and associated costs, our ROI would be (200,000-50,000)/200,000= 75% over that period.

ROE is similar to ROI but not quite the same.

Instead of measuring returns against the out-of-pocket amount, we measure it against the amount of equity you have in the property. At first your ROI and ROE will be the same or at least similar, unless you've bought the property significantly below market value and built in immediate equity into the deal.

But as time passes, an interesting phenomenon starts to happen. As the mortgage portion gets amortized and the investor gains more and more equity in the property, ROI and ROE starts to divulge.

The out-of-pocket portion used to calculate the ROI stays the same while (hopefully) the net gains increases, so ROI usually goes up over time. The story is different for ROE. While the net gains will still

go up, over time equity growth caused by both amortization and capital appreciation often outstrip the growth in net gains, resulting in a net decrease in ROE.

For example, if you purchased a property 5 years ago for \$1,000,000 and it is now worth \$1,500,000, you may still owe the bank \$700,000. Therefore, your equity is \$800,000 and this equity should be earning a minimum of 5% per year or \$40,000 in interest.

Effectively, the equity in your property is not working very hard for you anymore. This is why while conventional thought is that 'paying down' the house ASAP is good, investors take a second look and say, "not necessarily".

The way to offset the reduced ROE is simple. Refinance against the property to release the equity and invest it in a different asset or business where it will work harder for you.

Gucci aims to rival Louis Vuitton with USD12b target

AFTER surpassing Hermes, Gucci has Louis Vuitton in its sights. The Italian fashion brand, owned by Kering SA of France, aims to lift revenue to 10 billion euros (USD12 billion) from last year's 6.2 billion euros, according to an investor presentation yesterday. That would rival LVMH's Louis Vuitton, long the biggest and most profitable name in luxury.

With a 45 percent increase in sales last year driven by designer Alessandro Michele's decadent creations - crystal-coated sunglasses and painted handbags - Gucci pulled ahead of Hermes International. It's also neck-and-neck with Chanel SA but growing faster than the privately held French brand, analysts estimate.

Gucci's ambition is to become "a definitive 21st century statement of contemporary coolness," Michele said in the presentation.

Kering shares, which have risen about 35 percent this year, were down 1.5 percent at 12:55 p.m. in Paris.



Gucci and other luxury labels are riding a wave of demand led by China, where sales are surging after a multiyear slump caused by a crackdown on corruption. Gucci has been the industry's top performer since the appointment of Michele as creative director three years ago. The current upswing follows a boom-and-bust cycle for the Italian brand, whose fortunes had slumped after the departure of designer Tom Ford in 2004.

While not giving a time frame, Gucci said it aims to widen its operating margin

to at least 40 percent after reaching 34 percent last year. The new target would be nipping at the heels of Louis Vuitton, whose margin is estimated at being the highest in luxury.

To achieve the new goals, Gucci plans to increase retail space about 3 percent a year and triple online sales, which reached 270 million euros last year. It's also concentrating more on its own store network as it aims to reduce its reliance on distributors. Wholesale revenue was 14 percent of the total in 2017, down from 16 percent the prior year. Bloomberg



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# Ikea vows to tackle unsustainable consumption

**T**HE world's largest furniture retailer pledged to use only renewable and recycled materials in its products as part of a plan to have a positive impact on the world's climate by the end of the next decade.



Ikea aims to reduce more greenhouse gases than its value chain emits by 2030 and will reach that goal by "drastically reducing the climate footprint of the products and operations in absolute terms," it said in a statement yesterday. The company will for example capture and store carbon and work with suppliers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. "Climate change is no longer a distant threat, but a visible reality," the company said. It's "one of the biggest challenges that humanity faces."

By selling affordable assemble-yourself furniture on mass scale, Ikea bears some responsibility for today's throw-away culture, where products can easily be chucked out and replaced with something new. But the company, founded by the late Ingvar Kamprad in Sweden in 1943, is these days leading the way on tackling environmental challenges and is, for example, already on track toward becoming fully powered by renewable energy in the next year.

A rapidly growing global population and the increasing threat posed by climate change now "calls for even more ambitious goals and urgent action" to prevent consumption from depleting

the world's resources, it said. "Becoming truly circular means meeting people's changing lifestyles, prolonging the life of products and materials and using resources in a smarter way," Ikea Sustainability Manager Lena Pripp-Kovac said in the statement. "To make this a reality, we will design all products from the very beginning to be re-purposed, repaired, reused, resold and recycled."

As part of its latest push, Ikea will remove all single-use plastic products from the Ikea range globally by 2020 and increase the proportion of plant-based choices in its food offering. The largest Ikea franchisee, with 363 stores in 29 markets, also plans to achieve zero-emissions home deliveries and expand its home solar-energy solutions offering to all its current markets by 2025.

The measures should reduce Ikea's total climate footprint by an average of 70 percent per product by 2030, from 2016 levels. **Bloomberg**

# Foxconn chief: US-China dispute over tech, not trade

**T**HE CEO of Taiwan's Foxconn, which assembles Apple iPhones and other products for tech companies, said yesterday that Washington's dispute with China is over technology rather than trade.

Terry Gou's comments at an event celebrating the anniversary of Foxconn's first investment in mainland China follow Beijing's threat to scrap trade deals with Washington if President Trump's tariff hike on Chinese technology products goes ahead.

"This is not a trade conflict but rather a competition and comparison of technology," said Gou in a video shown in the event.

Foxconn Technology Group, also known as Hon Hai President Industry Co., is the world's biggest contract manufacturer of smartphones, computers and other technology products and is trying to develop its own brands.

Gou said he planned to take part in a groundbreaking ceremony at the end of June for a USD10 billion factory that Foxconn is set to build in Wisconsin, but he and other executives said nothing else about the company's plans there or other initiatives outside China. In the video, Gou said the "U.S. is significantly ahead of China" in areas such as jet engines and semiconductors.

"If China is to catch up, allow me to speak frankly, it must be in the areas of manufacturing technology, design and manufacturing technology," he said. "They are the real economy."

Foxconn is trying to develop beyond its roots as a low-cost assembler of products and become an advanced manufacturer and bigger player in the global supply chain. The company says its Wisconsin factory will make liquid crystal display panels for use in computers, TVs and self-driving cars. **AP**

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## HOUTOUWAN

# An abandoned village now engulfed by nature

Sam McNeil and Fu Ting,  
Houtouwan

**BLANKETED** with greenery, the ghost town is perched atop cliffs looking west into sea mists obscuring the horizon. Abandoned homes ravaged by weather and creeping vines stand silent but for the surf, the whine of mosquitos, and bird-song.

This is Houtouwan — “Back Bay” in Mandarin — an abandoned fishing village engulfed by nature on the far eastern island of Shengshan, 90 kilometers off the coast of Shanghai.

Small groups of tourists on a recent weekend braved muddy footpaths through overgrown lawns to chase foggy photographs and answers to the question: What happened to the village?

The story of the Wang family may provide one answer. Wang

Yi left the village at the age of 5 when his family moved to the island’s main town to access its better services.

When he returns to Houtouwan, the 27-year-old college graduate gathers honeysuckles for a fragrant tea that reminds him of his birthplace.

Memories of village festivals draw infectious laughter from his mother Zhu Mandi, who still dreams about her childhood among the mist-shrouded mountains next to the sea.

“I dream of playing here, and it looked like it did when we played here when I was young,” Zhu said, pointing at her former family home. Vines have since wound through the three-story house and ivy has crept through the now broken wooden front door.

The island draws tourists from the mainland intrigued by the

village’s unique devastation. Ivy cloaks some buildings completely but on many Houtouwan houses, beautiful roof tiles still gleam and broken verandas offer majestic views of the stormy sea.

Visitors must take a boat to Shengshan then a taxi up a hill to a cemetery overlooking the village, and then descend down perilous footpaths into the mist and ivy.

Huang Dan, a 22-year-old student, was among the visitors on a recent weekend who said she wanted to photograph the beauty of human structures subsumed by roots, rain, vines and wind.

“It feels like this place belonged to nature from the very beginning, and the old invaders finally left, and nature finally made it back,” she said.

The village isn’t entirely aban-

doned. Five people still reside here with a relaxed pack of dogs that roam the empty homes.

Sun Ayue lives in a small home just off the main path through the old village. The 62-year old former fisherman remembers the village’s boom times — and the bust.

China is the world’s largest fishing nation. But poor enforcement of fishing regulations has led to a rapid decline in fish stocks. Wang Yi, the college graduate, said fishermen returned from the sea with emptier and emptier nets before China imposed seasonal moratoriums on fishing operations in the late 1990s to protect fish stocks from further depletion.

Yet Sun says most of the village’s 600 families ultimately left Houtouwan because it lacked proper roads and a school.

“Transportation was inconvenient,” he said, making it difficult for teachers to get to Houtouwan from the main town Shengshan. “It was too far away. They arrived in the dark and left in the dark,” he said.

Houtouwan is “a microcosm of the entire Chinese society,” said Zhao Yeqin, an associate sociology professor at the East China

Normal University in Shanghai. The village reflects a broader migration trend that has seen countless Chinese move from rural areas to urban megacities like Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

In Houtouwan’s heyday, Lin Fazhen ran a small store in 1984 catering to fishermen. He sold cigarettes, alcohol, fishing supplies, canned food, biscuits and fruit that he imported on boats from the mainland.

“They went to the sea when the boats were sailing, and they came back when it got windy. They played mahjong,” Lin said while taking a drag from a cigarette.

When the people left, he began planting cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, celery and basil. He says he now farms more than 1,300 square meters (a third of an acre) of various plots scattered across abandoned lawns, gardens and terraces.

He chuckled when asked if the village was haunted.

“People got scared and said ghosts were living here, so it was called ghost village,” Lin said.

“I’ve lived in this world for such a long time, and have never met one.” AP

## Mystery ailment leads US to evacuate more workers from China

Josh Lederman, Washington

**THE** United States has evacuated several more government workers out of the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou after medical testing revealed they might have been affected by unexplained health incidents that have already hurt U.S. personnel in Cuba, the State Department said yesterday [Macau time].

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said “a number

of individuals” have been brought to the U.S. They are in addition to a U.S. worker in Guangzhou who was evacuated earlier, as the Trump administration had already disclosed.

The new evacuations come after the U.S. sent a medical team to Guangzhou to screen American government workers. The team arrived earlier this week, and Nauert said the medical screenings were ongoing. She said they are being offered to “any

personnel who have noted concerning symptoms or wanted baseline screening.”

A U.S. official said the evacuated Americans are being brought for testing to the University of Pennsylvania. That’s where doctors have been treating and studying patients evacuated from the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

The official wasn’t authorized to discuss the situation publicly and requested anonymity.

It wasn’t clear whether

the incidents occurred in the consulate or at the homes of diplomats and other employees, many of them located in luxury high rises.

The China incidents have raised fears the unexplained incidents that started in Cuba in 2016 have expanded. The U.S. government has deemed those incidents “specific attacks” on American workers but hasn’t publicly identified a cause or culprit. Most of the incidents were accompanied

by bizarre, unexplained sounds that initially led U.S. investigators to suspect a sonic attack.

The American government worker who was removed from China earlier reported “subtle and vague, but abnormal, sensations of sound and pressure.” China said last month that it had found no explanation.

In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said China had “said all the right things and have demonstrated their willingness to help us identify the vector which led to this medical incident.”

The China incidents affect one of the most important of the seven U.S. diplomatic outposts in the country. The Guangzhou consulate opened months after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Beijing and Washington in 1979 and moved to its new purpose-built facility in 2013.

It serves four southern provinces with a combined population of more than 204 million and processes more than 1 million visa applications of all types annually. It is also the only U.S. diplomatic installation in China authorized to process immigrant visas and handle adoptions. AP

AP PHOTO



## CHINA-RUSSIA

# Putin heads to Beijing to bolster ties as US pressure grows

Vladimir Isachenkov, Moscow

**J**UST a month after beginning his new term in office, Russian President Vladimir Putin is heading to China for a state visit, underscoring how mounting U.S. pressure is drawing the two countries increasingly close.

Russia and China have responded to the U.S. national security strategy describing them as America's top adversaries by vowing to further expand their economic, political and military cooperation. They have also sought to strengthen the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a regional grouping they created.

Beijing and Moscow's rapprochement is driven by a strong personal relationship between Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, seen as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong. The two have met 25 times — five times last year alone, according to Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov. Putin's visit begins today.

Underlining his close personal relationship with Xi, Putin told a Chinese state broadcaster in an interview aired this week the Chinese president is the only world leader whom he once invited to celebrate his birthday.

"I'll be frank with you, I hope he won't be angry at me: we had a shot of vodka and had some sausages at the end of a workday," Putin said. He praised Xi as a "comfortable partner, a good and reliable friend."

The two leaders rely on tight security controls to block challenges to their rule, and both tightened their grip on power this year; Xi by engineering a move to stay in power indefinitely and Putin, Russia's longest-serving leader since Josef Stalin, by winning another six-year term.

"They appear to have an excellent rapport," Fyodor Lukyanov, a top Moscow-based foreign policy expert. "They have similar horizons and share a common vision."

Putin has been driven closer to China by a sharp decline in

relations with the West after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea and support for a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine. Moscow is increasingly looking to Beijing for trade and investment following waves of Western sanctions targeting its vital energy sector and military industries and limiting the country's access to global financial markets.

"Over the past decades, we have developed relations that have no parallel in the world today," Putin said in the interview, referring to China and Russia.

"These relations are built on consideration of mutual interests."

Russia's hopes for better ties with the U.S. under President Donald Trump have withered, while frictions between China and Washington have sharpened over a potential trade war and American criticism of Beijing's claims to territory in the strategically vital South China Sea.

In an unusually blunt statement, the newly named Chinese defense minister, Gen. Wei Fenghe, said in April that he chose

Russia for his first trip abroad to send a signal to Washington about the increasingly close military ties between Moscow and Beijing.

"Put simply, everything the U.S. has done in an attempt to sanction Russia and curb China will make China and Russia step up cooperation in all fields," said Li Xin, director of the Shanghai Institute for Foreign Studies' Center for Russian and Central Asian Studies.

**Putin praised Xi as a 'comfortable partner, a good and reliable friend.'**

Russia and China have largely aligned their positions at the U.N. to oppose intervention in Syria and quash attempts to criticize their human rights records. They've both sought to assert their interests in North Korea talks and Moscow has backed Beijing's opposition to freedom of navigation operations by the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea.

Russia and China have conducted joint military maneuvers, including exercises in the South China Sea and last summer's joint navy drills in the Baltics. In December, the two militaries held missile defense drills intended to practice a joint response to missile threats from other countries, reflecting their shared concern about America's missile defense program.

Russia also has shared its top-of-the-line military technologies with China, providing it with batteries of the long-range S-400 air defense missiles and its latest Su-35 fighter jets.

However, while political and security cooperation has blossomed, economic ties have lagged. **AP**

## Unequal bilateral trade

**C**HINA is Russia's top trading partner, while Russia ranks 10th on Beijing's list. Exports of oil, timber and other raw materials made up the bulk of Russian exports to China, while the Chinese exports mostly consisted of industrial goods, replacing the imports of Western products blocked from sanctions.

Bilateral trade sank from nearly USD100 billion in 2014 to some \$60 billion the following year due to a sharp depreciation of the Russian currency. It has since partly recovered as the ruble has strengthened, reaching nearly \$90 billion last year.

In comparison, U.S.-China trade amounted to \$636 billion last year, with a U.S. deficit at \$375 billion.

Moscow and Beijing have pledged to boost their trade to \$200 billion by 2020 — a goal that looks overly ambitious in view of a slow pace of Russian economic growth and remaining restrictions that hamper mutual trade on both sides. New agree-

ments are due to be signed during Putin's visit, which will also feature the two leaders taking in a youth hockey game.

Beijing has also shown a renewed interest in railway and other infrastructure projects in Russia, while pursuing its Belt and Road Initiative intended to encourage development in ex-Soviet Central Asian nations.

Yu Bin, a political scientist at Wittenberg University in Ohio, sees "growing asymmetry in their national power" as China's economy continues to forge ahead and it rapidly expands its military, especially its navy. Still, differences between the sides are manageable, Yu said, and unlike their exchanges with the U.S., are seldom politicized.

Moscow continues to see Central Asia as falling within its sphere of influence and early on had reservations about China's economic expansion in the region — a reflection in part of lingering suspicion dating from their Cold War-era competition



for leadership of the Communist bloc.

However, the two have since appeared come to terms on their shared presence there, while countries in the region also appeared to hedge their bets, eagerly developing economic cooperation with China but continuing to rely on close security ties with Russia.

"Building up cooperation with China is a strategic priority for Russia," said Fyodor Lukyanov, who heads the Council for Foreign and Defense Policies.

"But there is also an understanding that each country has its own interests." **MDT/AP**

AFGHANISTAN

# President announces Ramadan cease-fire with Taliban

**A**FGHAN President Ashraf Ghani announced a weeklong cease-fire with the Taliban to coincide with the holiday marking the end of Ramadan next week.

A statement sent from the president's office yesterday says the cease-fire will begin on 27 Ramadan, or June 12 on the Western calendar, and last through the Eid al-Fitr holiday, until around June 19. It says the cease-fire does not include al-Qaida or the Islamic State group.

There was no immediate comment from the Taliban, who have steadily expanded their presence in recent years, capturing a number of districts across the country and carrying out near-daily attacks, mainly targeting Afghan security forces.

Gen. Mohammad Sharif Yaftali, the army chief of staff, told reporters that Afghan forces would be on standby throughout the cease-fire and respond to any attacks. He also said the army would continue to battle "international terrorists," apparently



referring to al-Qaida and IS.

Ghani's statement referred to a gathering of Afghanistan's top clerics on Monday in which they

issued a decree against suicide attacks and called for peace talks. A suicide bomber struck just outside the gathering as it

was dispersing, killing at least seven people and wounding 20 in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

The Taliban had denounced the gathering, insisting that its jihad, or holy war, against foreign invaders was justified. It instead urged the clerics to side with it against the "occupation."

The U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission in Afghanistan in 2014, but the U.S. still has thousands of forces based there in a support and counterterrorism role. The Trump administration has sent additional troops to try to change the course of America's longest war.

The U.S. has said it is open to an Afghan-led peace process. The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Nicholson, said last month that some elements of the Taliban are showing interest in peace talks.

In the meantime, the insurgents have continued to carry out attacks. On Wednesday, the Taliban attacked a police post in the eastern Ghazni province, killing three police and wounding five others, according to Ramadan Ali Mosseny, the province's deputy police chief.

In the eastern Khost province, a drive-by shooting at a mosque earlier this week killed four people and wounded 15, said Talib Mangal, spokesman for the provincial governor. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the shooting, and it was not clear who the target was. **AP**

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AUSTRALIA

# Turnbull backs Zuckerberg's grilling in Parliament for Huawei scandal

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**A**USTRALIA'S prime minister said yesterday he would welcome Facebook founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg testifying to an Australian parliamentary committee on the social media giant's sharing of data with Chinese phone maker Huawei.

Leaders of Australia's Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security have raised the prospect of the 34-year-old multi-billionaire being invited to explain Facebook's relationships with Huawei. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull supported the call for Zuckerberg to fly more than 12,000 kilometers from Menlo Park in California to face lawmakers in Canberra.

"I would welcome Facebook coming and testifying before our parliamentary committees, yes," Turnbull told reporters. "Of course, we'd love to see the boss."



Huawei said earlier this week it has never collected or stored Facebook user data, after Facebook acknowledged it shared such data with Huawei and other manufacturers.

Huawei, a company flagged by U.S. intelligence officials as a national security threat and barred on security grounds from involvement in Australia's National Broadband

Network, was the latest device maker at the center of a fresh wave of allegations over Facebook's handling of private data.

Chinese firms Huawei, Lenovo, Oppo and TCL were among numerous handset makers that were given access to Facebook data in a "controlled" way approved by Facebook, according to a statement Tuesday

from Francisco Varela, Facebook's vice president of mobile partnerships.

Facebook said it would end its data partnership with Huawei by the end of this week.

It's the latest privacy gaffe for Facebook since allegations emerged in March that a Trump-affiliated political consultancy firm, Cambridge Analytica, had improperly harvested data of Facebook users in an effort to influence elections.

The Australian committee, like a court, can summons witnesses to give evidence, although it is questionable whether a witness outside Australia could be compelled to attend. In practice, committees always invite rather than compel witnesses to attend hearings.

Facebook was asked by The Associated Press whether Zuckerberg would accept such an invitation.

Facebook replied with a statement yesterday: "We will be providing the Australian government with more informa-

tion about the device-integrated APIs," referring to Application Programming Interfaces that enable servers to communicate directly.

The committee's chairman Andrew Hastie and deputy chairman Anthony Byrne say Facebook owed answers to its 15 million Australian users.

"It is completely unacceptable that information from Facebook users has been slyly handed over to Huawei by Facebook," Byrne told The Australian newspaper. "I want to know why Mr. Zuckerberg allowed this to happen. If need be, he will be invited to appear" before the committee, Byrne added.

Byrne was not immediately available for comment, but his office confirmed that he had been accurately quoted.

Zuckerberg has been called to give evidence to U.S. congressional committees and the European Parliament in recent months over user privacy breaches. **AP**

AD

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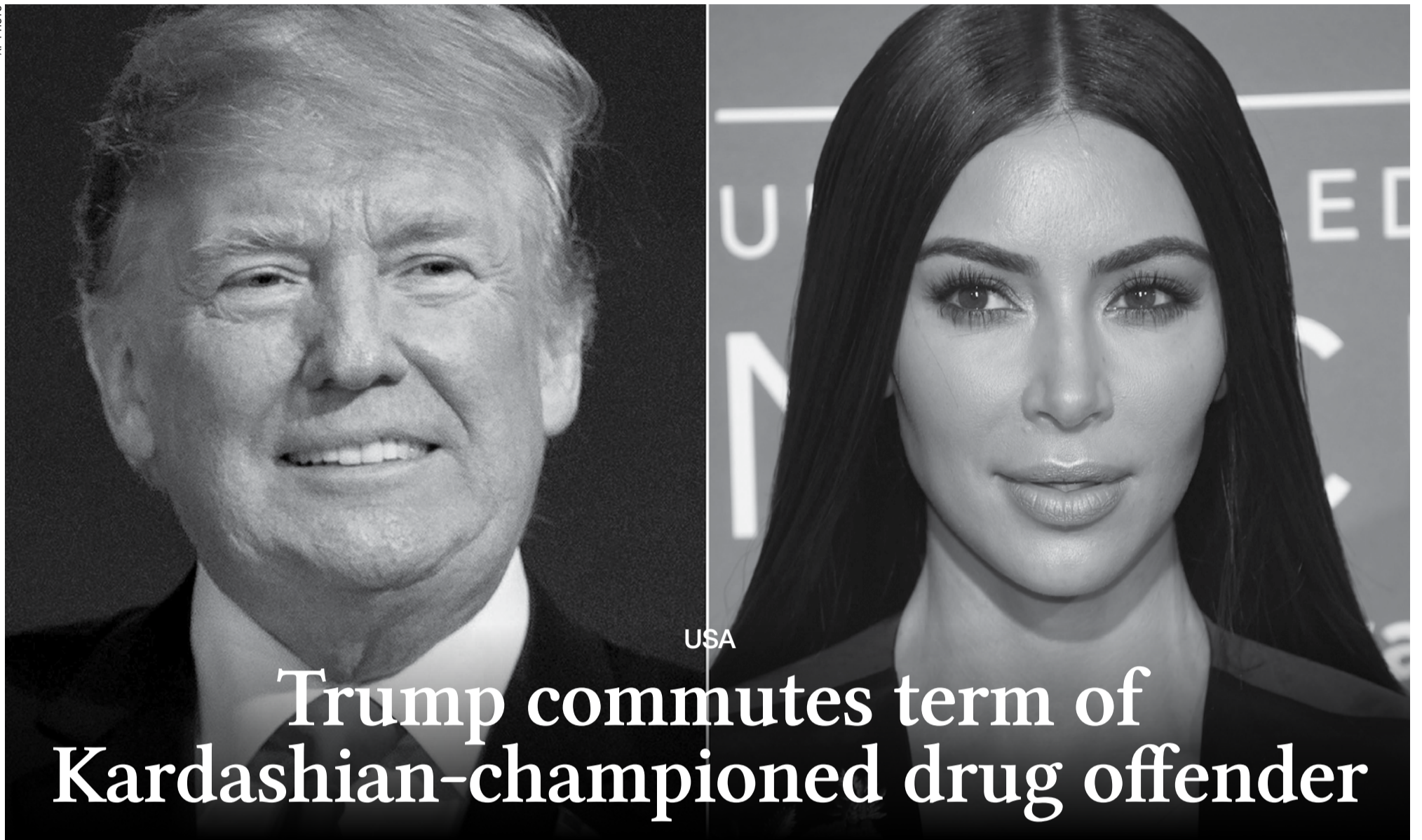
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AP PHOTO



This combination photo shows President Donald Trump and Kim Kardashian West

Jill Colvin & Zeke Miller,  
Washington

**FLEXING** his clemency powers once again, President Donald Trump yesterday [Macau time] commuted the life sentence of a woman whose cause was championed by reality TV star Kim Kardashian West.

“BEST NEWS EVER!!!!” was the exuberant Twitter response from Kardashian West, who visited the White House last week to press the case.

Alice Marie Johnson, 63, had spent more than two decades behind bars, serving life without parole for drug offenses. She was released hours after the White House announcement and ran into her family members’ arms.

Michael Scholl, a member of Johnson’s legal team, said she was released just before 6 p.m. from federal prison in Aliceville, Alabama. Footage from local news station WVTM-13 showed Johnson running toward her family, throwing her arms wide-open and embracing them in front of a crowd of onlookers.

“Everybody was crying and hugging,” Scholl said.

“I’m just so thankful. I feel like my life is starting over again,” Johnson said moments after her release, calling Kardashian West an “angel” and thanking Trump “for giving me another chance at life and restoring me to my family.”

Unlike a pardon, the commutation will not erase Johnson’s conviction, only end her sentence.

Trump’s decision, his latest inspired by a celebrity champion, comes amid a flurry of recent pardons issued by the president. He says he’s considering a long list of other clemency actions for those famous and not, including former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who is serving 14 years in prison for corruption, and celebrity homemaker Martha Stewart, who served about five months on charges connected to an insider trading case.

## ■ Alice Marie Johnson, 63, had spent more than two decades behind bars

Trump has been working outside the traditional pardon process usually overseen by the Justice Department, and has appeared to favor cases that catch his attention — because they’ve been championed by friends, celebrities or conservative media, or involve people he sees as rivals. Trump has also been drawn to cases in which he believes prosecutors may have been motivated by politics — situations that may remind him of his own predicament at the center of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian election meddling.

Trump recently pardoned conservative commentator Dinesh D’Souza, who was convicted of a campaign finance violation. And he granted a posthumous pardon to boxing’s first black heavyweight champion, which had been championed by actor Sylvester Stallone. The federal prosecutor who oversaw Stewart’s case in New York was James Comey, one of Trump’s principal antagonists and the man he fired as FBI director last year.

Some have seen the pardons as sending a message to former campaign aides now ensnared in the Mueller probe or other legal inquiries, including Trump’s longtime lawyer and legal “fixer” Michael Cohen, whose finances are under federal investigation.

Indeed, the wife of former Trump campaign aide George Papadopoulos, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his Russia contacts, appeared on Fox News this week to lobby her husband’s case.

“I trust and hope and ask to President Trump to pardon him,” Simona Mangiante Papadopoulos told Trump’s favorite network.

As he considers additional pardons, Trump is looking at cases where he can bring “relief to folks who he feels have been ‘treated unfairly,’ a term the president uses frequently to describe many different situations,” Kellyanne Conway, a top adviser to Trump, said Wednesday.

Shawn Holley, Kardashian West’s attorney who accompanied her to the White House

last week, said the reality star was the one who broke the news to Johnson on Wednesday in what she described as “the most wonderful, emotional and amazing phone call with Alice, Kim and Alice’s lawyers.”

“Once Alice’s family joined the call, the tears never stopped flowing,” Holley said in a statement.

Kardashian West described the moment via Twitter.

“Telling her for the first time and hearing her screams while crying together is a moment I will never forget.”

In a statement announcing the president’s decision, the White House said Johnson “has accepted responsibility for her past behavior” and had been a model prisoner, working hard to rehabilitate herself and serve as a mentor to fellow inmates.

“While this Administration will always be very tough on crime, it believes that those who have paid their debt to society and worked hard to better themselves while in prison deserve a second chance,” said a statement from the office of White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Attorney Brittany K. Barnett, another member of Johnson’s legal team, said Johnson felt overwhelmed with emotion and like she’s been “resurrected from the dead.”

Johnson was convicted in 1996 on eight criminal counts related to a Memphis-based cocaine trafficking operation involving more than a dozen people. The

1994 indictment describes dozens of deliveries and drug transactions, many involving Johnson.

Federal courts including the Supreme Court rejected her appeals. Court records show she had a motion pending for a reduction in her sentence, but prosecutors were opposed, saying the sentence was in accord with federal guidelines based on the large quantity of drugs involved.

Her clemency had also been rejected by President Barack Obama, who commuted the sentences of hundreds of federal inmates convicted of drug crimes.

Kardashian West visited the White House last month to meet with Trump son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, who is overseeing the administration’s push to overhaul the nation’s prison system. She also met with Trump in the Oval Office, a photograph of which the president posted on Twitter.

Kardashian West thanked the president and his team and said Johnson’s commutation “is inspirational and gives hope to so many others who are also deserving of a second chance.”

The decision to commute Johnson’s sentence was advocated by Kushner and Trump’s eldest daughter, Ivanka. Others, including White House counsel Don McGahn and chief of staff John Kelly, were less enthusiastic, according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. **AP**

Mark Stevenson & Sonia Perez D., San Miguel Los Lotes

AP PHOTO

GUATEMALA VOLCANO

# Weather and danger hinder search



**T**ROUBLESOME rain and more volcanic activity are hindering search and rescue efforts around Guatemala's Volcano of Fire, but when teams have been able to work in the hardest hit areas the death toll has continued to rise.

Efforts were cut short again yesterday [Macau time] when a downpour forced teams to retreat for fear of mudslides. Boiling water flowing down the volcano's slopes from dangerously hot volcanic gas and ash also posed a threat. A day earlier, flows of super-heated volcanic material forced crews to pull back.

But between stoppages, search teams working with shovels and heavy equipment found more bodies from Sunday's big eruption. Remains were loaded into body bags and carried out on stretchers.

Guatemala's National Institute of Forensic Sciences raised the death toll to 99 late in afternoon, an increase of 24 bodies for the day. Only 28 of the total had been identified. At least 197 people were listed as missing.

"Nobody is going to be able to get them out or say how many are buried here," Efrain Suarez said,

standing amid the smoking holes dotting what used to be the village of San Miguel Los Lotes on the flanks of the mountain.

"The bodies are already charred," the 59-year-old truck driver said. "And if heavy machinery comes in they will be torn apart."

Rescuers poked metal rods into the ground, sending clouds

of smoke pouring into the air in a sign of the super-hot temperatures still remaining below the surface, which firefighters said reached as high as 400 to 700 degrees Celsius in some places.

A day after a new evacuation was ordered due to increasing activity by the volcano, a red alert remained in place for the depart-

ments of Escuintla, Sacatepequez and Chimaltenango, and people were advised not to linger near the affected zones.

The country's seismology and volcanology institute warned of new flows descending through canyons on the volcano's western slope toward the Pantaleon River, carrying boulders and tree trunks.

At a shelter in the Murray D. Lincoln school in the city of Escuintla, about 15 kilometers from the volcano's peak, Alfonso Castillo said he and his extended family of 30 had lived on a shared plot in San Miguel Los Lotes where each family had its own home.

The volcano is one of Central America's most active, and everyone was accustomed to rumbling and spewing smoke, so at first nothing seemed unusual Sunday, the 33-year-old farm worker said. But then a huge cloud of ash came pouring out.

"In a matter of three or four minutes the village disappeared," Castillo said.

The family holed up in a house that heated up "like a boiler" inside, he said, then made their way onto the roof and then to the upper story of another, concrete home. After a cellphone call to Castillo's brother, rescuers arrived and took the family to safety.

But the life they knew was gone. "Nobody wants to go back there. My children say they would rather be in the streets. [...] There are many people who are helping us, but we have absolutely nothing. We could not get anything out," Castillo said. "For us, there is no tomorrow." AP

AD

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## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:50	Miscellaneous
18:25	Miscellaneous
18:55	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
23:55	Movie
01:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:35	RTPi Live

## SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Grimm Sr. 3
22:30	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
23:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

## SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Brainstorm
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

## Offbeat

## FRENCH FASHION POWERHOUSE SAINT LAURENT TAKES NEW JERSEY

Saint Laurent decamped from Paris to New Jersey for a menswear show with a shine that matched the glittery Manhattan nightscape just across the downtown harbor.

Creative director Anthony Vaccarello, in his first turn in town, put his guests on a high platform and his models, both men and women, on a liquid black marble runway overlooking New York's twinkly skyscrapers on the other side of the water.

His clothes? They were mostly black, silver and gold, with snakeskin touches here and there, including a rustic tan jacket that evoked, what, the American West? Also plentiful: bandanas.

The finale came in a march of bare-chested men painted in silver glitter to go with their black disco pants.

Vaccarello's vision, he said after the show, was indeed an urban cowboy, one fond of 1970s short jackets paired with high-waisted trousers. Some had on killer boots in white leather and snakeskin. There were also black hats, wide-brimmed ones, red cowboy shirts, silver belts and a lacy open weave in a long-sleeve top.

"New York is freedom, a city brimming with energy and possibilities," Vaccarello said, "the perfect backdrop to frame the spirit of this menswear collection," one that had him crossing boundaries by putting women in the same clothes.



## cinema



## CINETEATRO

07 JUN - 13 JUN



## JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

ROOM 1

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

Director: J.A. Bayona

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, BD Wong

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



## THE WALL

ROOM 2

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

Director: Doug Liman

Starring: Aaron Taylor-Johnson, John Cena

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 119min



## DESTINY: THE TALE OF KAMAKURA

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Takashi Yamazaki

Starring: Masato Sakai, Mitsuki Takahata

Language: English (Chinese)

## CODE GEASS LELOUCH OF THE REBELLION II

ROOM 3

2:30, 5:00, 9:30pm

Director: Goro Taniguchi

Starring: Jun Fukutama, Takahiro Sakurai, Yukana

Language: Cantonese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 149min

## LOVE CHUNIBYO AND OTHER DELUSIONS

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Tatsuya Ishihara

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

## this day in history



## 2000 BLAIR 'HANDBAGGED' BY THE WI

Prime Minister Tony Blair has been given a hostile reception by Women's Institute members, who heckled and slow hand-clapped a speech he gave to their conference.

After what Mr Blair had hoped would be an address to win back the political initiative from the Tories, he received poor applause and drew criticism from some of the 10,000 audience members.

Some women even walked out in protest, saying the speech was too long and too overtly political.

One was heard to say: "This is just not on. This is the WI. We are not here for this."

Mr Blair used his speech to the WI conference at Wembley, in London, to stress that traditional values lay at the heart of Labour's policies.

He said: "I try to distinguish between the genuine values which underpin the best of Britain and the attitudes we can safely, rightly leave behind."

"Old fashioned values are good values, but old fashioned attitudes and practices can sometimes hold those values back."

Returning from paternity leave, Mr Blair explained how the birth of his son Leo had given him a "renewed sense of purpose", and he called for a revival of respect and responsibility in British civic society.

But the hand-clap protest, which began mid-speech, threatened to gather pace, before WI chairman Helen Carey appealed for members to listen politely.

The prime minister appeared uneasy and dropped a section of the speech about the NHS.

Downing Street later said there was no significance in that and it had only been done to save time.

Conservative leader William Hague dismissed the speech as "just words".

He said: "People's disappointment in the government is that they are not actually delivering anything".

Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy accused Labour of failing to develop a coherent philosophy.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Following the embarrassment of the speech itself, Downing Street became entangled in a row about whether Mr Blair had actually been invited to address the WI at all.

WI leaders said the prime minister had approached them about a speech, while Number 10 insisted the invitation had come from the organisation itself.

The WI began as an educational movement in the 1920s and now has more than 260,000 members in 8,000 local groups.

Although traditionally considered the reserve of blue-rinsed ladies who enjoy making jam, the WI has actively campaigned on issues such as the future of post offices, human rights and third world debt.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Deadlines can wait, and there are not going to be any fires erupting any time soon. Relax your mind and stay close to home (or any other place where you feel you can totally be yourself).

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Put yourself in as many challenging situations as possible and you will see yourself shine brighter than ever before. This is merely the tip of the iceberg for you as you enter into a more powerful phase than you've ever known.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

It's going to be a day of exaggerated reactions to everyday situations - if someone cuts in front of you in line, it will feel like a personal attack, and if someone smiles in your general direction.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you feel like you've been through an emotional wringer, take heart - you're due for a break soon. Your exceptional attitude has made everything go much more smoothly than it could have, so good for you!

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

The very first step to getting what (or whom) you've been wanting is to express it. Saying it out loud makes it real and lets the universe know that you've got some expectations it can help fill.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You're coming out of an introspective period in your life - as you emerge from your cocoon, encourage more communication with the people you love. Try to answer all your phone calls.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Connecting with other people and sharing ideas is a wonderful thing, but at a certain point, someone needs to take the ball and run with it. You should be that person. Use your charm to get people motivated.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Without disrespecting anyone's privacy or personal space, you can put yourself in the right place at the right time and hear some amazing things. We're talking about insider info.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The games people play can get highly competitive, but everyone's machinations will be harmless and collaborative. Step into the middle of the action and just focus on having fun!

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Consider yourself lucky if you're relegated to support staff in someone's big project or life event right now. The time you spend making things come together will be well-spent (and easier on your schedule).

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

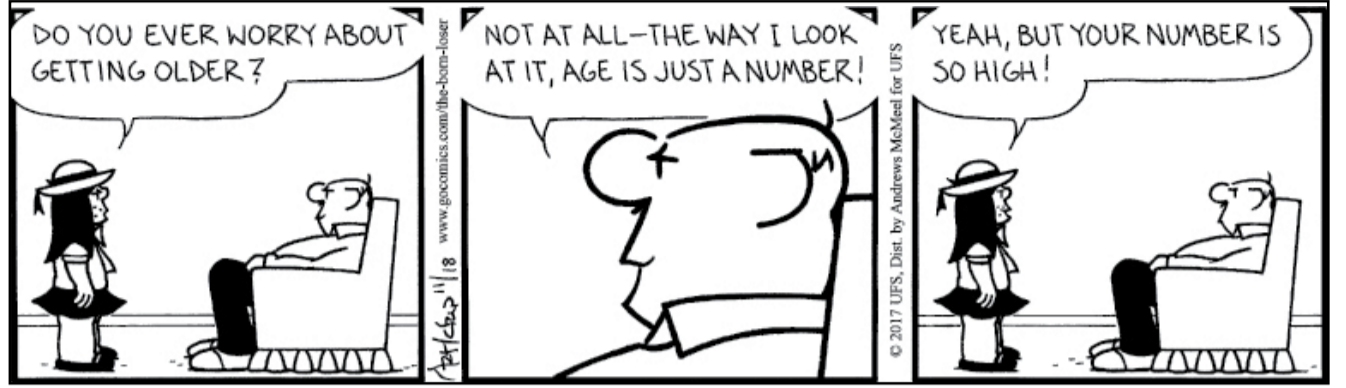
You will have a nourishing effect on anything you come into contact with, as your words and actions can help things grow a lot more quickly. Speak the truth in every situation and good things will result.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Been thinking about redecorating? Redecorating yourself, that is? Sure you are. You've been thinking about it for days, and maybe even longer, in fact. If you're ready to take the first step, physically.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather forecasts for various Chinese cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table of weather forecasts for various world cities including Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Bundle; 5- Atari founder Bushnell; 10- Male swine; 14- \_\_\_ instant; 15- Rock concert venue; 16- Nautically sheltered; 17- Kidney-shaped seed; 19- Part of a bird's beak; 20- Ruhr Valley city; 21- Bulrush; 23- Use an abacus; 25- Vertical face of a stair; 26- Ardent; 29- Harness part; 31- City in Tuscany; 35- Diddley and Derek; 36- Tournament favorite; 37- Cossack chief; 38- Court order; 40- Tonsil's neighbor; 41- Takes by theft; 42- Author \_\_\_ Stanley Gardner; 43- Uno + due; 44- \_\_\_ la vista; 45- \_\_\_ spumante; 46- Afternoon affairs; 47- Uncle!; 49- Student's conveyance; 51- Go before; 54- Oscar de la \_\_\_; 58- Author Morrison; 59- Captivating; 63- Footless animal; 64- Examine account books; 65- Swing around; 66- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 67- Take care of; 68- Cornerstone abbr.;

DOWN: 1- Bicycle; 2- Black cuckoos; 3- Scottish boys; 4- Group of nine; 5- Negative vote; 6- Globe; 7- Shelter; 8- Alevite alternative; 9- Grandmas; 10- Camel having two humps; 11- Olive genus; 12- Ethereal; Prefix; 13- Rod's partner; 18- Wrap up; 22- Exam taker; 24- Women's wear; 25- Free; 26- Make ashamed; 27- River of Ghana; 28- Capri and Man; 30- Shoe width; 32- Ham it up; 33- Monetary unit of Nigeria; 34- Peaks of Peru; 36- Farm storage; 37- Go off-script; 39- Substance for killing rats; 40- Illustrative craft; 42- Ending for legal or Japan; 45- Wide street; 46- Deadly fly; 48- Concepts; 50- Vase; 51- School orgs.; 52- Thick cord; 53- Slaughter in Cooperstown; 55- Guitarist Lofgren; 56- Hardware fastener; 57- Got on in years; 60- Alphabet trio; 61- Strike; 62- From \_\_\_ Z;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88




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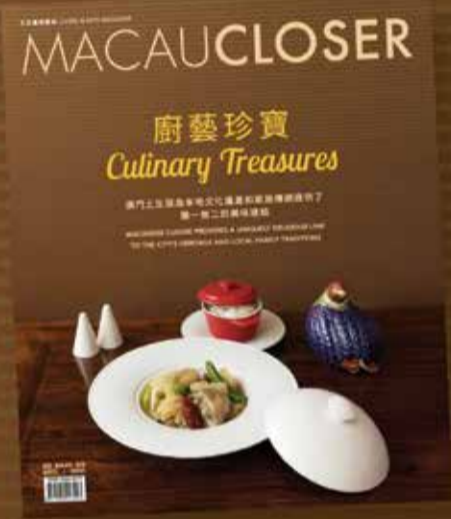

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WORLD CUP 2018

# Here's one prediction: Brazil beats Spain to win the tournament

Stephen Wade

**I**F you're looking for a favorite when the World Cup opens next week in Russia, it's Brazil. Spain will be the losing finalist.

If real outsiders are of interest, two to consider are Latin American teams Colombia and Peru.

Those are some of the findings from an analysis of the 32-team World Cup field run by Graceno-te, a U.S.-based sports and entertainment provider that's done simulations of possible outcomes.

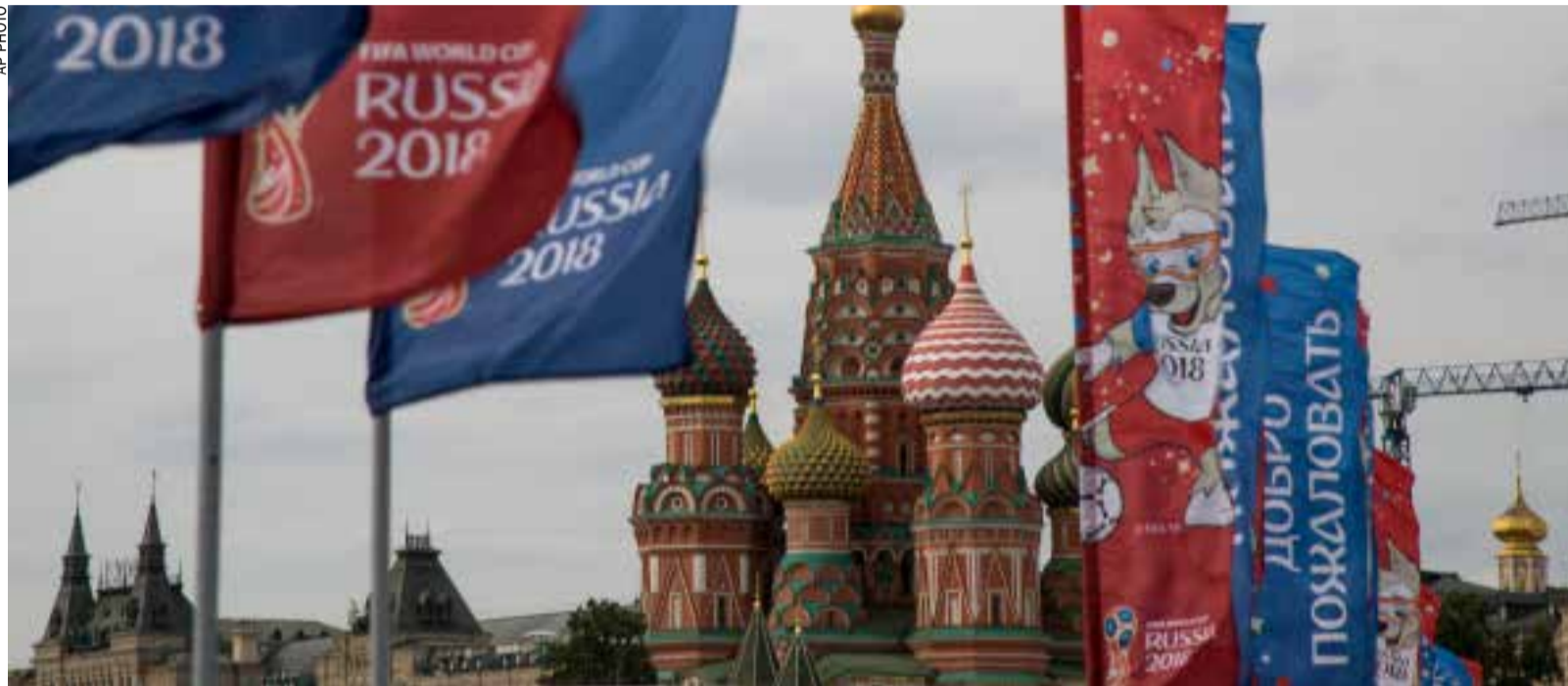
Of course, Graceno-te is one of many World Cup predictions out there. It gets some extra credence because it's using the Elo system, which was originally devised to rank skill levels of chess players. It's now used to rank the relative strength of American baseball football teams.

Simon Gleave, who ran the World Cup analysis for Graceno-te, says Brazil has just over a 21 percent chance of winning its sixth World Cup. Spain, Germany, and Argentina are ranked next in that order. Spain has a 10 percent chance, and Germany and Argentina are listed at 8 percent.

"We have Brazil as the favorite, and we have Spain as the other finalist. This is the most likely scenario," Gleave told The Associated Press in an interview.

Rather than have a few "experts" size up the teams, Gleave uses the Elo system and runs millions of simulations to determine the chances of each team at each stage of the tournament.

Here are predictions for the order of finish in each group and each team's percentage chance to



reach the final 16 stage.

In the group stage, the top two teams advance to knock-out play. The top team from Group A plays the second-place team in Group B, and the second-place team in A plays the top team in B. Groups C-D, E-F, and G-H work the same way.

Gleave has Brazil, Spain, Germany and Argentina into the last

four. If that happens, it means Brazil would face South American rival — bitter rival — Argentina in one semifinal, with Europeans Germany and Spain in the other.

"What happens historically with these types of competitions," Gleave said, "is there's a fairly good chance that one of these four teams won't make it to the

semifinals. But I can't say who they are going to be replaced by."

France would be a good candidate. Or Belgium or England or Uruguay.

Only eight nations have ever won the World Cup. And since England won its only title in 1966, only six have lifted the sport's most coveted trophy: Germany, Brazil, Spain, France, Argentina and Italy.

The Italians didn't qualify this time.

If you like outsiders and underdogs, Gleave says there's an almost a 50-50 chance that this year's winner will not be among the other five.

This is where Colombia and Peru come in.

Gleave has Colombia ranked No. 5 in the world, far above its FIFA ranking of 16.

Colombia reached the quarter-finals four years ago in Brazil, losing to the host nation. Colombia is favored to win Group H and face either England or Belgium in the round of 16. It is ranked higher than either by Graceno-te.

Gleave has Peru ranked No. 7. This again is above the FIFA rankings of 11. Peru should get a boost by the return from a doping ban of captain Paolo Guerrero.

If Peru wins Group C, it would probably face Croatia or Iceland in the knock-out round. Peru has beaten both in recent friendlies. France is the other favorite to win Group C.

"We know eventually surprises will come in," Gleave said. "But Colombia and Peru look better in the results we have than fans might expect." AP

## GROUPS PERCENTILE ODDS

- Group A** — Uruguay (77 percent), Russia (60), Egypt (36), Saudi Arabia (27)
- Group B** — Spain (76), Portugal (58), Iran (35), Morocco (30)
- Group C** — France (69), Peru (68), Denmark (35), Australia (27)
- Group D** — Argentina (82), Croatia (57), Iceland (35), Nigeria (27)
- Group E** — Brazil (90), Switzerland (51), Costa Rica (31), Serbia (28)
- Group F** — Germany (79), Mexico (60), Sweden (34), South Korea (27)
- Group G** — England (71), Belgium (71), Tunisia (32), Panama (26)
- Group H** — Colombia (77), Poland (50), Senegal (45), Japan (29)

## ON THE ROAD TO WORLD CUP

# Shootout decides World Cup match for first time

**F**OR many, the 1982 semifinal match between France and West Germany is the greatest World Cup game of them all.

It had everything — goals, high drama, arguably the worst foul in the tournament's history and, for the first time at the World Cup, a penalty shootout.

Taking place on a hot evening in southern Spain, the two teams took the field in Seville knowing that the winner would meet Italy in the final three days later. The Azzurri had comfortably beaten Poland 2-0 earlier



In this July 8, 1982 file photo, West Germany's Klaus Fischer scores the third goal and equalizes, in the World Cup semifinal soccer match against France, in Seville

that day, the in-form Paulo Rossi netting twice.

If history was all that mattered, then two-time cham-

pion West Germany would have been the clear favorite. France, after all, had never made it to the final.

But following an opening loss to England, the team marshalled by mid-field great Michel Platini was emerging as a potential winner. West Germany, by contrast, had barely got into its stride, grinding out the results it needed to make the semifinals.

When France took a 3-1 lead halfway through the first period of extra time with a sublime strike from Alain Giresse, the match looked over. But goals from Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Klaus Fischer brought West Germany level.

In the shootout, the first one to miss was West Germany midfielder Uli Stielike, who was taking his team's third penalty. Didier Six missed France's fourth and the shootout eventually went to sudden death after Rummenigge and Platini converted. After Horst Hrubesch made it 5-4 for West Germany, the pressure on Maxime Bossis was immense. His effort was saved by Harald Schumacher and West Germany was through to the final.

Schumacher was exceptionally lucky to still be on the field. In the 57th

minute, France substitute Patrick Battiston was superbly put through on goal by Platini and Schumacher charged out. After nudging the ball past Schumacher and just wide of the goal, Battiston was felled by the goalkeeper, who had recklessly charged out.

Battiston ended up unconscious, but Schumacher was unmoved. The referee gave nothing.

Italy won the final 3-1 — with the support of most neutrals.

For France, that semifinal loss remains the "Tragedy of Seville."

opinion

**Bizcuits**

Leanda Lee



**TRAFFIC FINES: IT'S YOU, NOT US**

When there is an outrage over laws or when the general law-abiding community starts flouting the law, it is probably the law that is unfair or misdirected, not community behaviour that is at fault.

The suggestion by the government to change traffic laws to respond to "clear changes that occurred with the development of society and the new traffic conditions" has angered many.

Laws must reflect the environment, the values of the time and the needs to the community and meet the common good. Laws need to change as the situation, technologies and values change.

Laws, also, are not the only way to solve problems that a community has. Human behaviour, good and bad, is a complex mix of will, ability, opportunity and the local situation which means that environmental circumstances can be blamed for inappropriate behaviours even more than individuals can be blamed. In truth, it's the interaction between the person and the environment that determines how we behave. Do we park our cars illegally? Yes, because legitimate car-parks are full, cost too much, are too far from where we want to go, there are not enough of them, taxi-drivers scare the bejeebers out of us, public transport is crowded and maybe because we are willing to bear the risk of a fine given all the above.

Just like the mediocre manager assesses a worker's performance without regard for what part the organisation has played, the proposed ideas on the new traffic laws and latest decisions, from increased fines to the addition of penalty points, implicitly places the onus for road behaviour on individuals. Ignored is part the authorities may have played in the current congested state of affairs.

Like the child who drops and breaks a glass and cries that the "glass broke", the government's tortoise-speed reaction to a completely unsurprising "development of society" – the appallingly unmanaged road traffic congestion on 30.8 square kilometres with 656,700 in population and 113,972 automobiles and 123,930 motorbikes – does not engender sympathy.

The limited road resources were always limited and are to become more so. Doing little about a pending and developing issue that had been foreseen for a decade at least, is a management choice. Laissez-faire management, yes, but a choice nonetheless. It did not just happen, the glass didn't break; the overcrowding of our streets is a choice, they broke the glass.

It was their choice not to invest in effective traffic control systems, not to make difficult decisions to stem the growth of the number of vehicles, not to impose structural and evidence-based disincentives to private road travel used to effect in Hong Kong or Singapore or the City of London, not to improve public transport ahead of and at a pace required of population growth. It was by design that it was just left to organic and emerging trends (aka the free market) to sort it out, until we reached a point of crisis.

There has been no comfortable point of equilibrium where we each decided give up our cars, because even with jarringly slow travel, crowded streets and the risk of parking fines, it is still better than any alternative.

Yet, nothing changes. Instead of fixing the causes of the problem – there's a reason the large majority of the 860,000 fines handed out in 2017 were for illegal parking - Macau just plays around the edges with more penalties to fix the bad behaviour of road users.

The naughty road users will just be naughtier by degree with a doubling of fines and heavier penalties because it's not about the user, it's about the shoddy road system they use. Get the environment, the systems, the infrastructure and the incentives right in the first place, and there will be no reason to infringe.

**THE SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT BUZZ NORTH KOREA AHEAD OF SUMMIT**

The foreign minister of Singapore is making a two-day visit to North Korea ahead of next week's U.S.-North Korea summit in the Southeast Asian city-state.

Singapore's Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement that Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan is in Pyongyang for two days until today at the invitation of North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho. Balakrishnan will also meet Kim Yong Nam, the

president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly. Kim Yong Nam is a senior official who went to South Korea as part of his country's delegation to the Winter Olympics in February.

The statement did not indicate what would be discussed.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is to meet President Donald Trump on June 12 at a resort hotel in Singapore.

TOURISM

**Go-karts on deck 19, laser tag coax cruisers to open wallets**

ON the new Norwegian Bliss, cruise passengers can drive go-karts on a two-story racetrack, listen to a Beatles cover band inside a replica of Liverpool's Cavern Club or play laser tag in a space-themed, outdoor arena.

Those are just three of the dozen or so entertainment options on the ship, which cost USD1 billion to build and will ply Alaskan waters this summer and the Caribbean in the winter. Prices for a one-week Alaska trip in mid-July range from \$2,800 per couple for an inside cabin to more than \$11,000 for the company's exclusive Haven suites.

Gone are the days when entertainment at sea consisted of a lounge act near the mini casino and shuffleboard on the lido deck. As Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd., Carnival Corp. and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. build ever larger vessels and try to lure younger guests, they're unleashing an arms race to deliver ever more-elaborate onboard activities.

Norwegian, the oldest and smallest of the three big operators, ripped up the traditional model of cruise dining 18 years ago when it allowed guests to spontaneously choose which restaurant they wanted to eat at, with no assigned tables or dinner times, a concept it called freestyle



cruising.

Since then, the line has tweaked that model by adding "specialty" restaurants that charge a little extra for guests who want say a rib-eye steak (\$20) and truffle oil mashed potatoes (\$3) instead of the fare in the main dining room. It's also begun offering well-heeled travelers a pricey-enclave within its ships called the Haven, with separate pools, spas and places to dine.

Other cruise lines, though usually not the highest-end ones, have copied the Norwegian model of offering restaurant options with additional charges for meals. Now Norwegian, which like its main rivals is based in Miami, is asking guests to pay a bit more for entertainment.

The go-karts on the Bliss cost \$9.95 for eight laps, while the laser tag is \$5 for about

10 minutes of galactic warfare. The adults-only "Happy Hour Prohibition - the Musical" costs \$24, including gratuities.

Many entertainment options on the Bliss are free, including two water slides, the Beatles show and a couple of big musical revues including "Jersey Boys," an almost full-length version of the Broadway hit. Some nights the comedy club turns into a silent disco, where patrons wear headphones and can dance and sing along to different songs than the person next to them.

The strategy is paying off. Norwegian said its onboard revenue is tops among the big cruise operators. It also leads in terms of overall revenue from onboard extras, like drinks, gambling and shore excursions. **Bloomberg**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Secretariat, Royal House of the Netherlands via AP



Royal tragedy. The youngest sister of Queen Maxima of Holland, the 33-year-old Ines Zorreguieta (back row, second from left), has been found dead in her apartment in Argentina's capital in a presumed suicide.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	80-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	80-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



**IRAQ**'s prime minister yesterday ordered an investigation into overnight explosions that tore through a mosque in Baghdad as officials raised the casualty toll to 18 dead and 38 wounded.

**TURKEY-GREECE** Turkey has suspended a bilateral agreement with Greece allowing Athens to return migrants to Turkey, in retaliation for Greece's failure to extradite eight Turkish officers who fled to Greece after Turkey's failed 2016 military coup.

**SWEDEN** An Uzbek man who drove a stolen truck into a crowd in Stockholm, killing five people and wounding 14 others, was convicted yesterday of terror-related murder and given a life sentence.

**GERMANY** Authorities have arrested four Iraqis suspected of membership in the Islamic State group, including one who is alleged to have carried out attacks that killed and wounded U.S. troops.



**BRITAIN** Prime Minister Theresa May forged a compromise with senior members of her government yesterday, agreeing that any interim arrangement to maintain customs links with the European Union after the U.K. leaves the bloc would be expected to last until the end of 2021 at the latest.

**SPAIN** The government cabinet with the highest proportion of female ministers in Spanish and European history was sworn in yesterday, putting the cap on one of the fastest power transitions in Spain's four decades of democratic rule.

**VENEZUELA** Officials have released two Chevron employees who were arrested in April amid a national anti-corruption investigation.