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CHILDBIRTH FEES

Restrictive rules for low-income migrant aid

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How to transfer a voucher:

- Self-service kiosk
- Mobile app
- Website

In case of doubts with the above methods, assistance will be provided at the Support Centre and the premises of enrolled doctors under the Scheme 2018.

WORLD BRIEFS



US Hawaii's Kilauea volcano destroyed 26 homes and spewed lava hundreds of feet into the air, leaving evacuated residents unsure how long they might be displaced.
 More on p15

EAST TIMOR Independence hero Xanana Gusmao has called on supporters not to be provoked after campaigning for next weekend's elections was marred by violence.
 More on p12



RUSSIA Vladimir Putin took the oath of office yesterday for his fourth term as Russian president, promising to pursue an economic agenda that would boost living standards across the country.

More on backpage



China fires back after US blasts 'Orwellian' rule for airlines

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GAMING

Morpheus to operate without junkets



PHOTO ARCHIVE

MELCO Resort's upcoming resort, Morpheus, is set to rely on its own database in acquiring high-rollers instead of following the practice usually employed by casinos, which is to use junket companies to lure in VIPs.

"Eventually it's much better to develop your own database than rely on junkets," said Lawrence Ho, chairman and CEO of Melco Resorts.

The USD1.1 billion hotel tower designed by the late architect Zaha Hadid will feature 780 rooms, restaurants, an executive lounge, a sky pool and VIP gaming, and villas at the top floors. The resort is slated to open next month.

Ho has previously clarified that Melco Resorts will only be moving some tables from its properties to Morpheus, as the new hotel tower fea-

tures VIP and premium mass gaming tables.

He said last year that the new hotel tower would have space to accommodate up to 50 gaming tables.

Ho also remained positive about the city's improved gaming revenues, as April's results marked the 21st month of gains, recording a 28 percent surge.

"Year-to-date growth right now is well over 20 percent. It will normalize but will still blow out the original expectations," he told Reuters.

The son of the 96-year-old tycoon, Stanley Ho, also noted that he had distanced himself from his father's legacy, establishing his own empire.

"From day one, creating Melco was to be separate from that empire," Ho said.

"Everything we have done... we have tried to do it our way," Ho added.

With a market capitalization of USD15.9 billion, Melco, has a license until 2022. According to Ho, the government has provided little detail on the licensing renewals for the six local casino operators.

"We are very interested in what the rebidding and the renewal process will be. The Macau government and even in Beijing they have kept it very close to their hearts right now," he said.

The CEO also mentioned that the operator's project in Cyprus will open a temporary casino by this summer, along with a full integrated resort by 2021.

Early this year, it announced its first 500 job opportunities for the project. **LV**



ARTS

'I upload therefore I exist' opens today

THE exhibition "I upload therefore I exist" by Wong Weng Io will open today at 6.30 p.m. at Casa Garden.

Wong Weng Io (Yoyo) was born in Macau in 1993. She finished Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) with First Class Honours at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. She is now based in Macau and was selected by Babel Cultural Organization for New Visions 2018, a program designed to identify and promote young artists.

Curated by Margarida Saraiva, the exhibition presents large scale artwork installations, titled "The Omnipresence of Text", "The Omnipresence of Images", "The Omnipresence of Complex" and "Past".

"The Omnipresence of Text" is inspired by the Ether, a science fiction novel set in the United States, written by Zhang Ran, a Chinese author born in 1981. In the setting of a future society, free-thinking citizens find no other space other than sign language to express their views due to omnipresence of surveillance. Wong Weng Io uses quotes from the novel, printed in hundreds of small papers, the text partially

blocked by a black marker.

As the spectator walks inside the gallery, the artist explores "The Omnipresence of Images". In the second room of the Casa Garden, walls are covered with 1200 postcards with images belonging to three different categories: "The World", "Humans" and "Rubbish". All the images were transformed into postcards, displayed along very long shelves, geometrically, rigorously and systematically organized.

The third room presents "The Omnipresence of Complex", composed of one hundred screens in a dark room. On the screens, selected quotes from robots questioning humans appear, such as "How do you know you are human?" or "Are you real? Am I real?" or even responses to questions about the future.

The last room addresses the question of time, memory, personal data and change. An artwork titled "Past", features all the personal data and memories of the artist's last 2000 days of life. The past becomes a pile of worthless different "containers" of information analogous to sound tapes, impossible to access due to technological progress.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Consulate Woes – Follow up

Dear Editor,

The Australian Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macau has written a letter to the editor in response to my article about the Consulate that appeared in Macau Daily Times on April 25. I would like to comment on the Consul's response as follows.

The Consulate does visit Macau to provide some limited services once a month. To me this seems a very limited visitation schedule and the services offered are also very limited. For example, in response to my recent

query they cannot give any advice on my American wife getting residency in Australia – in Macau or even if I visit the consulate in Hong Kong. It seems that all they can do is get paid to issue passports, but provide no assistance to the many Australians living in the region who want assistance in getting their spouses and families Australian residency.

On this topic, it seems rather exorbitant to me for the Australian government to charge over AUD7,000 just to process residency applications. No doubt it is just another way for the go-

vernment to limit Asian immigration – and I, for one, am sick to death of apologizing for Australia's insulting position on such matters. For instance, most Asian countries give Australians visa free access without any reciprocity, and I do not understand why they tolerate this situation.

The Consul also states that it supports trade and investment between Hong Kong, Macau and Australia. Again, this has not been my experience. In the past I have contacted Aus-Trade a few times to investigate trade and business opportunities. In every

case I got zero assistance and help. They seemed purely focused on exporting commodities from Australia and they seemed to know significantly less about the regional markets than I did.

I stand by my position. They seem to only exist to be paid to issue passports and notarize selected documents. In my long experience, they provide very little assistance to Australians and their families living in the region.

Sincerely,
Dr Richard Whitfield

China slams US criticism of its 'Orwellian' demand

CHINA isn't backing down after the White House called an order for airlines to stop referring to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as countries "Orwellian nonsense."

The foreign ministry in Beijing said yesterday that all three places "are indivisible parts of China." Hong Kong and Macau answer to Beijing, despite having different currencies, separate financial systems and elected legislators, while Taiwan is a democracy that has resisted rule by the mainland.

"Regardless of what the U.S. will say or do, it will not change the fact that there is only one China in the world," spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular briefing, reiterating a statement Sunday. "We urge foreign companies to respect China's territorial integrity and sovereignty, respect Chinese laws and the feelings of the Chinese people. Those are the basics they need to do when they open and operate businesses in China."

The spat comes shortly after a high-level U.S. delegation returned from two days in Beijing with little to show for talks aimed at averting a trade war between the world's two biggest economies. Taiwan has emerged as another potential flash point, with U.S. President Donald Trump signing a law allowing high-level diplomatic visits there and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping launching military drills in the Taiwan Strait and warning that Beijing's authority over the island



was non-negotiable.

The White House on Saturday condemned China's efforts to control how U.S. airlines refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, saying the push to make them comply with Chinese standards is "Orwellian nonsense."

China's Civil Aviation Administration has demanded the change from 36 foreign

airlines, including some American carriers, according to the White House.

President Donald Trump will "stand up for Americans resisting efforts by the Chinese Communist Party to impose Chinese political correctness on American companies and citizens," press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement.

"This is Orwellian nonsense and part of a growing trend by the Chinese Communist Party to impose its political views on American citizens and private companies," Sanders said. She said the Trump administration is calling on China "to stop threatening and coercing American carriers and citizens."

The White House statement shows that Trump might be taking a tougher line after companies from Marriott International Inc. to Qantas Airways Ltd. have scrambled recently to meet

China's demands regarding the territories or risk losing business. U.S. airlines were among several that received letters from China's Civil Aviation Administration calling for strict guidelines for any references to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, according to the White House.

Taiwan's independence-leaning president, Tsai Ing-wen, weighed in with a tweet, saying, "We call on all businesses to resist #China's efforts to mischaracterize #Taiwan."

The government of Chinese President Xi Jinping has been increasingly assertive about its claims to Taiwan, which it has threatened to invade to bring under its control. Delta Air Lines, hotel operator Marriott, fashion brand Zara and other companies have apologized to China for referring to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Tibet as countries on websites or promotional material. **MDT/Agencies**

We urge foreign companies to respect China's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

SPOKESMAN GENG SHUANG

New office to coordinate Greater Bay Area development

A new office to coordinate the development of the Greater Bay Area will be established in the near future, Hong Kong chief secretary Matthew Cheung revealed yesterday. According to The Standard, the new office will function as a "SAR Liaison Office", responsible for coordinating different administrations' departments, trade associations and professional bodies.

To be called the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Bay Area Development Office, the entity will be established by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, with the aim of promoting development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area.

The announcement comes as the rhetoric on the Bay Area picks up ahead of the official plan which will be soon revealed by Beijing.

The urban metropolis area - comprised of nine mainland cities situated around the Pearl River Delta estuary as well as the two special administrative regions of Macau and Hong Kong - is home to more than 67 million people, putting it on par with some of Europe's most populous countries like Britain, France and Italy.

Its gross domestic product is about USD1.4 trillion, slightly behind the world's leading bay areas of New York and Tokyo.

But the Greater Bay Area is already the global market leader when it comes to shipping and logistics. According to Secretary Cheung, the total container throughput Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Guangzhou is approximately three times more than that of the world's three biggest bay areas combined.

According to The Standard, Cheung attempted to address the concerns of Hong Kong youth over the economic integration project.

Glossing over some of the political and economic concerns harbored by youth in the city, the Hong Kong Secretary attributed their caution to the fact that youngsters do not understand the region's development potential and their unwillingness to travel to the mainland to live and work.

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News at hand



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Higher childbirth fees for tourists and non-residents next month

Julie Zhu

THE adjusted fees of delivery services for non-resident parents will be officially applied starting from June 1, the Health Bureau reported yesterday in a press conference.

A dispatch concerning the topic, signed by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, was also published in the Official Gazette.

Besides the increased service fees, a subsidy program has also been announced.

The subsidy policy will only apply to families where the marriage certificate is provided

According to an introduction made by Tang Yuk Wa, head of the Family and Community Services Department of the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS), a non-local woman who earns less than MOP4,050 per month is eligible to apply to the government to get a waiver for two-thirds of the service she would need to pay for childbirth delivery.

MOP4,050 corresponds to Macau's minimum subsistence. The standard is said to be si-



The deputy director of the Health Bureau, Ho Ioc San (center)

milar to that of Hong Kong, and "is much higher than mainland China."

"The income of non-local workers is comparatively lower than the income of locals. Currently, to the best of my knowledge, the number of [domestic helpers] is approximately 25,000. The median earning is MOP4,000, [which means] that around 12,500 people qualify for the subsidy program," explained Tang, adding that "not only [the government] uses this [minimum subsistence] for non-local workers, but also the entirety of Macau." In the past two years, around 220 non-local workers gave birth to a child in Macau.

The deputy director of the Health Bureau, Ho Ioc San, noted that currently, the subsidy policy will only apply to families where a marriage certificate is provided.

In regard to de facto marriages, the policy will not be applicable because, as Ho Ioc San said himself, "de facto relationship is difficult to prove."

The IAS expects a similar number of non-local workers will give birth as in previous years after the new fee starts being applied.

The IAS claimed to be able to finish the application procedures for each of the above-mentioned subsidies within 30 days.

The adjustment concerns two groups of people: non-resident

workers and tourists.

According to the proposal, the service fee of natural childbirth for non-local workers will be increased from the current MOP975 to MOP8,775. The increase for tourists will be bigger than the increase for blue-card holders. The price adjustment proposal for tourists is set at MOP 17,550 from the current MOP1,950.

Regarding a caesarean section (C-section), it is proposed that non-local workers pay MOP17,550 for the service, whereas they are currently paying MOP1,950. For tourists, the service fee for a caesarean section would increase to MOP35,100 from the current MOP3,900.

Casinos accused of blacklisting unfriendly workers

THE local government has been urged by lawmaker Leong Sun lok to investigate casinos following accusations that certain casinos are sharing a blacklist of employees in order to prevent former casino employees from entering the industry.

According to Leong, this accusation has not yet been confirmed, but has been allegedly an open secret for years.

Leong pointed out that people started having suspicions about the gaming industry putting previously fired employees onto a blacklist, or simply former employees who engaged in unfriendly behaviours towards the casinos they



Leong Sun lok (center)

worked for.

In addition, casinos allegedly have shared information and restricted employment opportuni-

ties of these blacklisted past employees, thus preventing them from entering the gaming industry again.

According to Leong, previously the government denied the existence of such a blacklist. However, he claimed

that complaints condemning the abovementioned situations have also emerged in recent years.

Leong revealed that recently, he received a report in which a former casino dealer claimed he had been rejected by several casinos, and that one casino, despite having confirmed he was qualified for the job, eventually turned him down after a background check made by the casino itself.

"Gaming operators' employment blacklist and mandatory requirements for background checking obviously violate the labor affairs law [...], breach the residents' equal rights over employment and career developments, and violate the personal data protection law," said Leong, urging the government to open an investigation.



Number of credit card users increasing

THE total number of personal credit cards issued by banks in Macau stood at 1,216,548 at end-March 2018, an increase of 2.5 percent from the previous quarter.

A statement from the Monetary Authority of Macao informed that this growth was primarily attributed to the prolonged increase in dual-currency and triple-currency cards.

The numbers of cards in MOP, HKD and RMB grew year-on-year by 12 percent, 4.6 percent and 15 percent respectively.

At end-March 2018, the total limit across all credit cards granted by banks in the SAR reached MOP29.5 billion, up 3.2 percent from end-2017 or 14.5 percent from end-March 2017.

Credit card receivables amounted to MOP2.4 billion, the rollover amount of which totaled MOP774.3 million, representing 32.3 percent of credit card receivables.

The delinquency ratio rose from 1.38 percent at end-2017 to 1.59 percent at end-March 2018.

Meanwhile, in the first quarter of 2018, the credit card turnover totaled MOP5.4 billion, equivalent to a drop of 3.6 percent quarter-to-quarter but a rise of 12.9 percent year-on-year.

The cash advance turnover was MOP222.8 million, occupying 4.1 percent of total credit card turnover.

Credit card repayments, which includes payments for interest and fees, amounted to MOP5.7 billion, up 8.4 percent from the previous quarter or 13.0 percent from the same period last year.

KIANG Wu Hospital is expecting to provide assisted reproductive services starting from August this year, according to Cheung Chun Wing, vice-president of the hospital.

The hospital has already completed the refurbishing of these service facilities and is currently installing the medical equipment for assisted reproduction.

Once the government inspects both the facilities and equipment, and approves their quality, Kiang Wu will then become licensed to operate assisted reproductive services.

Kiang Wu expects to offer assisted reproductive services in August

According to Cheung, in order to set up facilities for the operation of assisted reproductive services, Kiang Wu Hospital transformed several floors of its specialized medical building into suitable spaces.

Currently, only the Conde S. Januário Hospital is licensed



ONE SHOT NEWS



The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, and the Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prak Sokhonn, signed a memorandum of understanding during a ceremony held yesterday in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia.

to provide assisted reproductive services. Several clinics that offered such services were shut down or suffered penalties.

In addition to the aforementioned work, the Kiang Wu Hospital has also applied to the government for the expansion of the building for outpatient services.

The hospital's associated charity is conducting a study in relation to the expansion. Furthermore, discussions with the government over the construction height are being carried out.

The hospital vice-president noted that the future expansion of the outpatient service building will increase the size of the cur-

rent building two or threefold.

In order not to jeopardize or cause any inconvenience to the hospital's current outpatient service, the expansion works will be divided into different phases.

Cheung noted that the whole expansion is projected to be completed in five years. **JZ**

AD



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CRIME

Resident scammed HKD364,000 over online date

Renato Marques

A local resident was reportedly scammed by a man she met through an online social networking app that resulted in a loss of almost HKD364,000, the Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson informed yesterday at a press conference.

The woman, a widow who works in a valet parking service of a local hotel, told the PJ that a few months back she had met a man named Steve over the internet, with which she used to chat frequently.

The man told her he wanted to give her a gift and requested her address and phone contact, which she granted to him.

Some time later the woman received a call from a person claiming to be an employee from a parcel deliver company, who said that a parcel with her address and contact was in their possession but that it could not be shipped with a payment. The caller asked the victim to pay an amount of USD2,200 (around HKD17,300), which needed to be transferred into a bank account.

The victim accepted and transferred the requested amount. However, on the very next day she received a second call from



the same person saying that the parcel had been stopped by Hong Kong Customs who demanded a tax be paid in the amount of USD5,000 (around HKD39,250), which she had to transfer into the same account as on the previous day.

The woman, who continued to engage in conversations with

the alleged man that shipped the parcel, accepted and transferred the money.

On the same day, the man told her he was finalizing some investment deal in Thailand and needed HKD40,200 to complete the process, requesting such amount from the woman.

The process continued with

the man finding excuses related to the deal to request once more an amount of over HKD110,000.

Suspicions aroused, the woman asked to meet the man who claimed to be staying in Bangkok at that moment.

He accepted and the woman flew to Bangkok but failed to

meet the man in the pre-arranged location, instead she received a call from the man asking for the equivalent of USD20,000 in Thai baht, which she transferred to him before finally losing contact and realizing she had been scammed.

After returning to Macau, the woman filed the complaint with the PJ, which is now investigating the case.

In a separate case reported by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) at the same press conference, a local taxi driver is accused of "illegal appropriation".

The case was filed by the victim on May 4, when a local man called the PSP saying that he had just left a mobile phone in the lavatories of a gas station located at Avenida da Amizade a few minutes back and he could not find it anymore.

The police sent officers to the location that inspected the closed circuit television system (CCTV) and detected a man that only one minute after the victim left the lavatories, parked his taxi outside the gas station and entered the lavatories.

Starting the investigation, the PSP found later that day the taxi driver in the taxi wait lane of the border gate, taking him in for questioning.

The man admitted to having found the mobile phone but denied the appropriation, saying that he had the intention to take it to the police after he finished his work.

The police said they believe that the man had no such intentions and have accordingly forwarded the case to the Public Prosecutions Office.

Security officers complain about holiday rights

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou called the government to ensure the protection of basic rights for those in the security forces.

Recently, Sulu received reports which included claims that staff in the security forces could not enjoy all public holidays, nor would they be compensated for those days with extra holidays.

In a phone call interview with the Times, Sou noted that this situation normally affects staff working night shifts.

"We think the issue has existed for many years, and that either the security forces, or the SAR government need to sort out [the problem], and should not use the excuse that there is a shortage of human resources [to respond to staff's complaints]. Such excuses are



Sulu Sou

unacceptable," Sou told the Times.

The lawmaker said that he collected information from some retired members of the security forces concerning these situations.

Sou learnt that this situation has existed for the past 20 years, with the most serious cases occurring in the Public

Security Police Force, the Fire Services Bureau, the Customs and the Macau Prison.

According to Sou, who disclosed the complaints of an anonymous security force officer, the Commission Against Corruption issued a warning to the security forces in March 2014, suggesting that officers on shift duty should

be compensated for holidays by taking other days off.

Despite the warning, the situation has not changed.

The government should not use the excuse that there is a shortage of human resources.

SULU SOU

The New Macau Association, on which Sulu serves as well, urged the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, to solve the problems and to ensure fairness and equity.

Yesterday, Wong Sio Chak said that he is open to a change of policy. **JZ**

Electronic health vouchers provide simplified system

THE new electronic health vouchers, created by the government to replace the previous system (paper-based support) will not require any prior application or registration, the Health Bureau (SSM) informed the public in a statement. Under the new system, residents will only need to provide their Macau resident identification card (BIR) to access the government subsidy dedicated solely to health care.

The SSM noted that the new system eliminates the need to print the vouchers and fill them out one-by-one before use, in this way avoiding the hassles and inconveniences of completing several forms with repeated information. This

more efficient system is consistent with the idea of a "Smart City," one of the government's goals.

The SSM also informs the public that all eligible residents have an automatically created account for the purpose of accessing the subsidy through the BIR, and will not need to apply or register to be included in the scheme.

The bureau also clarified that citizens' mobile phone numbers will only be used to receive messages about the use of health vouchers, as well as to confirm that the vouchers have been transmitted in the cases in which such a process is allowed, and to perform consultations about the status of individual accounts over the Internet.

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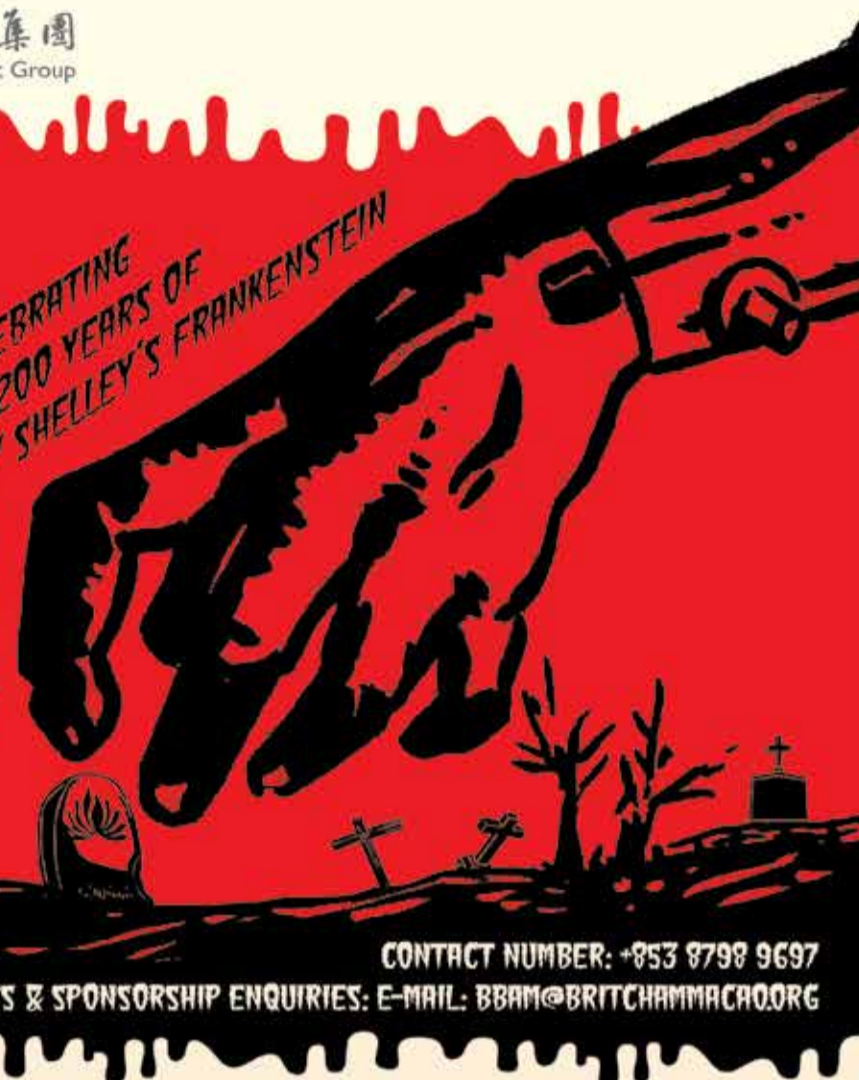
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Air France tumbles as CEO departure, strikes spook investors

Richard Weiss

AIR France-KLM Group tumbled in Paris trading as Europe's biggest airline battles turbulence triggered by Chief Executive Officer Jean-Marc Janaillac's resignation and a deepening labor conflict.

The stock dropped as much as 14 percent, the most since 2002. Even before yesterday, the shares had lost 40 percent in value this year, making it the worst performer on the 26-member Bloomberg World Airlines Index.

The carrier was thrown into disarray on Friday when Janaillac said he planned to submit his resignation to the board May 9 after workers rejected his final wage offer - an outcome that even caught some unions by surprise. Yet their defiance continued yesterday as another two-day strike got underway and the airline scrapped about 15 percent of services. Air France-KLM has already warned the labor action that started in February will wipe out at least 300 million euros (USD358 million) in operating profit this year.

While the airline maintained almost all long-haul flights



Jean-Marc Janaillac

during the latest walkout, it was forced to cancel one in five medium-haul services yesterday from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris and short-haul trips from Orly were also affected, according to its website. Further disruptions are predicted on Tuesday as the industrial action is scheduled to continue.

Janaillac, who has been at his post less than two years, used a less confrontational approach than his predecessor Alexandre De Juniac. Analysts have compared a rejection of management's pay proposal by workers

to "pressing the self destruct button."

The shares fell as much as 14 percent, the most since Sept. 30, 2002, and were trading down 10.5 percent to 7.24 euros at 11:51 a.m. in Paris, giving a market value of 3.1 billion euros.

Janaillac has the backing of the French government as President Emmanuel Macron tries to overhaul his country's economy by liberalizing labor laws and cutting taxes on capital. Future projects also include changes to jobless benefits in Europe's second-largest economy. He's also

in a tug-of-war with unions over a plan to overhaul the country's SNCF national railway, which has triggered a series of strikes.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire on Sunday said the Air France worker's demands were unjustified, urging them to show "responsibility" and saying taxpayers won't bail the company out. "If it doesn't make the necessary efforts to be at the same competitive level of Lufthansa and other major airlines, it will disappear," Le Maire said on BFM TV. "I am not taking the money of the French and putting it in a company that isn't at the required competitive level." Janaillac was held up by Le Maire and Transport Minister Elisabeth Borne for his courage in the face of Air France's challenges.

While airlines from Deutsche Lufthansa AG to British Airways - and lately even low-cost specialist Ryanair Holdings Plc - have all had their share of corporate dysfunction brought on by strikes, none has suffered to the extent as Air France. A simmering conflict exploded into open carnage in late 2015, when two of the airline's executives were physically assaulted by enraged workers, forcing them to flee and scale an industrial fen-

ce, their business suits and shirts ripped to shreds.

Air France said Friday that rising expenses for jet fuel plus a stronger euro will add to the burden caused by a string of walkouts by staff fighting for higher wages. Janaillac had put his job on the line, holding an online consultation on the pay offer. He lost his gamble when 55 percent of staff unexpectedly rejected the proposal, which was for a 7 percent increase over four years. Janaillac held a short press conference late Friday to announce his planned resignation.

Air France had had 13 days of labor action by pilots, cabin crew and ground staff since February. While the outcome of the wage offer consultation isn't binding, it will boost the unions' negotiating position. A majority of labor representatives have to approve any wage deal to take effect.

Flights by KLM and Hop! will not be affected by the walkout, Air France said, adding customers with tickets for travel yesterday or today can re-book free of charge. Travelers should expect last-minute delays and cancellations, the group said.

Bloomberg

Nestle bets USD7b on Starbucks to revive its coffee sales

Thomas Mulier, Corinne Gretler

STARBUCKS Corp. is giving Nestle SA a shot at revitalizing its global coffee business. In the third-biggest transaction in Nestle's 152-year history, the Swiss food giant will spend USD7.15 billion for the right to market Starbucks-branded products from beans to capsules, marrying its international distribution network with the allure of arguably the biggest name in java.

Nestle won't get any physical assets in the deal. Instead, Chief Executive Officer Mark Schneider is harnessing the name recognition of Starbucks, with its 28,000 outlets around the globe and massive draw in the U.S. Nestle has struggled there for years with its own products like Nespresso and Dolce Gusto.

Nestle could use a jolt -

sales rose at their weakest pace in more than two decades last year. "This will be his first big M&A test," wrote Andrew Wood, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein. "Nestle's acquisition track record over the last 10-15 years has been less than stellar."

Knockoff capsules - including Starbucks-branded ones - have dented one of Nestle's largest growth engines, its Nespresso portioned-coffee business. The new deal will give the Swiss company control of Starbucks capsules, among other products. It comes as Nestle's Nescafe brand of instant coffees has lost market share in four of the past five years, according to Euromonitor.

Starbucks is the second-most-valuable brand in fast food, according to BrandZ's Global 2017 report, which estimates it's worth \$44 billion. Nestle's \$7.15 billion payment

is 3.6 times sales, higher than the average of 3 times for major global food deals, according to Bernstein's Wood. Nestle shares rose 1.1 percent as of 12:07 p.m. in Zurich. They've dropped about 9 percent this year.

Nestle is making a new offensive in the U.S. a decade after Nespresso renewed a push into that market, enjoying limited success as most coffee drinkers avoid small espressos. Nestle has been struggling to gain market share in that market, given the prevalence of Starbucks and Green Mountain, which was bought out by Europe's billionaire Reimann family. Their JAB Holding Co. has spent more than \$30 billion building a coffee empire by acquiring assets such as Peet's and combining with Mondelez International Inc.'s coffee business.

"JAB is the biggest dan-

ger for Nestle," said Alain Oberhuber, an analyst at MainFirst Bank in Zurich. "Nestle needed a big brand, and they needed one fast. Starbucks is the only strong brand in roast-and-ground. It's a rather defensive move - a bit late - but nevertheless, a strategically absolutely vital step."

Nestle will take over about 500 Starbucks employees who will remain based in Seattle. Starbucks will continue to produce the coffee products in North America, while Nestle will be in charge of manufacturing in the rest of the world. Sales will be booked by Nestle, which will pay royalties to the coffee chain.

The Swiss company gets the rights to sell packaged coffee products in supermarkets, restaurants and catering operations under the flagship Starbucks brand and others including Seattle's Best Coffee,



Starbucks VIA and Torrefazione Italia. The deal includes the Teavana tea brand as well.

Nestle is taking a page from JAB's strategy, as it begins to build a patchwork quilt of different brands in coffee instead of focusing almost exclusively on Nescafe and Nespresso. Last year's \$425 million purchase of a stake in Blue Bottle Coffee was a step back into the roast-and-ground segment, whose growth prospects have revived as consumers become more sophisticated about coffee. Nestle also added niche brand Chameleon Cold-Brew last year to expand its portfolio in the

U.S. That added complexity may make it harder to run the coffee business, and there's a risk that the Starbucks food-service sales cannibalize those of Nescafe.

"Being a big brand is not an automatic passport to future success," said Peter Walshe, BrandZ global strategy director at Kantar Millward Brown in London. "We see that in the coffee category, with the rise of smaller brands. Brands that are perceived to be making people's lives better, are innovative and deliver a great experience, are the most successful. Both Starbucks and Nestle do so very strongly." **Bloomberg**

THERE'S no other company on Earth quite like Ant Financial.

Spanning online payments, insurance, lending, credit scores, asset management and more, Jack Ma's Chinese behemoth resembles a mashup of PayPal, Geico, Wells Fargo and Equifax - with a bit of BlackRock thrown in for good measure. Thanks to clever mobile apps and a burgeoning Chinese middle class, Ant oversees the world's biggest money-market fund and handles more than USD2.4 trillion of mobile payments every three months. Many of the company's 870 million customers rely on it for nearly every aspect of their financial lives.

But Ant's extraordinary reach may soon expose the company to a major challenge: Chinese policy makers, worried that Ant and other financial holding companies pose systemic risks to the nation's \$12.7 trillion economy, are drafting new regulations that could make it much harder for the companies to grow.

The rules will force Ant and some of its peers that straddle at least two financial industries to obtain licenses from China's central bank and meet minimum capital requirements for the first time, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing private information. The companies' ownership structures and inter-group transactions will also be restricted, the people said, adding that the rules need approval from China's State Council and are subject to change.

Ant was among the biggest beneficiaries of a freewheeling era in Chinese financial regulation that saw tech-savvy startups transform how the nation's 1.4 billion people spend, borrow and save. But China's government is now shifting into risk-control mode as it tries to prevent a record buildup of corporate and consumer debt from sinking the economy. Ant's growing role in the country's financial plumbing makes it an obvious target for authorities who've already shackled spendthrift acquirers and reined in the nation's sprawling shadow-banking system.

"Regulators have been a bit slow in reacting to Ant's meteoric rise, but the consensus now is that something must be done," said Dong Ximiao, a senior researcher at Renmin University of China in Beijing. "Ant has become too big to fail. Any mishap could lead to market or even social disorder."

The prospect of stricter oversight comes at a particularly sensitive time for Ant. The company is in the process of finalizing a \$10 billion funding round and may soon embark on one of the most eagerly anticipated stock-market listings since Ma took his e-commerce giant, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., public in New York four years ago. Ant is also grappling with growing

Jack Ma's too-big-to-fail finance giant faces a clampdown

competition from Tencent Holdings Ltd. - the social media behemoth that's branching into financial services -- and a more uncertain outlook for its international expansion after the collapse of a deal for America's MoneyGram International Inc. in January.

Ant, which was spun off from Alibaba in 2011 and is formally known as Zhejiang Ant Small & Micro Financial Services Group, said in response to questions from Bloomberg News that its "principle has always been to work closely with regulators and support the healthy development of China's financial sector." China Investment Corp., the \$930 billion sovereign wealth fund that owns a stake in Ant, responded to questions by saying it's not involved in the company's management.

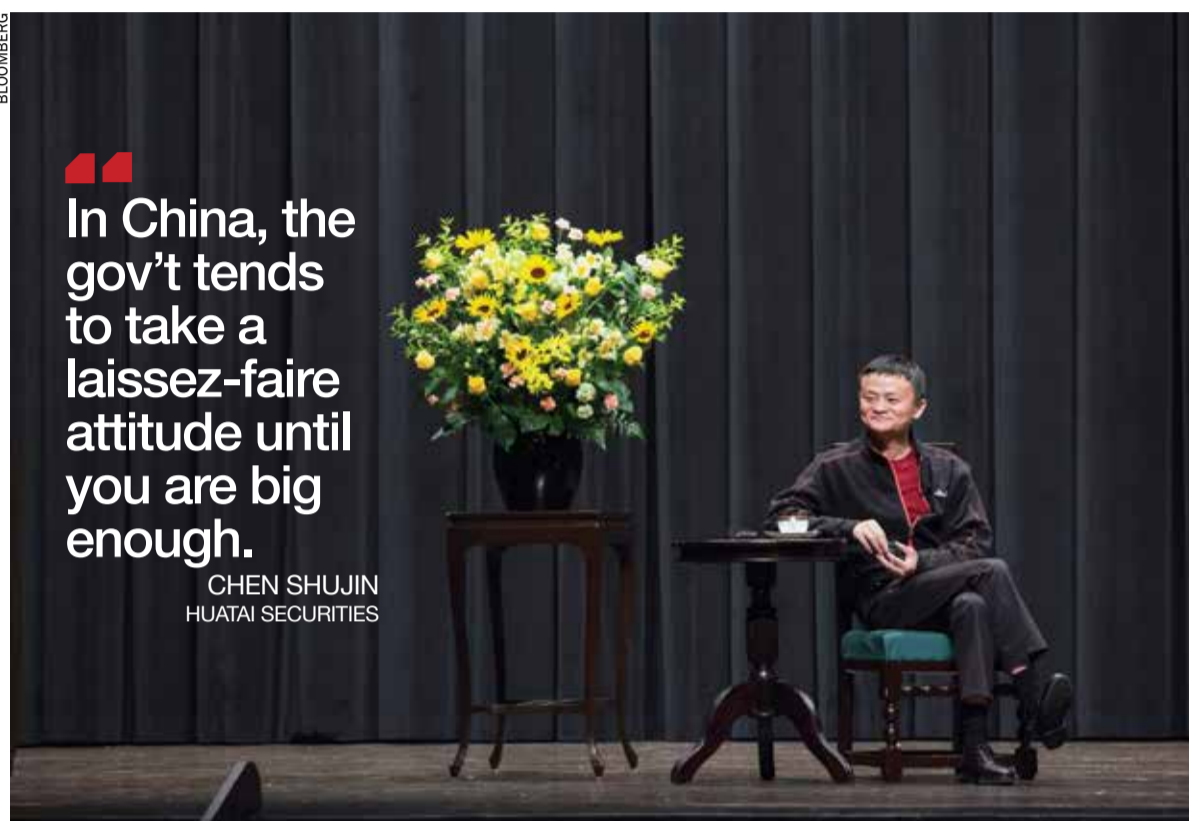
The People's Bank of China didn't respond to a faxed request for comment. While the central bank has never publicly detailed which businesses it considers financial holding companies, former PBOC Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said in March that regulators were considering new rules for the companies that may include minimum capital requirements. When asked by Bloomberg News in March how the government plans to regulate Ant, Yi Gang, who succeeded Zhou as PBOC governor seven weeks ago, said: "You will find out very soon."

To be clear, there's no indication that Ma or Ant have broken any rules or landed on Beijing's blacklist. While policy makers are right to consider tougher restrictions on the company, Ant "didn't run afoul of the government," said Oliver Rui, a finance professor at the China Europe International Business School in Shanghai. Judging by the \$150 billion valuation under discussion in its upcoming funding round, Ant's investors don't seem particularly spooked. In fact, they have a fresh reason to be bullish after it emerged on Friday that Ant's pretax profit jumped by an estimated 65 percent in the year ended March.

But that doesn't mean the company will go unscathed.

"In China, the government tends to take a laissez-faire attitude until you are big enough," said Chen Shujin, chief financial analyst at Huatai Securities Co. in Hong Kong. "Once you get as big as Ant Financial, the stance turns from neutral into caution and you can bet curbs will follow."

While some of Ant's units already fall under the purview of authorities including the central bank, the company isn't regulated at a group level and discloses

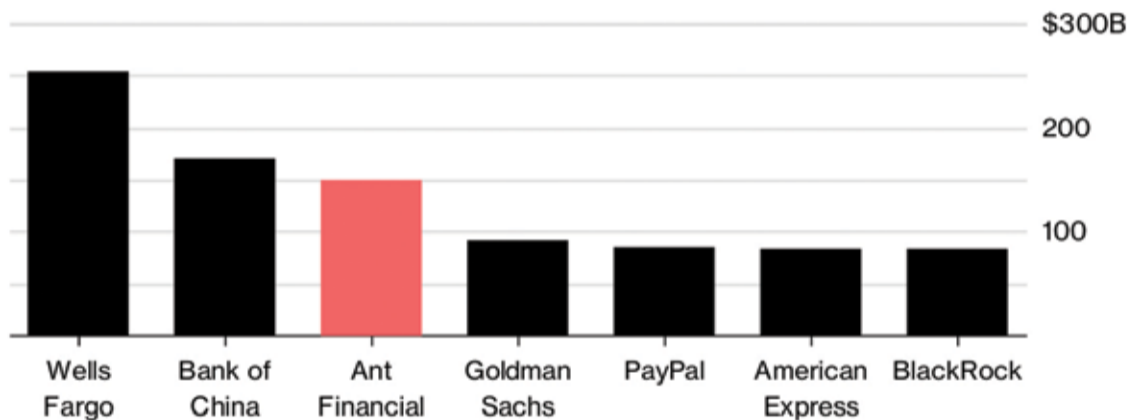


In China, the gov't tends to take a laissez-faire attitude until you are big enough.

CHEN SHUJIN
HUATAI SECURITIES

Big Leagues

Jack Ma's finance startup is already among the sector's most valuable companies



Source: Bloomberg

*Ant's potential valuation is based on an April 11 report from Bloomberg News, which cited people familiar with the matter

Bloomberg

little about its finances to the public. The worry is that problems at Ant could go undetected and, in a worst-case scenario, put the stability of China's financial system at risk.

The company's outsized presence in the lives of ordinary Chinese adds to the argument for stricter oversight. Zeng Jinping, a college student in Shanghai, is a case in point: The 23-year-old pharmaceuticals major uses Ant's payment platform for most of his big online purchases, puts his savings in the company's funds and borrows money from its consumer-lending arm. "It's very convenient," said Zeng, whose high credit score (also provided by Ant) entitles him to zero interest short-term cash advances, similar to those offered by credit-card companies.

Some of Ant's business lines have already faced tighter restrictions in recent months. The com-

pany's Yu'E Bao money-market fund, which has more customers than the U.S. has people, put a cap on daily subscriptions in February after coming under pressure from the central bank to limit inflows. Two of Ant's consumer lending units tripled their capital buffers in December after the PBOC rolled out tough new requirements for the industry.

If China's leaders sign off on the financial holding company regulations, the likely upshot for Ant is lower leverage and slower growth. The company's most important consumer loan business has a razor-thin capital adequacy ratio of around 2 percent, according to an estimate from Orient Capital Research. That compares with the 10.5 percent year-end regulatory minimum for China's smaller banks and the 11.5 percent minimum for systemically important lenders.

Still, quantifying the impact on

Ant and its competitors will be tough until details of the finalized regulations come to light. The people familiar with the draft rules didn't provide specifics on capital adequacy requirements or a complete list of companies that will face oversight, though they did say companies subject to the rules also include Citic Group and China Everbright Group (both conglomerates didn't immediately reply to requests for comment).

What's clear is that regulatory scrutiny of Ant is intensifying, said Armstrong Chen, director for banking law and practices at the Shanghai Law Society. While that may ultimately put the company on a healthier growth path, it's likely to weigh on Ant's near-term results, Chen said.

"Regulatory restrictions will likely cause some short-term pain," he said. "Unchecked expansion will no longer be possible." **Bloomberg**



ZTE seeks end to ban on buying American technology

CHINESE technology company ZTE says it has applied to the U.S. Commerce Department asking it to suspend a seven-year ban on it doing business with U.S. technology exporters. The company said in a statement yesterday that it had "formally submitted" a request to the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security for a "stay of the Denial Order."

It said it sent the bureau "supplemental information" following the ban. It gave no details in its brief statement. ZTE Corp., which makes smartphones and telecoms equipment, was hit with the ban last month in a case involving exports of telecom gear to Iran and North Korea. The company has said that the ban threatens its existence by cutting off access to U.S. suppliers of

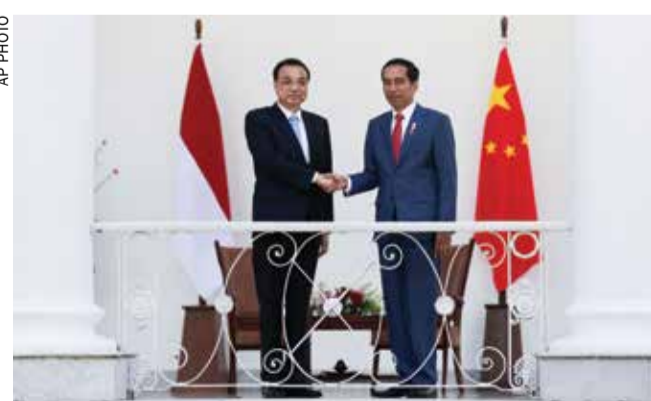
key components like microchips. The suspension came amid worsening trade tensions between the U.S. and China centered on technology-related intellectual property, though the case dates back to before President Donald Trump took office in January 2017. U.S. officials met last week in Beijing to discuss trade issues with their Chinese counterparts. During the

meetings, Chinese officials said they also raised their objections to ZTE's punishment with the U.S. delegation, who they said agreed to report them to Trump. U.S. authorities imposed the penalty after discovering that Shenzhen-based ZTE, which had paid a USD1.2 billion fine in the case, had failed to discipline employees involved and paid them bonuses instead. **AP**

China, Indonesia discuss ways to boost trade relations

INDONESIAN President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo hosted China's premier yesterday and the two oversaw the signing of several memorandums aimed at boosting trade between the nations. After meeting with Premier Li Keqiang at the ornate presidential palace in Bogor, Jokowi said two countries of their sizes should be able to provide benefits for peace, stability and the welfare of the world. China is the world's most populous country and Indonesia is the

fourth most populous. Jokowi said they discussed efforts to improve economic cooperation and that China agreed to import an additional 500,000 tons of Indonesian palm oil. Indonesia is Southeast Asia's largest economy and China has become its largest trading partner in the past years. In 2015, China won a contract to build a USD5.2 billion high-speed rail line from Jakarta to the West Java's city of Bandung. That project is now stalled and Li is



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (left) and Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Bogor, West Java

expected to seek to help resolve some of the problems surrounding it. Li is also expected to meet the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretary General Lim Jock Hoi in Jakarta. **AP**

opinion

QUIETLY, CHINA IS STARTING TO SET GLOBAL STANDARDS

Andrew Polk, Bloomberg

High-level trade talks last week between the U.S. and China grabbed headlines around the world, but in many ways they were beside the point. In the years ahead, tariffs and industrial policy - the main focus of the talks - will probably matter less in the growing competition between the two countries, while another, much quieter initiative will matter more.

As China boosts overseas investment through its Belt and Road infrastructure program, it is increasingly dictating not just the terms of financing but also a broader set of technological applications. In doing so, it is altering the global competitive landscape by defining and exporting technical standards for everything from artificial intelligence to hydropower.

This push into global standards-setting has gone largely unnoticed. That's partly because it's boring: Even broaching the topic will make investors' eyes glaze over, and few Western governments have given it much thought.

But it's also partly by design. The process has so far mostly unfolded domestically, and in Chinese, as China's government has sought to develop its own set of industrial standards for companies operating within its borders. That has made the effort mostly opaque to outsiders. Yet regulators are now starting to translate those standards into English - a clear sign that they're meant to be exported overseas. And that should worry China's competitors.

For decades, America's ability to set domestic standards that would then spread globally benefited its economy greatly. As a recent paper by the East-West Center put it, "standards serve as bridges between developing innovations and the marketization and industrialization of those innovations." The specification of even everyday items such as USB ports has given American companies a strong advantage in selling goods in other markets.

Patents are the key conduit of this process. As standard-setting in any industry progresses, the companies that own the technology on which the standards are based benefit by either selling their equipment or licensing their patents. Telecoms are a classic example. Qualcomm Inc., which owns key patents for LTE, 3G, and 4G technology, has received billions of dollars in royalties in recent years - including almost USD8 billion in China alone in 2014. And that's in an industry where standards are set through a complex global process; when countries set standards unilaterally, the benefits for their homegrown companies can be even more pronounced.

This is where President Xi Jinping's signature foreign-policy program comes in. Most analyses of the Belt and Road initiative focus on whether individual projects will become profitable or will leave China further mired in debt. Yet the return on investment for a port in Sri Lanka or a rail line in Thailand matters less to Chinese officials than the ability to push participating countries to adopt Chinese standards on everything from construction to finance to data management. For just one example, China is exporting key technical standards for the construction of high-speed rail through these projects - in large part to circumvent standards set by Western players.

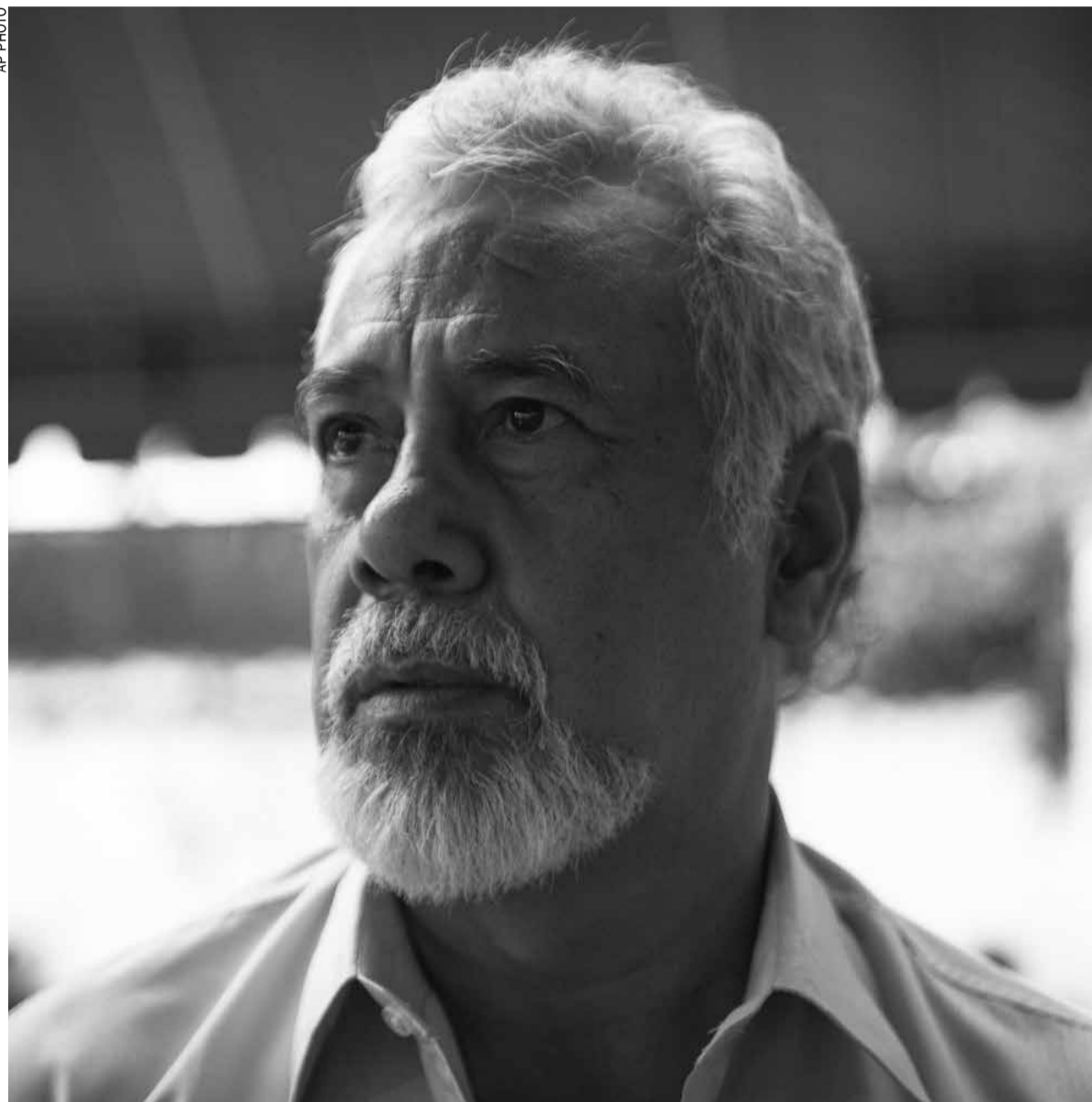
Developing countries tend to voluntarily adopt standards set by high-income economies. But China's government has taken a much more proactive role. Instead of trying to influence the likes of Pakistan, Thailand, and Myanmar by changing hearts and minds, it wants to convince them to change their nuts and bolts - and their data-management practices to boot. In this context, China's recent revisions to its National Standardization Law and its Cyber Security Law look far more significant; they could reverberate far beyond its borders.

Although few people would contest China's right to determine its own technological standards, exporting those standards is another matter altogether. Billions of dollars in equipment sales and patent royalties are up for grabs in this competition. To the extent that China's standards supplant Western ones, it will represent a direct threat to the profitability of non-Chinese companies.

This push won't directly challenge the ability of American or European companies to innovate. But it will undoubtedly challenge their ability to commercialize technology in other markets. That emerging competition should be of utmost concern to companies and policy makers alike - and that's one reason China is glad that the issue isn't even part of the discussion.

EAST TIMOR

Xanana calls for restraint after campaign violence



AP PHOTO

Raimundos Oki, Vikeke

EAST Timorese independence hero Xanana Gusmao has called on supporters not to be provoked after campaigning for next weekend's elections was marred by violence.

Gusmao's National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction party said 18 of its supporters in Vikeke district were injured over the weekend and two vehicles were damaged in an attack by members of rival faction Fretilin.

The parliamentary elections next Saturday are the second in less than a year for East Timor after a Fretilin-led minority government collapsed in January.

After the alleged attack on the weekend, Gusmao said Fretilin was a party of violence that should be shut down but also urged his supporters to show restraint.

"I ask all of you not to respond to provocation from other parties' members," he said. "When you return home you should keep your own security and do not serve violence."

Jorge Ribeiro, a local official with Gusmao's party, said police and soldiers who responded to the violence have not arrested anyone. Vikeke police commander Antonio Mauluto said the incident is being investigated. Mari Alkatari, secretary-general of Fretilin, said the police investigation should take its course and told supporters to refrain from violence.

The election pits a loose grouping of Fretilin and a minor

party against a formal alliance of three parties led by Gusmao's party, which together voted against Fretilin's policy program and budget, resulting in the new election.

East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, was occupied by Indonesia for a quarter century. It gained independence after a U.N.-sponsored referendum in 1999 but reprisals by the Indonesian military devastated the East Timorese half of the island of Timor.

The election pits a loose grouping of Fretilin and a minor party against a formal alliance of three parties led by Xanana

Today, the country of 1.3 million people still faces grim poverty. Leaders including Gusmao, who was East Timor's first president from 2002 to 2007 and prime minister from 2007 to 2015, have focused on big-ticket infrastructure projects to develop the economy, funding them from a dwindling supply of former oil riches, but progress is slow.

Presidential and parliamentary elections last year were the first held without U.N. supervision.

INDIA

Feral dog packs kill six children, terrifying villagers

ROAMING packs of feral dogs have killed six children in the last week in north India, terrifying villagers who have begun keeping their children home from school and killing any dogs they encounter. At least two dozen more children have been injured.

The killings have occurred in and around the town of town of Sitapur, said senior police officer Anand Kulkarni. Many of the attacks occurred when children were out gathering mangoes or when they left their homes to use outhouse toilets, he said. Many homes in the area lack indoor plumbing.

Twelve children between the ages 5 and 12 have been killed in dog attacks in the area since November, officials say.

It was not clear how many dogs were invol-



A stray dog walks on a road in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

ved in the attacks, but India has millions of strays that wander the streets in even the most exclusive neighborhoods. The feral dogs often survive on leftover food set in alleys for them, but also face relentless cruelty by people, and regularly fight other dogs over territory. Whi-

le injuries from dog attacks are fairly common, a string of fatalities in one area is rare.

Some in the area believe the attacks began after a nearby illegal slaughterhouse was closed, making the dogs more aggressive after they were left without a major source

of food.

Villagers say the dog packs are terrifying.

Rajendra Kumar, a farmer near Sitapur, said he was working in his fields when a girl came running toward him. "She was shouting 'It killed her!'" said Kumar. "Around two dozen of us ran toward the

mango grove with large sticks, iron rods and shovels."

There, he said, they found a half dozen dogs tearing into the corpse of a 7-year-old girl named Gita. She had gone with two other children to pick mangoes, which are coming into season in north India.

Education officials say some schools have seen a significant drop in attendance because of the attacks. Parents have been told to accompany their children to and from school.

The recent deaths included three children killed by a pack of strays on May 1, Kulkarni said. Two more children were killed on May 4. Gita was killed on Friday.

Sitapur magistrate Harshdeo Pandey said villagers have been told not to

allow their children to use outhouses on their own.

"Public announcements have been made in villages regarding this," he said. "We also suggest that children should not be allowed to go out to play for a few days, until all these dogs are caught."

Villagers have been shooting and strangling stray dogs, believing they have no choice.

"The administration does not care about the plight of the people," said Sitapur resident Pankaj Singh Gaur.

Four teams of dog-catchers have captured 24 dogs in recent days, said district magistrate Sheetal Verma. But she acknowledged the menace is not over.

Sitapur is about 80 kilometers from Lucknow, the capital of India's Uttar Pradesh state. **AP**

BALIKATAN 34-2018

Philippines, US launch largest military drills under Duterte

Jim Gomez, Manila

U.S. and Philippine forces yesterday began their largest annual military exercises since President Rodrigo Duterte came to power and vowed to scale down America's military presence in the country as he sought closer ties with China and Russia.

The Balikatan exercises opened with a ceremony at the main Philippine military camp in Manila and were to feature about 8,000 American and Filipino personnel and small contingents from Japan and Australia. American and Philippine officials praised the long treaty alliance between the U.S. and its former Southeast Asian colony and then linked arms in a show of solidarity.

The exercises are "just one of many embodiments of our robust relationship," U.S. Ambassador Sung Kim said. The drills "will continue to reinforce the deep and lasting commitment



Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (center), U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim (second left) link arms with military commanders from both countries during the opening ceremony the "Balikatan 34-2018"

between our two countries for a peaceful and secure region."

After rising to power in 2016, Duterte vowed to scale back the presence of U.S. troops involved in counterterrorism training in the country's south and once threatened to end the annual drills with American forces. The volatile leader, who has been

critical of U.S. security policies, has taken steps to revive ties with China that had been strained under his predecessor over longstanding territorial conflicts in the South China Sea.

Duterte's animosity with Washington was partly ignited by U.S. government condemnation of his deadly campaign

against illegal drugs, though that criticism has eased under President Donald Trump. A leaked Philippine transcript of a call between the two leaders last year showed Trump praising Duterte's anti-drug efforts.

Though this year's Balikatan exercises will be the largest under Duterte, Philippine officials

stressed they're not aimed at China, but on the threat of urban terrorism and other man-made crisis and natural disasters.

In addition to amphibious beach landings, live-fire maneuvers and disaster-response scenarios, the exercises will involve combat drills in mock urban settings to train special forces in battling terrorists in cities as they did during the Islamic State group-linked siege on southern Marawi city last year.

"We want both our forces to learn from our great and hard-earned experience in our past battles like Marawi," said Marine Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Salamat, who leads the Philippine contingent. "We just want to help each other to be able to effectively combat future scenarios."

Hundreds of Filipino militants and allied foreign fighters seized the business district and residential areas of lakeside Marawi on May 23 last year, occupying buildings and homes and forcing hundreds of thousands of residents to flee to safety.

Despite initial difficulty because of their unfamiliarity with urban warfare, Filipino troops quelled the insurrection with airstrikes, artillery fire and ground assaults with the help of U.S. and Australian surveillance aircraft after five months. The siege left more than 1,100 mostly militant gunmen dead. **AP**

AD

Help, please save me! Thermomix will save you!



Save Money

Save on your grocery bills by swapping expensive pre-packaged items for 'whole' foods and pantry staples. Plus, Thermomix has an advanced heating system that cooks with minimized energy consumption, so you can enjoy savings on your household bills!

Save Time

Thermomix gives you more time to enjoy life! Thermomix reduces preparation time by finely chopping ingredients in seconds. Its versatility means that while Thermomix gently cooks and stirs your food, you're left free for other things.

Save Space

Less is more. Thermomix brings together 12 different functions in one compact unit. The ergonomic design means anyone can master it, from young children just starting out to experienced cooks. With Thermomix you won't only taste the difference, you'll feel it too. Please contact us for a free demo:

**"Final Clear Out Stroke special price for the Thermomix.
The original price is HKD 12,800 and now only HKD 8,000.
This is the last and best chance for you to have your Thermomix."**

Tong Jia de Ramirez
Phone Number : +853 6668 1771.



Chelsea Manning poses for a photograph in her apartment in North Bethesda, Maryland

USA

Chelsea Manning: Insurgent bid for Senate is genuine

David McFadden

CHELSEA Manning is no longer living as a transgender woman in a male military prison, serving the lengthiest sentence ever for revealing U.S. government secrets. She's free to grow out her hair, travel the world, and spend time with whomever she likes.

But a year since former President Barack Obama commuted Manning's 35-year sentence, America's most famous convicted leaker isn't taking an extended vacation. Far from it: The Oklahoma native has decided to make an unlikely bid for the U.S. Senate in her adopted state of Maryland.

Manning, 30, filed to run in January and has been registered to vote in Maryland since August. She lives in North Bethesda, not far from where she stayed with an aunt while awaiting trial. Her aim is to unseat Sen. Ben Cardin, a 74-year-old Maryland Democrat who is seeking his third Senate term and previously served 10 terms in the U.S. House.

Manning, who also has become an internationally recognized transgender activist, said she's motivated by a desire to fight what she sees as a shadowy surveillance state and a rising

tide of nightmarish repression.

"The rise of authoritarianism is encroaching in every aspect of life, whether it's government or corporate or technological," Manning told The Associated Press during an interview at her home in an upscale apartment tower. On the walls of her barely furnished living room hang Obama's commutation order, and photos of U.S. anarchist Emma Goldman and British playwright Oscar Wilde.

The rise of authoritarianism is encroaching in every aspect of life, whether it's gov't or corporate or technological.

CHELSEA MANNING

Manning's longshot campaign for the June 26 primary would appear to be one of the more unorthodox U.S. Senate bids in recent memory, and the candi-

date is operating well outside the party's playbook. She says she doesn't, in fact, even consider herself a Democrat, but is motivated by a desire to shake up establishment Democrats who are "caving in" to President Donald Trump's administration. She vows she won't run as an independent if her primary bid fails.

She's certainly got an eye-catching platform: Close prisons and free inmates; eliminate national borders; restructure the criminal justice system; provide universal health care and basic income. The top of her agenda? Abolish the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a federal agency created in 2003 that Manning asserts is preparing for an "ethnic cleansing."

Manning ticks off life experiences she believes would make her an effective senator: a stint being homeless in Chicago, her wartime experiences as a U.S. Army intelligence analyst in Iraq — even her seven years in prison. She asserts she's got a "bigger vision" than establishment politicians.

But political analysts suspect the convicted felon is not running to win.

"Manning is running as a protest candidate, which has a long lineage in American history, to

shine light on American empire," said Daniel Schlozman, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University. "That's a very different goal, with a very different campaign, than if she wanted to beat Ben Cardin."

Manning's insurgent candidacy thus far has been a decidedly stripped-down affair, with few appearances and a campaign website that just went up. In recent days, she approached an anti-fracking rally in Baltimore almost furtively, keeping to herself for much of the demonstration. But when it was her turn to address the small group, her celebrity status was evident. People who never met her called her by her first name and eagerly took photos.

Manning has acknowledged leaking more than 700,000 military and State Department documents to anti-secrecy site WikiLeaks in 2010. She said her motivation was a desire to spark debate about U.S. foreign policy, and she has been portrayed as both a hero and a traitor.

Known as Bradley Manning at the time of her arrest, she came out as transgender after her 2013 court-martial. She was barred from growing her hair long in prison, and was approved for hormone therapy only

after litigation. She spent long stints in solitary confinement, and twice tried to kill herself.

The Pentagon, which has repeatedly declined to discuss Manning's treatment in military prison, is also staying mum about her political ambitions. Democratic Party officials say they have no comment, citing a policy not to weigh in on primaries. Republican operatives are quiet.

In Maryland, a blue state that's home to tens of thousands of federal employees and defense contractors, it appears Manning's main supporters are independents or anti-politics, making them unlikely to coalesce politically. She recently reported contributions of USD72,000 on this year's first quarterly finance statement, compared with Cardin's \$336,000.

The candidate has barely made an effort at tapping sources of grassroots enthusiasm outside of activism circles. And it's easy to find progressive Democrats who feel her candidacy is just a vehicle to boost her profile.

"It feels to me almost like it's part of a book tour — that this is her moment after being released from prison," said Dana Beyer, a transgender woman who leads the Gender Rights Maryland nonprofit and is a Democratic candidate for state senate. "I don't think this is a serious effort."

Manning is indeed working on a book about her dramatic life. For now, she says she supports herself with income from speaking engagements. She's spoken at various U.S. colleges and is due to take the stage at a Montreal conference later this month.

Last week, she appeared at a tech conference in Germany's capital of Berlin, arriving to cheers from the audience of several thousand people. She told attendees she's still struggling to adjust to life after prison and hasn't gotten used to her celebrity status yet.

"There's been a kind of cult of personality that is really intimidating and that is overwhelming for me," she said in Berlin.

At her Maryland apartment, Manning told the AP she occasionally wakes up panicked that she's back in the cage in Kuwait where she was first jailed, or incarcerated at the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, where a U.N. official concluded she'd been subjected to "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment." She works hard to overcome anxiety, centering herself with yoga, breathing exercises, and reading.

"I've been out for almost a year now and it's becoming increasingly clear to me just how deep the wounds are," she said in her Spartan living room.

Asked how she would define success, Manning responded with passionate intensity: "Success for me is survival." **AP**

HAWAII

Volcano destroys dozens of homes, forces evacuations

Caleb Jones, Jennifer Peltz & Sophia Yan, Pahoa

HAWAII'S Kilauea volcano destroyed 26 homes and spewed lava hundreds of feet into the air, leaving evacuated residents unsure how long they might be displaced.

In revised figures yesterday [Macau time], Hawaii County officials said another four unspecified structures were covered by lava.

Hawaii officials said the decimated homes were in the Leilani Estates subdivision, where molten rock, toxic gas and steam have been bursting through openings in the ground created by the volcano.

Some of the more than 1,700 residents who have been evacuated were allowed to briefly return to gather medicine, pets, and other necessities.

Officials say residents would be able to do so each day until further notice as authorities



A line of traffic is seen going towards Pahoa town

monitor which areas are safe.

Amber Makuakane Kane, 37, a teacher and single mother of two, said her three-bedroom house in Leilani Estates was destroyed by lava.

The dwelling was across from a fissure that opened over the weekend, when "there was

some steam rising from all parts of the yard, but everything looked fine," Makuakane said.

Lava has spread around 36,000 square meters surrounding the most active fissure, though the rate of movement is slow. There was no indica-

tion when the lava might stop or how far it might spread.

"There's more magma in the system to be erupted. As long as that supply is there, the eruption will continue," U.S. Geological Survey volcanologist Wendy Stovall said.

Cherie McArthur wondered what would become of her macadamia nut farm in Lanipuna Gardens, another evacuated neighborhood near Leilani Estates. One of the year's first harvests had been planned for this weekend.

"If we lose our farm, we don't know where we're going to go. You lose your income and you lose your home at the same time," said McArthur, who's had the farm for about 20 years. "All you can do is pray and hope and try to get all the information you can."

The number of lava-venting fissures in the neighborhood grew overnight from eight to as many as 10, Stovall said, though some have quieted at various points. Regardless,

USGS scientists expect fissures to keep spewing.

The lava could eventually be channeled to one powerful vent while others go dormant, as has happened in some previous Hawaii eruptions, Stovall said.

Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, has been erupting continuously since 1983.

The USGS's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory issued a notice in mid-April that there were signs of pressure building in underground magma, and a new vent could form on the cone or along what's known as the East Rift Zone. Leilani Estates sits along the zone.

The crater floor began to collapse yesterday, triggering earthquakes and pushing lava into new underground chambers that carried it toward Leilani Estates and nearby communities. A magnitude-6.9 earthquake — Hawaii's largest in more than 40 years — hit the area Friday.

It set Michael McGuire's car rocking in his driveway, knocking things off his shelves and shattering glass in his cabinets near Leilani Estates.

He hoped to check on his home yesterday but realized it was too soon to be sure when, or if, it would be safe from the moving lava. AP

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what's ON



TREASURE FROM THE DEEP SEA - EXHIBITION OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF THE NANHAI NO. 1

TIME: 10am-6pm, last admission at 5:30pm
(Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, free admission on Tuesdays and the 15th of every month)

UNTIL: July 31, 2018

VENUE: 3/F, Macau Museum, No. 112, Praceta do Museu de Macau

ADMISSION: MOP15 (free for Macau residents, children of 12 years old or below and seniors of 65 years old or over)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911 & 8394 1208

LA PARISIENNE - CABARET FRANCAISE

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)

2pm & 5pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Parisian Theatre, Parisian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP188, MOP388, MOP488

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818 / 2855 5555

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

BEAM ME UPSTATE? SHATNER VISITS NY STAR TREK SET REPLICAS



It's like William Shatner got stuck in a Star Trek time warp.

The 87-year-old actor visited a doppelganger of the original Starship Enterprise set in upstate New York for a fans' weekend. He wore a dark jacket this time instead of his gold Capt. James T. Kirk shirt, but the command chair was still comfortable and the blinking lights of the bridge were just as he remembered them.

"This set is exactly the way it was 50-odd years ago," Shatner said. "And it's like it's coming back to a house you might have been born in and you look around and it's like, 'Wow! It's bigger and smaller than I remember. And yet it's the same.'"

Shatner said the set reminded him of both the emotional moments and the laughs, like when crew members would forget to open the sliding doors as he approached.

"I'd crash into the door," he said with a laugh. "And then I began to learn to make my one 'whhhshhh' sound as I went out the door."

The "Captain on the Bridge" weekend runs Friday and Saturday at a tourist attraction boasting replicas of the original series' bridge, transporter room, sick bay and other sets. Tickets ranged as high as USD1,500 for a chance to ask Shatner questions on the bridge, though "red shirt" tickets were \$85. The attraction's website made clear "Mr. Shatner is NOT leading tours!"

Finding a Star Trek set built at the site of an old dollar store near the Vermont border seems highly illogical, but it was a labor of love for local resident James Cawley. The professional Elvis impersonator began the years-long process of building the sets in 1997 after inheriting a copy of the original Enterprise blueprints from a costume designer on the original show.

At first, Cawley and his crew used the sets to make a series of Star Trek fan films. Now the sets are a tourist attraction.

Dozens of fans waited outside Friday to greet Shatner, whose TV show that went off the air almost 50 years ago.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Miscellaneous
16:10	NOS League: Porto x Feirense (Repeated)
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie Sr.1
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Music Voyager
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	TDM special Interview
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

03 - 09 MAY



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

ROOM 1
2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

ROOM 2
4:30pm

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 149min



RAMPAGE

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Brad Peyton

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Naomie Harris, Malin Akerman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min



TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Chan Tai-Lee

Starring: Teresa Mo, Ling Man Lung, Ray Lui, Bonnie Xian

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 91min

THE THROUGH

ROOM 3

02:30, 04:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Nick Cheung

Starring: Nick Cheung, Xu Jing Lei, He Jiong, Miu Kiu Wai

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

this day in history



1984 MOSCOW PULLS OUT OF US OLYMPICS

Twelve weeks before the opening ceremony of the Los Angeles Olympic Games, the USSR has announced it is boycotting them. It is expected most of the Eastern Bloc will follow suit.

The announcement, which was made on Russian TV this afternoon, blamed the commercialisation of the games and a lack of security measures, which amounted to a violation of the Olympic charter.

The Soviet Union accused the United States of using the games "for political purposes" and "stirring up anti-Soviet propaganda" and of having a "cavalier attitude to security of Russian athletes".

In 1980 the USA and more than 60 other countries boycotted the Moscow Olympics in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Russians' withdrawal will devalue the Los Angeles Games far more than the US boycott as it seems certain that top-class athletes from the Eastern Bloc will also be prevented from taking part.

The White House denounced the move calling it a "blatant political act".

John Hughes, a State Department spokesman, said the USA had "gone the extra mile" to ensure adequate security measures were in place.

He took the opportunity to attack the USSR for its "barbarous behaviour" in Afghanistan and its persecution of Russian dissidents such as Dr Andrei Sakharov living in forced exile in the Russian town of Gorky.

Moscow has still not officially told the IOC of its boycott but there is little hope that the decision will be reversed.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

With the exception of Romania, the entire Eastern bloc and Cuba joined the boycott - 14 countries in all.

Although a record 140 nations did turn up - including China which had not taken part since 1932 - the level of competition was somewhat lopsided with the absence of so many world-class athletes.

As a result the USA won a record 83 gold medals. The Los Angeles Summer Games were highly commercialised - they were the first privately financed games ever and made a profit of \$225m thanks to corporate sponsorship and extensive use of unpaid volunteers. Forty-three companies were licensed to sell "official" Olympic products.

Los Angeles launched a bid to host the Olympic Games for a record third time in 2012 but the US Olympic Committee chose New York as its candidate.

LA will however host the 2006 athletics world cup.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Not sure what to do with yourself? Don't even think about going into the office. You can find plenty to do, either around the house or close to it. Do some exploring.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You're bursting at the seams, but remind yourself over and over not to gossip at the office, even if it's about you. You can tell your problems to your friends once you're off the clock. At least they'll be compassionate.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
If this is just another office job for you, and not a career, then don't waste another day dreaming about change. The right opening won't appear like the parting of the sea, at least not where you're working now.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You may not be able to stay focused on details, but you are at the top of your game in other areas. You can practically read your colleagues' minds, for one. Stay in tune with your strong intuition.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
All that glitters is not gold, but even so, all that loose change adds up fast. Don't have any financial dealings today. Save pennies, from brown bagging it to drinking the office coffee.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Don't be too critical of others for not taking their careers by the horns. Others move at the pace they want to. Besides, that leaves more room in the middle for you on your way up.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
The smaller things in life don't hold much appeal for you. So if you need a vision of success to make you stick with current projects, imagine conspicuous consumption. Then get back to work.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Draw on imagination and the hidden mystery of magic to accomplish your tasks. It may be all smoke and mirrors, but it will put off the inevitable, if only for another day.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You may have trouble getting your personal projects off the ground. Or your work ones, for that matter. But that shouldn't be a problem. You're your own boss for the day, so let yourself do some free thinking.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Art, music, sleeping in -- there are so many ways to enjoy yourself. But the most important thing you can do to ensure a good day is to miss a phone call from the office. Let all calls go to voice mail.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Personal projects can't wait another day. Your office job gets in the way all the time, so don't let yourself get sidetracked by anything. Have your coffee and put on your blinders, in that order.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You get to do something for yourself for a change. The only problem is, you're out of practice, not to mention ideas. Remember how high energy you are at work, then don't think of the office for the rest of the day.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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3	9					4		
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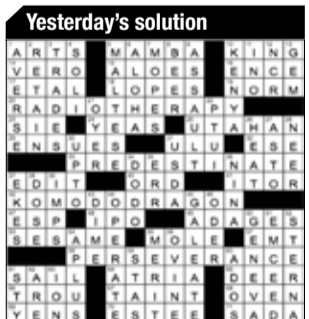
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	12	27	clear
Harbin	5	18	cloudy
Tianjin	15	28	clear
Urumqi	1	14	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	12	27	cloudy
Lhasa	6	19	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	18	24	overcast/drizzle
Chongqing	19	29	cloudy
Kunming	13	27	clear/cloudy
Nanjing	16	23	cloudy
Shanghai	16	24	overcast/cloudy
Wuhan	17	26	clear
Hangzhou	15	26	overcast/cloudy
Taipei	23	30	drizzle/heavy rain
Guangzhou	24	28	heavy rain to rainstorm
Hong Kong	25	28	heavy rain
WORLD			
Moscow	8	21	clear
Frankfurt	11	24	clear
Paris	11	24	clear
London	9	21	clear
New York	10	19	drizzle/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-General ___ chicken; 5- Actor's parts; 10- Afternoon affairs; 14- Pressure; 15- Last letter of the Greek alphabet; 16- Social standing; 17- Predecessor; 19- Harper's Bazaar illustrator; 20- Japanese immigrant; 21- Lizard; 23- Anonymous John; 25- Consumers; 26- Sun. speeches; 29- Trent of the Senate; 31- Constructed; 35- Year abroad; 36- ___ forgive our debtors; 37- Immature insects; 38- I've been framed!; 40- Below; 41- Monster's nickname; 42- Caesar's wings; 43- Word used to precede a woman's maiden name; 44- Instant; 45- Concordes; 46- Be bold; 47- China's Zhou ___; 49- Yo!; 51- Kitchen vessel; 54- Acquired relative; 58- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events; 59- Small rattlesnake; 63- Nagy of Hungary; 64- Act badly; 65- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.; 66- Footless animal; 67- Ravi Shankar's instrument; 68- New Ager John;

DOWN: 1- Bangkok native; 2- Chamber workers; Abbr.; 3- Cereal grain; 4- Spirited horses; 5- Wade opponent; 6- Mantra sounds; 7- ___ MisA@rables; 8- Self-centered person; 9- Beetle Bailey's boss; 10- Cherish; 11- Make money; 12- Opposed; 13- Timetable, for short; 18- AFL partner; 22- Suave; 24- Borden's spokescow; 25- U of U athlete; 26- Person of exceptional holiness; 27- Computer key; 28- Martini's partner; 30- Be in the red; 32- The Donald's first; 33- "See ya!"; 34- Little laugh; 36- 1986 sci-fi sequel; 37- Strap; 39- Climbed; 40- Diner order; 42- ___ live and breathe!; 45- Italian sausage; 46- Potentate; 48- Green citrus fruits; 50- Sue Grafton's "___ for Evidence"; 51- Voice of America org.; 52- Office fill-in; 53- Eiel Saareinen's son; 55- Decoy; 56- Turkish titles; 57- Laundry; 60- Drunkard; 61- RR stop; 62- ___ Lingus (Irish carrier);



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

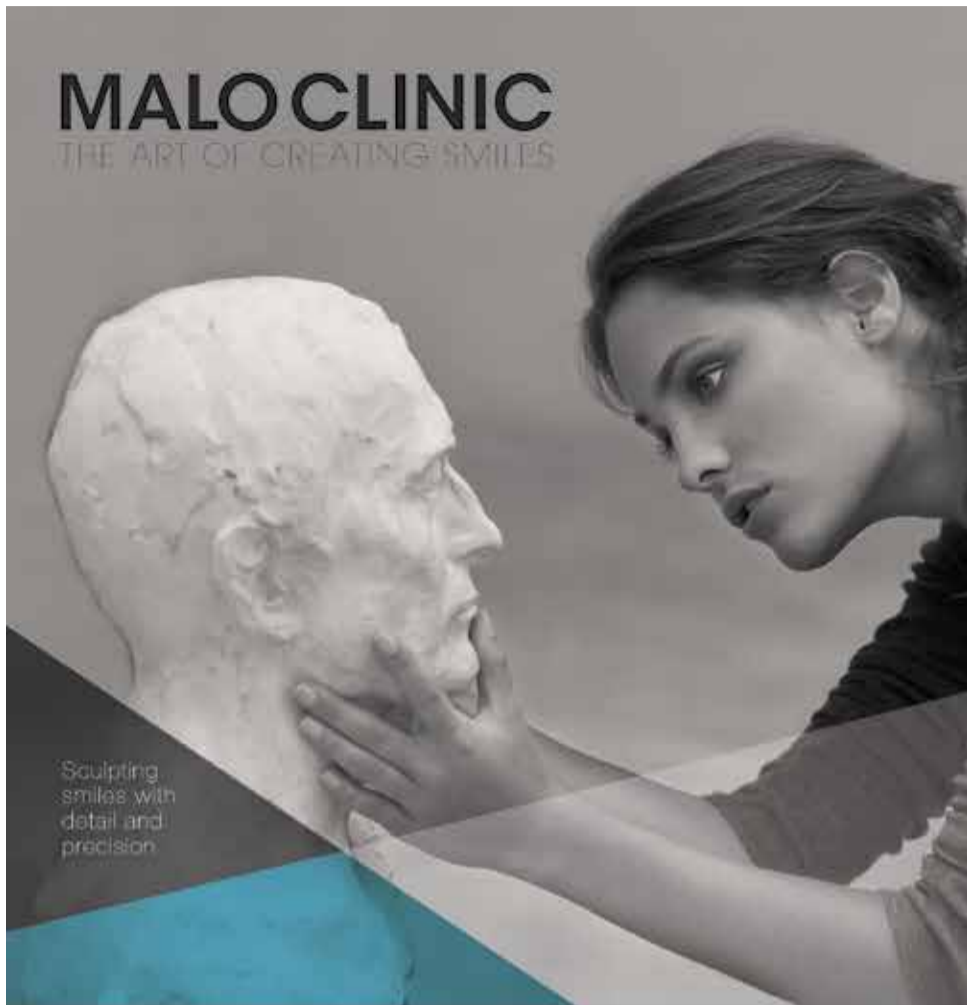


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AD



Dear patients and friends of Taivex Malo Hospital Dental Clinic/Macau MALO CLINIC,

We at Macau MALO CLINIC Dental Care would like to apologize to you all.

The Macau Health Bureau has notified the hospital to stop all operations for 6 months, thus the dental clinic won't be able to provide you with dental services either.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Within this time period, patients may choose the following options:

A. Go to one of our 18 MALO CLINIC clinics in Mainland China, all of which, together with Macau MALO CLINIC, operate under MALO CLINIC China Management, following the exact standards and medical protocols as any international MALO CLINIC.

Macau MALO CLINIC will provide the transport to and from our clinics in Guangzhou or Shenzhen. Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings in all MALO CLINICS in China, as well as follow-up and medical records will be provided to our colleagues in China.

B. For all patients who will be in Portugal during this period, Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings, follow-up and patients' medical records to our colleagues in any MALO CLINIC in Portugal.

C. For those patients who are willing to wait for MALO CLINIC in Macau to proceed with the treatments, we are putting all our efforts in finding a partnering healthcare organization at the moment in order to continue our practice.

If any urgent situation arises or if you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact us.

Office phone: 8802 2208 / 8862 2206 Cellphone: 00853--6826 9099 Wechat: MALODENTAL553 (Can be contacted at any time) Email: service.malo@maloclinics.com.cn Website: http://www.maloclinics.com.cn

Once again, we would like to apologize for all the inconvenience this has put on you all.

Thank you all for your understanding and support.

We hope to find solutions for everyone's cases as soon as possible so that we may keep providing quality dental service to you all.

Yours Sincerely,

WORLDWIDE

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+ INFO



FOLLOW US



Italian cyclist Elia Viviani celebrates on the podium after the third stage of 2018 Giro d'Italia

CYCLING

Viviani wins third stage as Giro bids farewell to Israel

ELIA Viviani won the third stage of the 101st Giro d'Italia for his second bunch sprint finish victory in as many days as the Grand Tour race bid farewell to its historic start in Israel.

The Italian finished the lengthy 229-kilometer route through Israel's Negev desert down to its southern tip of Eilat along the Red Sea in just over five hours. Viviani edged Italian countryman Sacha Modolo at the finish line and pumped his fist in triumph in a near repeat of his sprint victory on Saturday in Tel Aviv.

"The pressure was off after yesterday's win," Viviani said. "But the final straight was good for me."

The repeat victory helped solidify his reputation as one of the world's top sprinters.

"To be honest I always raced without thinking about my competitors," said Viviani, who won a track gold medal at the 2016 Olympics and rides for Quick-Step Floors. "I've got the best lead-out team for the sprints so I don't really care who I am up against."

Australian Rohan Den-

nis kept the pink jersey that he wrestled away from defending champion Tom Dumoulin on Saturday. The Dutchman remained in second place overall as Jose Goncalves moved into third.

Four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome, who bloodied his right knee and ripped his shorts and jersey in a training crash before Friday's opening leg, finished safely in the middle of the pack. He is currently 19th, 38 seconds behind the leader.

Sunday's route was the second longest of the 21-stage race and wrapped up the three-day start in Israel, the first time a cycling Grand Tour has been held outside Europe. The race will now transfer to Italy, and the island of Sicily, for an early rest day on Monday. The Giro ends in Rome on May 27.

The Giro has been warmly embraced in Israel. While there were fewer spectators Sunday due to the sparsely populated southern Negev Desert than the two previous stages, the riders were still cheered on by locals banging drums and strumming guitars.

They encountered Israeli flag-waving fans and spectators on horseback wearing Giro pink shirts along the way, and even passed a group of goat herders.

Dennis said the ride through the desert was not as hot as originally feared and that strong winds were the main obstacle as they went through the barren moonscape after passing by its famous craters.

Dennis praised the enthusiasm of Israeli fans he encountered over the three days.

"They took to the race really well and supported us like they were a really big cycling country, which was really nice," he said.

The Israel Cycling Academy squad was making its maiden Grand Tour appearance and enjoyed the sight of one of its riders, Canadian Guillaume Boivin, leading for much of the stage before he was passed by the sprinters in the windy descent into Eilat.

The Giro start was seen as the biggest sporting event staged in Israel, and coincides with the country marking 70 years of independence. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Shanghai sweating on Hulk ahead of crunch Asian clash

John Duerden, Seoul

Wednesday, 6:00pm
Kashima Antlers v Shanghai Sipa
H 2.58, D 3.54, A 2.77

SHANGHAI SIPG is sweating on the fitness of its Brazilians Hulk and Oscar ahead of tomorrow's Asian Champions League match with Japan's Kashima Antlers.

The big-spending Chinese team may be without their two biggest names, who cost over USD100 million in 2016, for the first leg of the second round clash.

Hulk, who scored nine goals when Shanghai reached the semifinals last season, picked up a thigh injury in a 2-1 home defeat to Beijing Guoan, the second successive league loss for the Chinese Super League leader.

"We are not yet sure if Hulk can play," Shanghai coach Victor Pereira said. "We will have to wait for the medical reports.



Hulk (10), who scored nine goals when Shanghai reached the semifinals last season, picked up a thigh injury last weekend

He is very important to us but we have to think about how we approach the next game."

Pereira also revealed he was

waiting for reports on Oscar. The former Chelsea midfielder sustained a head injury in a China FA Cup tie on May 2 and

played no part in Saturday's defeat.

Elsewhere, the reigning Chinese Super League champion Guangzhou Evergrande faces Tianjin Quanjian.

"We know that this will be a tough game as Tianjin is a strong team, as I know well," said Guangzhou coach Fabio Cannavaro, who was in charge of Tianjin last season.

The 2006 Italian World Cup winning captain left Tianjin in November to return to Guangzhou for a second spell as coach, replacing Luiz Felipe Scolari. Guangzhou has won the last seven Chinese championships but currently sits fourth in the league standings after losing 3-0 to newly-promoted club Dalian Yifang on Saturday.

"We still have to apologize to the Guangzhou fans," Cannavaro said after the loss. "Today we did not play well and it could be that the team was thinking about the Champions League. We will get back on track as soon as possible."

Tianjin is struggling in 10th position and will rely on expensive imports Anthony Modeste of France and former Brazil international Alexandre Pato.

Two of South Korea's three remaining teams will meet head-to-head as Ulsan Hyundai Horangi, the 2012 champion, takes on Suwon Samsung Bluewings, winner in 2001 and 2002.

Two-time winner Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors travels to Thailand's Buriram United, Southeast Asia's only representative.

The tournament is split into two geographic zones until the final and in the western side of the draw, Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia travels to Qatar to face Al Sadd while Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosts Al-Duhail of Doha.

Ahead of the 2018 Champions League, the Saudi Arabia and UAE soccer federations requested that games with Qatari clubs be played in a neutral country but the Asian Football Confederation insisted they take place in the traditional home and away format.

Iran is assured of at least one team in the last eight as Zob Ahan meets Esteghlal while Persepolis can make it two if it defeats Al Jazira of the UAE.

The second legs take place next week. AP

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opinion

Our Desk
Renato Marques



AN URGENT CALL FOR NEW PARENTS

At a first glance, it might seem that I am making an appeal for procreation in Macau. No, that is not the case at the moment, although the government keeps saying that the population is ageing and we know that they are already planning to allow fathers to be absent from their workplace for three to five days after the birth of a child...

My point here is not about the fathers (and mothers) to be but, instead, the ones that are already out there. And no, this is not one of those "unique" things of Macau either; it is a very broad and worldwide situation.

Let's face it, the current generation of parents is "pretty bad" and I am perfectly fine to comment about it as I am talking about myself too - although I like to think that I am still (partially) an exception to this group, or may be I am just trying to remind myself of the stones that I do not want to trip on my path.

Over the weekend I had the opportunity to experience a sequence of events that led me to think that parents nowadays are really bad. Not in the sense that they are rude or harsh in the way they treat their kids, but quite the contrary.

On Saturday I was having lunch outdoors near the seaside in probably the only place where this is possible in the Macau SAR when I saw a mother shouting to her son who was playing in the sand near the restaurant.

According to the father, the kid "needed a break."

Yes, you read that right. The kid, about 10 years old, "needed a break" from playing in the sand because in part that his t-shirt and shorts were wet - an unexpected nightmare that left his parents (really) upset with him and led to the "break time."

During this so-called break, they just stared at each other next to the table and did nothing. If that is not a harsh punishment, I do not know what is a harsh punishment.

Luckily the punishment was concluded with that and the kid was not forced to sit in a chair or play with a tablet or a mobile phone. Lucky him. I saw several others that were so 'removed' that they were almost seated at a different table from their parents. They did not have the same luck.

On another occasion and while taking my own daughter to play in the park, I heard shouts of panic from another group of parents because the kids were... sliding... on the slide. Yes, the playground slide. Not head-first, not anything wild and crazy, just plain sliding and that was "dangerous."

I started to think, am I the crazy one to let my daughter do cartwheels and jump on the trampoline and climb rocks and play football and ride a bicycle?

I realized that today's parents would have had a shock-induced heart attack had they been witness to my average weekend, when I was 10 years old.

Okay, I do carry a few "medals" from those days. The same goes for many of my friends, but still, we are alive and well, nobody died and very few made the hospital their home for more than a few hours. Most of all, we recall those times as the best of our lives.

Please, parents, I beg you, let your kids play! They will thank you for that later!

THE JAY-Z LAWYERS: SEC PROBE HAS BECOME A 'CELEBRITY HUNT'

Lawyers for Jay-Z say the Securities and Exchange Commission has gone on a "celebrity hunt" by demanding the rapper submit to unlimited questioning about various businesses.

The lawyers wrote in a court filing yesterday that he has agreed to testify for a full day before the regulatory agency but is opposing appearing for as many days as the SEC would like.

A hearing on the matter is set for today in

Manhattan federal court.

The court filing was made in advance of the hearing scheduled by U.S. District Judge Paul Gardephe.

The SEC has said it is investigating the Iconix Brand Group to learn if federal securities laws were violated when the company reported financial results.

Jay-Z sold his Rocawear apparel brand to Iconix over a decade ago.

Britain hopes to address Trump concerns on Iran nuclear deal

Britain's ambassador to the U.S. said yesterday [Macau time] his country believes it's still possible to address President Donald Trump's concerns about the Iran nuclear deal in time to prevent him from pulling out of the agreement.

Kim Darroch said Britain has ideas for dealing with those concerns. They include Iran's ballistic missile program and its involvement in Mideast conflicts, issues that aren't part of the international agreement. Trump also objects to the accord's sunset clause, which allows Iran to resume part of its nuclear program after 2025.

"We think that we can find some language, produce some action that meets the president's concerns," Darroch told CBS' "Face the Nation."

The deadline for Trump's decision is this coming Saturday.

Britain's foreign secretary, Boris Johnson, has scheduled talks with U.S. officials in Washington this week. His trip follows visits in recent weeks by the leaders of France and Germany, who also tried to convince Trump to sti-



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani speaks in the northeastern city of Sabzevar, on his tour of Razavi Khorasan province

ck with the agreement. All three European countries signed the 2015 deal, along with Russia and China.

In an op-ed Sunday for The New York Times, Johnson wrote that the agreement offered the fewest disadvantages of all the options available. "It has weaknesses, certainly, but I am convinced they can be remedied. Indeed at this moment Britain is working alongside the Trump administration and our French and German allies to ensure that they are," he wrote.

Iran's president warned Trump on Sunday that leaving the nuclear deal would

be a "historic regret."

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee also advised against pulling out of the accord without a clearer idea of the consequences and urged Trump to give the Europeans time to address his concerns.

"So maybe the best thing is for the president to delay a bit more his deadline of this month and put the French and the British up to the test about whether it is possible to get this other sort of agreement," Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, said on "Fox News Sunday." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Felipe Dana



Refugees and migrants are rescued by members of the Spanish NGO Proactiva Open Arms, after leaving Libya trying to reach European soil aboard an overcrowded rubber boat, north of Libyan coast. In total 105 refugees and migrants from Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria, Marrocos, Gana, Pakistan, Sudan, Libya, Eritrea and Senegal were rescued in the overcrowded rubber boat.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

WORLD BRIEFS



YEMEN Airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Shiite rebels targeted the presidency building in the heart of the Yemeni capital yesterday, leaving at least six people dead and 30 wounded, according to health officials.

SOUTH SUDAN's fractious ruling party has reunited for the first time since civil war broke out in 2013. The political opposition dissolved and rejoined the ruling party.



GERMANY A man has been arrested after punching the new mayor of Germany's southwestern city of Freiburg as he was celebrating his election win. The independent candidate suffered a broken nose, a broken tooth and bruises.

FRANCE A powerful French union is vowing to push ahead with strikes that have hobbled nationwide train services, even as signs of a possible compromise emerged in talks with President Emmanuel Macron's government.



LEBANON The Iran-backed Hezbollah group and its political allies made significant gains in the parliamentary elections in Lebanon while the main Western-backed faction lost a third of its seats, according to preliminary results.

MEXICO's largest media company has severed ties with a prominent journalist after he came under fire for retweeting a message seen as inciting violence against the country's front-running presidential candidate.

EL SALVADOR A swarm of earthquakes shook southern El Salvador, damaging nearly 200 homes and touching off small landslides, but there were no reports of serious injuries or deaths.